



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 57695

Title: Gulf Markets Conservation Analysis and Comparative A Case Study of Souq Al-Mubarakiya In Kuwait City.

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Bishwajit Rout

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

- Significance:** This research is significant because it investigates the conservation challenges of traditional Gulf markets within rapidly modernizing urban environments. The study contributes valuable documentation of Souq Al-Mubarakiya while connecting heritage preservation with tourism, architectural authenticity, and socio-cultural continuity. Its comparative regional perspective enhances understanding of Gulf conservation practices and provides useful guidance for policymakers, urban planners, and heritage authorities.
- Strength:** The major strength of the study lies in its interdisciplinary and comparative approach integrating historical analysis, architectural surveys, interviews, questionnaires, and SWOT evaluation. The manuscript successfully combines physical conservation concerns with social and cultural continuity. The comparative investigation of Gulf markets strengthens the regional relevance of the research and provides a practical foundation for developing integrated conservation strategies.
- Key Insight:** The central insight of this research is that successful conservation of traditional Gulf markets cannot rely solely on physical restoration. Heritage preservation must integrate architectural authenticity, social continuity, commercial sustainability, tourism regulation, and institutional coordination simultaneously. The study demonstrates that living heritage environments survive through balanced management approaches preserving both tangible architectural character and intangible socio-cultural urban identity.

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The paper titled "*Gulf Markets Conservation Analysis and Comparative A Case Study of Souq Al-Mubarakiya In Kuwait City*" examines the conservation challenges and transformations of Souq Al-Mubarakiya in Kuwait City through a comparative analysis with other Gulf traditional markets (Souq Waqif, Muttrah Souq, Manama Souq, Bushehr Bazaar). Employing mixed methods including historical review, field surveys, interviews, and SWOT analysis, it highlights issues of authenticity loss, inappropriate restorations, façade alterations, and functional shifts due to modernization and tourism. The study proposes an integrated framework balancing architectural preservation, social continuity, and sustainable tourism. While insightful for Gulf heritage studies, it could benefit from deeper empirical data and tighter editing. A relevant contribution to urban conservation discourse.

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. Define explicit research questions and hypotheses to strengthen academic direction and focus.
2. Clarify the originality of the study compared with previous Gulf conservation literature.
3. Add stronger theoretical linkage between urban heritage conservation theories and Gulf market transformation processes comprehensively.
4. Include more recent peer-reviewed studies related to Gulf urban heritage conservation research.
5. The literature review should establish stronger conceptual relationships between authenticity, commercialization, tourism, and heritage sustainability debates.
6. Clearly specify sample size, questionnaire structure, and participant selection criteria used during field investigations.
7. Include limitations of research methods and discuss possible biases influencing survey and interview interpretations carefully.
8. Introduce standardized comparative indicators for evaluating conservation effectiveness across all selected traditional markets.
9. Organize SWOT findings into clearer categories supported by evidence from field observations and interviews.
10. Clarify implementation phases, responsible institutions, and monitoring mechanisms within the proposed conservation framework clearly.
11. Include concise recommendations for policymakers, conservation authorities, and urban planners responsible for historic market preservation initiatives.

The manuscript addresses a highly relevant topic concerning heritage conservation and transformation of traditional Gulf markets. The comparative regional approach and integrated

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conservation framework provide meaningful academic and practical contributions. However, the paper requires minor revisions related to language quality, methodological rigor, theoretical depth, analytical interpretation, and structural coherence before publication. Strengthening empirical evidence, improving scholarly engagement, and refining academic writing will significantly enhance the manuscript's overall quality and research impact. Addressing the identified weaknesses will make it suitable for publication in IJAR.

I recommend this paper for publication after minor revision.