

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 57323

Title: Interconnectedness in Sociotechnical Design: A Systematic Review of Sustainable Community Forests Management in Nepal.

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: ANAPANA GOPAL

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

General Comments

This manuscript presents a systematic and well-argued review of Nepal's community forestry using an interconnectedness and sociotechnical design perspective. The topic is highly relevant to sustainability science, forest governance, and socio-ecological systems research. The use of PRISMA guidelines strengthens methodological transparency.

The paper's core strength lies in identifying a clear conceptual gap—the absence of a sociotechnical design lens in community forestry literature—and proposing a policy-oriented recommendation. However, the manuscript is overly dense, occasionally repetitive, and sometimes lacks clarity in articulation and formatting. With refinement, it has strong potential for publication in a high-impact journal.

Content and Originality

- The manuscript demonstrates good originality, especially in:
 - Framing “interconnectedness” as a bridge construct
 - Identifying the absence of sociotechnical design applications
 - Proposing co-design as a policy intervention
- The synthesis of four dimensions:
 - Knowledge–power
 - Multi-level governance
 - Institutional bricolage
 - Socio-ecological linkages is insightful and well-supported.
- However:
 - The claim that “none of the studies applied a sociotechnical framework” should be more cautiously stated (e.g., “explicitly applied” vs. “implicitly engaged”).
 - The single recommendation appears too prescriptive for a review paper. Reviews typically offer multiple nuanced recommendations, not a policy mandate.

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Technical Quality

- Strengths:
 - Clear use of systematic review protocol (PRISMA)
 - Defined inclusion/exclusion criteria
 - Thematic synthesis approach is appropriate
 - Use of CASP and JBI frameworks adds rigor
- Weaknesses:
 - No PRISMA flow diagram figure is actually shown (only referenced)
 - Lack of inter-rater reliability metrics (e.g., Cohen's kappa)
 - Quality assessment is not integrated into results (e.g., weighting evidence)
 - Some quantitative claims (e.g., "230% increase", "92% meetings") lack methodological context

Language and Presentation

- Moderate issue: Frequent typographical and formatting errors, such as:
 - Missing spaces: *"frameworktreating"*, *"understoodor"*
 - Encoding issues: *Nepal"s*, *forest-livelihood relationships*
 - Spelling errors: *"Oot of the 36 studies"*, *"successor failure"*
- Sentences are often:
 - Too long and complex
 - Repetitive across sections (especially introduction and discussion)
- Suggestions:
 - Professional proofreading is essential
 - Simplify sentence structure
 - Reduce redundancy (especially repeated concepts of interconnectedness)

Structure and Organization

- Overall structure is logical:
 - Introduction → Literature Review → Methodology → Results → Discussion → Conclusion
- Strengths:
 - Clear thematic categorization
 - Good use of tables (Tables 1–6)
- Issues:
 - Tables are not well integrated into narrative discussion
 - Some sections are overly long (especially Literature Review)
 - The Results and Discussion could be better separated
 - Missing/unclear figure (PRISMA diagram)

References and Citations

- Strengths:
 - Extensive and relevant citations
 - Good mix of classic and recent literature
 - Strong grounding in Social-Ecological Systems Framework and governance theory
- Issues:
 - Minor inconsistencies in formatting
 - Some references appear repeated conceptually

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Overall Recommendation

Minor to moderate revisions Required

The manuscript has strong conceptual contributions but requires significant improvement in language, clarity, and methodological transparency before it is suitable for publication.

Final Decision:

Minor to moderate revisions