

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59568

Title: Technology-Enabled Local Content Optimization in Construction Procurement in Support of Saudi Vision 2030.

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 Id: JPR-357

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

The manuscript presents a relevant and well-structured critical integrative review of technology-enabled local-content optimization in construction procurement under Saudi Vision 2030. Its main contribution is the proposed six-stage decision architecture integrating supplier verification, digital procurement, tender evaluation, contract execution, expenditure attribution, and performance learning. The distinction between domestic purchasing expenditure and verified domestic value added is particularly valuable, and the hypothetical numerical examples effectively illustrate the trade-offs among localization, cost, delivery time, and evidence quality. However, several minor revisions are recommended to strengthen the manuscript. First, the authors should provide additional methodological detail regarding the literature identification and selection process, including clearer documentation of the search dates, screening decisions, and quality-appraisal criteria, while maintaining the stated limitations of the integrative review. Second, the procedure used to derive the six-stage framework from the five thematic coding clusters should be explained more explicitly. Third, the mathematical formulation of the proposed optimization model requires clearer definitions of the decision variables, objective functions, constraints, and treatment of uncertainty. The authors should also clarify the distinction between verified domestic contribution and developmental additionality to avoid implying causal economic benefits that have not been empirically established. In the numerical illustration, the assumptions underlying the supplier comparisons and portfolio scenarios should remain clearly identified as hypothetical, and the incremental cost-to-domestic-value ratios should be explained consistently. Finally, the authors should verify the consistency of in-text citations and references and ensure that all figures, tables, and terminology are presented uniformly. Overall, the manuscript offers a useful conceptual contribution to construction procurement and local-content governance. The recommended revisions would improve methodological transparency, analytical precision, and practical applicability without requiring substantial changes to the manuscript's overall structure.