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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies**](https://journalajess.com/index.php/AJESS) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJESS\_137655** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Digital Competency Skills among Secondary School Teachers working in Tribal Areas of Odisha in relation to Demographic Variables** |
| Type of the Article |  |

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| 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.** | Particularly in light of the post-pandemic digital change in education, it is pertinent and essential that instructors in tribal areas focus on developing their digital proficiency.The significance of digital proficiency and education in underserved communities is made abundantly evident in the introduction.The adoption of a standardized and validated technique (TDCS by Ergul & Tasar, 2023) is a major strength, and the sample size is robust (N=459).The objectives and hypotheses are supported by the literature review and are in line with the goal of the study. The results are presented in an understandable manner, along with pertinent tables and commentaries to aid in a meaningful interpretation.  **In tribal communities, which are frequently underrepresented in educational research, the study examines how teachers’ digital skills differ depending on demographic factors (gender, caste, location, and experience). This closes a large gap in the literature, especially in Digital competency in context** | Thank you Sir |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Yes** | Thank you Sir |
| 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. | Slightly long; consider shortening without losing key findings | Suggestions accepted |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | Yes | Thank you Sir |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | **Yes citations are consistent** | Thank you Sir |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Yes | Thank you Sir |
| Optional/General comments | Suggestions With an emphasis on gender, location, caste, and prior teaching experience, this study investigates the digital proficiency of secondary school teachers in Western Odisha’s tribal areas. Data from 459 instructors in 50 schools were examined using a standardized scale (TDCS) and a descriptive survey design. The findings showed that male, single, and less experienced teachers had greater digital skills. Caste-based inequalities were not statistically significant, despite the fact that ST instructors reported the highest scores. In order to close skill gaps and enhance educational outcomes in underprivileged areas, the findings emphasize the necessity of focused digital literacy programs for senior and female educators. | Thank you sir |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. 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 details)* | Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Participation was voluntary, and confidentiality was strictly maintained. The study followed institutional ethical guidelines and caused no harm to participants. |