

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59394

Title: The RBI's Digital Lending Guidelines: Assessing the Impact on Credit Access for India's Underbanked Population

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer's ID: JPR- 221

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:

The manuscript examines an important and timely issue concerning digital lending, financial inclusion, consumer protection and the RBI's 2022 Digital Lending Guidelines. It provides a clear and balanced discussion of credit access, data privacy, recovery practices, regulatory compliance and the potential effects of regulation on underbanked borrowers. The manuscript is well organized and the policy relevance of the topic is strong. However, minor revisions are recommended. The authors should strengthen the empirical evidence supporting the claims regarding changes in digital lending, credit access and the effects of the 2022 guidelines. The numerical information concerning the Unified Lending Interface and other regulatory developments should be supported with precise and complete official references. The methodology and basis for assessing the “impact” of the guidelines should also be clarified, as the current manuscript is primarily a policy and literature-based analysis rather than an empirical impact assessment. Minor language editing and reference formatting are also recommended. After these revisions, the manuscript would be suitable for publication.