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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Research Journal of Mathematics**](https://journalarjom.com/index.php/ARJOM) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_ARJOM\_140382** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **TEACHING ANXIETY AND PEDAGOGICAL COMPETENCIES OF MATHEMATICS TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTHERN SAMAR** |
| Type of the Article | Descriptive-correlational research |

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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.** | This manuscript addresses a highly relevant issue in post-pandemic education: the persistence of mathematics anxiety among senior high school students in the context of modular distance learning. By identifying specific causes of anxiety such as lack of direct teacher support, limited feedback, and self-regulation challenges, the study contributes valuable insights for educators, school administrators, and policymakers. It underscores the importance of psychological and pedagogical support systems in remote learning settings. The findings can help shape more responsive, inclusive, and student-centered approaches in the design of future distance education models. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | Yes, the title accurately captures the content and scope of the study. It is clear, concise, and relevant. |  |
| 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. | Yes, the abstract provides a good overview of the study, including its objectives, methods, findings, and implications. For further improvement:* Replace the phrase “This study aimed to know” with “This study aimed to identify” for scholarly tone.
* Consider clarifying what "coded and interpreted" entails—e.g., mention thematic analysis explicitly.
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| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | Yes. The study is grounded in a qualitative descriptive design and follows an appropriate research methodology. The identification of themes through coding of interview transcripts is well-supported, and the conclusions align with the data. However, the discussion could be strengthened by drawing clearer links to previous studies or educational psychology theories. |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | The references are adequate and relevant, though most are regional (Philippine-based). While this supports local context, the manuscript could be strengthened by including more international and peer-reviewed sources on mathematics anxiety, distance learning, and student engagement. Suggested additions:* Ramirez, G., & Beilock, S. L. (2011). Writing about testing worries boosts exam performance in the classroom. *Science*.
* Ashcraft, M. H., & Krause, J. A. (2007). Working memory, math performance, and math anxiety. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.
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| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | The manuscript is generally understandable but needs grammatical corrections and language refinement. Issues include awkward phrasing, inconsistent verb tenses, and occasional redundancy. A professional language edit is recommended to enhance readability and coherence. |  |
| Optional/General comments | **Justification:**The manuscript presents an important and relevant topic with useful findings for the education sector, particularly in developing countries adapting to modular learning. However, it requires improvements in scholarly writing, greater theoretical grounding in the discussion, and refinement of language for publication-level quality. Once revised, it has strong potential for publication. |  |

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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)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Xerxes M. Budomo, Western Governors University, USA**