

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57077

Title: Patterns and Purposes of Social Media Usage among International Students in Xi'an: A Descriptive Study

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- Accept after minor revision.....**
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. Mithilesh kumar shukla

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

In this context, social media may play an important role in helping students access local knowledge, connect with others, and navigate everyday life. Existing studies suggest that social media can play several roles in the lives of international students. First, it supports information access by helping students locate practical knowledge about transportation, accommodation, food, campus life, and local services. Second, it facilitates social connection by allowing students to maintain transnational ties while also interacting with peers in the host environment. Third, it can provide forms of emotional and psychological support, especially during periods of uncertainty, homesickness, and culture shock. The concept highlights that international students' social media usage is shaped not only by their personal preferences but also by the digital ecosystem of the host country. Adapting to life abroad includes adapting to these local digital infrastructures, which serve as essential tools for communication, information access, and social integration within the host society. UGT is particularly relevant to the present study because this article is concerned with patterns and purposes of use, rather than with effects alone. If international students are active media users, then identifying their dominant purposes of use becomes theoretically meaningful.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision,

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS:

- 1- This study adopted a quantitative cross-sectional survey design and collected data through a structured questionnaire.
- 2- The study focuses on Xi'an, a culturally rich and significant city in China, offering unique insights into social media use in a localized Chinese context.
- 3- it supports information access by helping students locate practical knowledge about transportation, accommodation, food, campus life, and local services.
- 4- it facilitates social connection by allowing students to maintain transnational ties while also interacting with peers in the host environment.
- 5- It examines multiple specific purposes of social media use (e.g., cultural learning, local information seeking, peer connection),
- 6- Uses and Gratifications Theory (UGT) offers an appropriate framework for understanding why international students use social media in particular ways.

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- 7- It fills gaps by providing a localized descriptive account, linking platform choice with usage purposes, and emphasizing the importance of host-country platform ecologies in international student

WEAKNESSES:

- 1- Social desirability or inaccurate recall, which can affect the validity of the findings.
- 2- Limited Exploration of Cultural Integration.
- 3- Navigating daily life challenges such as language barriers, transportation, housing, and local services.