

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59438

Title: Dynamiques familiales et repr sentations sociales de l'impact de l'usage des r seaux sociaux num riques dans la ville de Manga

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Repot

General Overview

This manuscript presents a qualitative empirical study investigating how digital social networks (such as WhatsApp, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, and Telegram) influence urban family dynamics, values, and marital stability in Manga, Burkina Faso. Drawing on the theory of social representations (Farr, Jodelet) and symbolic interactionism (Blumer), the study explores the dual, highly ambivalent nature of digital connectivity in a rapidly transforming urban setting.

The authors collected empirical data in April 2026 through \$35\$ in-depth individual qualitative interviews covering \$54\$ total participants across four key stakeholder groups: household heads/fathers (\$17\$), mothers (\$13\$), youth (\$18\$), and judicial/legal officials (\$6\$). The qualitative thematic analysis demonstrates that while digital platforms act as vital tools for maintaining long-distance family cohesion, lowering communication costs, and accessing domestic or health advice, their excessive or unmanaged use introduces severe relational strains. Specifically, digital screen absorption leads to reduced face-to-face dialogue, increased marital friction and jealousy triggered by online interactions, parental-child disconnects, and perceived erosion of traditional cultural values.

To counteract these negative impacts, the study identifies several organic and institutional regulation strategies deployed or recommended by local actors: setting screen time limits, strengthening intra-family dialogue, engaging in alternative offline activities like sports or vocational work, and leveraging national

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legal frameworks (such as the Penal Code, the BCLCC cybercrime unit, and personal data protection laws).

The manuscript addresses a culturally relevant subject in West African urban sociology. The qualitative field strategy is appropriate, the participant sample is well-triangulated, and the qualitative verbatim quotes effectively support the analytical assertions.

Key Strengths

- Contextual and Sociological Relevance:** Focuses on Manga, an intermediate African city undergoing rapid urban and technological transformation, providing valuable micro-level empirical evidence on digital sociology in intermediate West African towns.
- Multi-Stakeholder Data Triangulation:** Including judicial/legal actors (\$6\$) alongside parents (\$30\$) and youth (\$18\$) provides a rare, grounded perspective on how digital marital disputes translate into formal legal complaints or divorce proceedings.
- Rich Theoretical Grounding:** Synthesizes classical and contemporary sociological frameworks—including Turkle's "alone together" concept, Castells' network society, Bandura's social learning, and Weber/Foucault on institutional regulation—to explain the observed field dynamics.
- Balanced, Non-Technophobic Nuance:** Avoids a purely alarmist tone by giving equal weight to the positive affordances of social platforms (e.g., long-distance presence, domestic advice, conflict mediation tips on TikTok/YouTube) before detailing risks and mitigation strategies.

Recommendations for Improvement

While the manuscript is scientifically valid and well-argued, the authors should address the following minor points before final publication:

- Clarify Interview Count vs. Participant Count Breakdown:**

Section 1 notes that \$35\$ in-depth individual interviews were conducted, whereas Section 2.1 states that \$54\$ individuals participated in the study (\$30\$ parents, \$18\$ youth, \$6\$ legal actors). Please add a brief clarifying sentence in Section 1 or 2.1 to explain whether some interviews were conducted in small focus/group settings or if the \$35\$ sessions included joint/family interviews to account for all \$54\$ participants.

- Fix Minor Editorial and Typographical Errors in Headings:**

Correct formatting and grammatical typos across several section headings and body text:

- In Section 2.3, sub-heading 1: correct "Une reduction des échanges" to "Une réduction des échanges".
- In Section 2.3, sub-heading 2: correct "Des reseaux sociaux" to "Des réseaux sociaux".

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- In Section 2.3, sub-heading 4: correct "Negligence, isolement" to "Négligence, isolement".
- In Section 2.4, sub-heading 3: ensure title case consistency.
- Clean up spacing and duplicate words in body text (e.g., line 152: "dans le pore epistemologique", line 297: "servent des canaux" to "servent de canaux").

3. Standardize Bibliographic References:

Ensure that all in-text citations match the reference list entries precisely. Some references in the text (e.g., Favier & Messu 2025, Ouro Bitasse 2024, Mendonça 2025) need complete, standardized formatting in the final bibliography section (including full volume, issue, page numbers, and DOIs where applicable).

4. Enhance Resolution of Map Figure:

Figure 1 (location map of Manga in Zoundwéogo province) contains slightly low-resolution text labels in the legend. Providing a higher-definition vector or raster image will improve visual clarity in the final published version.

Final Evaluation and Verdict

This manuscript makes a valuable contribution to intermediate urban sociology, media studies, and family sociology in West Africa. The empirical field material is authentic, the methodology is sound, and the thematic synthesis is well supported by literature.

The manuscript is **accepted with minor revisions**. Addressing the minor editorial cleanup, methodology count clarification, and reference standardization outlined above will make the paper fully ready for publication.