|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Journal Name: | [**Microbiology Research Journal International**](https://journalmrji.com/index.php/MRJI) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_MRJI\_136890** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Isolation and Characterization of Streptococcus thermophilus from traditionally prepared sour curd** |
| Type of the Article | **Original Research Article** |

**PART 1: Comments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment**  **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her  feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **The manuscript seems interesting but conventional. There are several issues to be revised in this manuscript to standardize it. The authors should carefully revise following the given instructions below.** | Modified in proper manner by mentioning these in yellow marking in the  manuscript. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **It’s okay.** |  |
| **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.** | **The abstract needs to be more smartly paraphrased with strong vocabulary and scientific terms. The present form of the abstract is too lengthy and average in quality. It should be improved.** | Done. |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | **2. Many references are older than 2016. They should be replaced with newly established literature.**  **3. The sampling area and vendor details are missing.**  **4. The isolation process is missing dilution or selection criteria. Detail serial dilution and colony selection criteria. No standard *S. thermophilus* control strain was used. Include reference strain to validate methods. To explain the isolation of bacteria from milk samples, kindly read and cite this paper - DOI: 10.9734/BBJ/2016/26397.**  **5. To explain the phenotypic characterization such as gram staining, catalase, and others at Point**  **2.4, the following literature should be cited newly:**  **a) doi: 10.5455/javar.2020.g394. b) doi: 10.1002/vms3.279.**  **6. Only phenotypic identification risks misidentification. Confirm with molecular methods like 16S**  **rRNA sequencing.**  **7. Table 4 lacks data for all isolates and controls. Expand to include complete fermentation/esculin results.**  **8. Upgraded culture quality claims are unsupported. Link conclusions to specific results like acidification.**  **9. No Future Work Proposed. Propose studies like scale-up or molecular characterization.**  **10. Grammatical Errors: Errors like “concernto” and inconsistent spacing reduce professionalism.**  **Proofread to correct errors.**  **11. Undefined Jargon: Terms like “back sloping” undefined, limiting accessibility. Define terms or**  **include a glossary.** | 2. Modified accordingly.  3. Clearly mentioned.  4. Modified as per comment  5. Procedure is common, mentioned in different papers and manuals.  a) and b) are not related to the work as per my knowledge.  6. Actually, it is the future programme of this work.  7. The work is related to selected isolates in each sample which is mentioned  in result and discussion part.  8. It is a preliminary work for identification of *S. thermophilus*. Ater selection  from these tests, the study on acidification may be continued.  9. Mentioned as per comment.  10. Correction has been done.  11. “back slopping” is a common term in bacterial culture, mentioned  everywhere linked to curd or dahi |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | **No.** | Modified according. |
| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | **Very average in quality.** |  |
| **Optional/General** comments | **Not applicable.** |  |

**PART 2:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her  feedback here) |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |