

# Review of: "Generic Competences in University Students from Barranquilla, Colombia"

Samuel Arias-Sánchez<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidad de Sevilla

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

This article presents an analysis of the university competencies perceived by the students of a university in Barranquilla, Colombia. The subject is very interesting, but in my opinion the writing of the work still requires an in-depth review of some of the terms that I am going to try to summarize.

First of all, and although I am not a native speaker of English, I think that the article requires an in-depth review of English. I am not going to do a thorough review here, but, for example, in the first sentence "Study describes the level of importance and development of generic competencies from the perception of a group of students of higher education in the city of Barranquilla (Colombia)" is easy to see that an article is missing, maybe "This study?"

A general recommendation for this type of research is to avoid the "cited in" formula if you can access the original sources, which is always preferable. I would also recommend avoiding excessive use of literal references, I think many of them can be paraphrased.

In the article as a whole, the APA version 7 standard for citations and references is not followed correctly. I recommend an in-depth review of this aspect, as well as reviewing the use of punctuation, which sometimes makes it difficult to read.

Just before the method, I think the objectives should be more detailed, and that they be more related to what has been previously stated, and without including elements of the analysis methodology that I think should go in their corresponding pulled apart.

I think the methodology section can also be developed much more. It is important to give more information about the participants, for example, their age and gender, as well as if they volunteered to participate, if they were all chosen or for some reason someone was excluded, as well as provide any information about them that may be considered of relevance. The instruments must also be explained in greater detail, indicating the form of responses, the measures they provided, and their interpretation. It should be better specified where to find these instruments and if they have been used in other investigations, as well as other indicators of validity and reliability. Finally, I miss an explanation of the procedure to select and sample the participants, if this research went through an ethical committee, if the participants were volunteers, received any compensation for participating, how they were contacted, what information they were given and, for example, how could you ensure that they clearly understood the research and instruments.

As are written now, it is difficult to understand the results. I am convinced that there are formulas that are relatively easy to incorporate, such as the use of tables and/or figures, which would allow a much better understanding of the findings

that are intended to be presented, especially those that are currently on page 6. In my opinion, tables 1 and 2 are not adequately described or analyzed and should be presented in the same format, preferably that of the APA.

In addition, in the results section, comparisons with other studies should not be considered and in this study it is done repeatedly. In this section, only what has been found here should be included, leaving for discussion the comparison with other studies such as those referred to by the University of Granada or Veracruzana.

Finally, I think the discussion is insufficient for the objectives that have been set and the results that have been presented.

It has not been clear to me what the main findings have been or the final message that this work wants to defend and I believe that formally the work also requires an in-depth review, adapting it as much as possible to the APA regulations.

In short, it is a work with an interesting theme, but that I believe it still require an important revision.