

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59160

Title: Socio-professional Integration of Student Entrepreneurs at Joseph KI-ZERBO University: Obstacles and Success Factors

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's ID: JPR- 002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

- ❑ **Relevance and originality:** The manuscript addresses a relevant issue—student entrepreneurship as a pathway to socio-professional integration among young graduates in Burkina Faso. The focus on Joseph KI-ZERBO University provides a useful institutional context. However, the authors should articulate more clearly what is novel compared with previous studies on entrepreneurship education, incubation, mentoring, and graduate employability.
- ❑ **Research objectives and research question:** The research question and objective are generally clear, but the connection between the research question, the three dimensions examined, and the hypotheses should be strengthened. The manuscript states that the main hypothesis is “partially confirmed,” but a clearly formulated hypothesis and an explicit hypothesis-testing procedure are not sufficiently presented.
- ❑ **Methodology:** The mixed-methods design is appropriate for the research problem, and the study includes 285 student entrepreneurs and 15 key informants. However, the authors should provide greater detail on questionnaire development, measurement scales, validity and reliability testing, interview procedures, and the precise statistical techniques used to analyse the quantitative data.
- ❑ **Sampling limitations:** The quantitative component uses snowball sampling. While this approach can be useful for reaching student entrepreneurs, it is a non-probability method and may introduce

REVIEWER'S REPORT

selection bias. The authors should explicitly discuss how this affects representativeness and the generalisability of the findings beyond the sampled students at Joseph KI-ZERBO University.

- **Presentation of quantitative results:** Several findings are reported only as percentages without statistical tests demonstrating whether observed relationships are statistically significant. For example, the manuscript reports differences concerning incubation, personalised support, financing, self-confidence, opportunity recognition, and turnover. Appropriate inferential tests and significance levels should be reported where the data permit.
- **Consistency and interpretation of data:** Some percentages and categories require clarification. For example, the manuscript reports turnover and project-development categories that do not appear to cover the full sample in some sections. The authors should provide complete tables showing frequencies and percentages, clearly identify denominators, and verify that all reported percentages are internally consistent.
- **Causal interpretation:** The manuscript occasionally uses causal language such as financing “directly influences” economic performance and incubation “fosters” project development. Given the cross-sectional and non-probability nature of the study, the findings appear more suitable for describing associations rather than establishing causality. The discussion should therefore distinguish clearly between observed relationships and causal effects.
- **Discussion of findings:** The discussion appropriately relates the findings to earlier studies, particularly concerning institutional support, self-confidence, mentoring, and financing. Nevertheless, it could be strengthened by systematically linking each major finding to the research objectives and explaining areas of agreement or divergence with previous research rather than mainly restating the results.
- **Figures, tables and reporting:** The manuscript refers to several figures, including students' capacity to manage projects, opportunity recognition, and information about public policies. These visual elements should be presented with clear labels, readable values, sample sizes, and consistent formatting. A set of comprehensive statistical tables would also make the results easier to evaluate and reproduce.
- **References, limitations and conclusion:** The conclusion provides a coherent summary and acknowledges important limitations, including the single-university setting, self-reported data, and the absence of long-term assessment. However, the reference list and in-text citations should be carefully checked for consistency and completeness, and the authors should avoid making recommendations that extend beyond the evidence generated by the study. A clearer statement of the study's theoretical and practical contribution would also improve the manuscript.