

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58717

**Title: THE ACCELERATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON DIGITAL EDUCATION IN MOROCCAN HIGHER EDUCATION: A PRE- AND POST-COVID-19 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.**

**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:**

This study analyzes the acceleration of scientific research on Educational Technology (EdTech) in Moroccan higher education before and after COVID-19, comparing 2019 and 2023. Using four indicators—annual EdTech publications, funded research projects, dedicated research laboratories, and doctoral theses—the study found substantial growth: publications increased by 276%, research projects by 367%, laboratories by 300%, and theses by 353%. The findings suggest that the pandemic acted as a catalyst, transforming EdTech from a fragmented field into a more institutionalized, strategic, and interdisciplinary research domain. Sustaining this growth requires ongoing funding, interdisciplinary collaboration, infrastructure, and stronger links between research and digital transformation efforts. The study highlights the challenge of converting rapid expansion into a sustainable research ecosystem supporting Morocco's long-term digital education goals.

**Recommendation:** Accept after minor revision,

***Detailed Reviewer's Report***

**STRENGTHS:**

- 1- It Addresses the critical impact of COVID-19 on digital education research, a highly relevant subject in current higher education discourse.
- 2- It uses Multiple Quantitative Indicators like publications, research projects, laboratories, and doctoral theses.
- 3- Introduces Acceleration Factors alongside growth rates to intuitively quantify the scale of change.
- 4- Presents a well-structured scientometric and science policy analysis approach.
- 5- The study Highlights the transformation of EdTech from a fragmented field to an institutionalized research domain.
- 6- The study Emphasizes doctoral research growth, indicating strengthening of future academic leadership.

**WEAKNESSES:**

- 1- The study focuses on quantitative indicators without incorporating qualitative data
- 2- Limited Assessment of Research Quality.
- 3- No Control Group or Time Series.

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