

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59497

Title: Troubles neurodéveloppementaux chez les élèves en difficulté scolaire orientés par un programme intersectoriel de repérage dans la région de Marrakech : étude transversale de 121 cas.

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 S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strength of the study:

- Examines an important issue affecting children's education and development.
- Includes 121 pupils from eight diagnostic centres.
- Uses DSM-5-TR criteria for clinical assessment.
- Covers urban, peri-urban and rural settings.
- Examines multiple developmental and learning disorders.
- Uses regression analysis to assess associated factors.
- Includes a detailed discussion of study limitations.
- Provides practical recommendations for early screening and school support.

Weakness of the study:

- Intellectual disability was assessed without standardized local testing tools.
- The selected sample cannot represent all schoolchildren.
- Retrospective data may be affected by recall bias.
- Assessment by one clinician limits inter-rater reliability.
- Some confidence intervals are wide.
- The method of identifying bullying needs clarification.
- Medication details are missing.
- English abstract formatting and reference presentation need correction.

Reviewers Comments:

This study addresses an important educational and public health concern by examining neurodevelopmental disorders among pupils referred for academic difficulties in the Marrakech region. The inclusion of eight diagnostic centres and the use of DSM-5-TR criteria are strengths. The statistical analysis is detailed, and the authors acknowledge important limitations, including selection bias and the absence of standardized local assessment tools for intellectual disability. Parental consent and authorization from the education authority are reported; however, formal research ethics committee approval or an exemption should be clarified. The authors should also explain how bullying was assessed and provide the missing details of prescribed medications. Editorial comments remain within the manuscript, including requests to clarify the bullying assessment and medication names, and these must be resolved. The English abstract contains numerous spacing and formatting errors, while some references require careful checking. Overall, the study offers useful regional findings, but methodological clarification and thorough language editing are necessary before publication.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

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Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:

The manuscript presents regional findings on neurodevelopmental disorders among pupils with academic difficulties in Morocco. No conclusion about originality or plagiarism can be established from the manuscript alone. The authors should verify the originality of the reported findings, check for overlap with earlier studies on school screening and neurodevelopmental disorders, and complete a formal similarity check before publication.