

Review of: "Factors Affecting the Safety Management Practices of Road Construction in the Sidama Region Road Administration"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I am grateful for the opportunity to review the manuscript titled "Factors Affecting the Safety Management Practices of Road Construction in the Sidama Region Road Administration." Enclosed are comments and suggestions aimed at enhancing the quality and depth of the research presented. These insights are provided with the intention of elevating the manuscript to a higher standard. It is my hope that these recommendations will serve as valuable tools for refining and advancing the manuscript's contributions to its field.

The title accurately reflects the core focus of the research. It clearly communicates the geographical context (Sidama Region), the industry focus (road construction), and the specific area of study (safety management practices). **However, to enhance clarity and impact, a more concise title could be beneficial.** A potential improvement might be "Improving Road Construction Safety in Sidama Region: Practices and Challenges," which maintains the focus while making the title more succinct and targeted towards solutions.

The abstract is structured effectively, providing a concise overview of the study's aim, methodology, key findings, and recommendations. It outlines the significance of road construction for sustainable development, identifies the main variables affecting construction quality, and highlights the positive relationship between safety management practices and road construction quality. **To improve, the abstract could benefit from a clearer statement of the study's novel contributions to the field and a more explicit mention of the practical implications of its findings, thereby enhancing its appeal to both academic and practitioner audiences.**

The manuscript appears to contribute valuable insights into the under-researched area of road construction safety in the Sidama Region. By focusing on specific safety management practices and their impact on construction quality, it addresses a gap in the existing literature. The originality of the study could be further highlighted by emphasizing the unique context of the Sidama Region, the specific challenges faced, and how the study's findings contribute to broader discussions on construction safety and quality management.

The references section demonstrates a broad understanding of relevant literature, incorporating studies that span various geographical contexts and aspects of safety management in construction. **However, the manuscript could benefit from a more detailed discussion of the selection process for these references and how they specifically relate to the Sidama Region's context. Ensuring that the reference list is up-to-date and includes the latest research would**

further strengthen the manuscript's foundation.

The study outlines several recommendations for future research, such as exploring the impact of technological advancements on safety practices and examining the role of regulatory frameworks in enhancing construction safety. These suggestions indicate a clear line of continuity and are intriguing, pointing towards comprehensive avenues for further investigation that could significantly advance the field.

The results are presented with clarity, showing the statistical significance of the relationship between safety management practices and road construction quality. The analysis seems thorough, but **the manuscript could enhance its impact by more deeply discussing the implications of these findings, particularly how they could influence policy and practice in road construction safety management.**

The manuscript identifies implications for practice by recommending specific safety management strategies. **However, it could further elaborate on the broader implications for research by suggesting how these findings fill existing knowledge gaps.** The societal impact, such as improved road safety and economic benefits from higher quality construction, could be more explicitly connected to the study's findings to underscore its relevance.

The manuscript is generally clear and adheres to the technical language of its field, making it accessible to an informed readership. Nonetheless, **improvements in sentence structure and the reduction of jargon could enhance readability.** A more direct explanation of key concepts and findings, along with a careful review of grammar and syntax, would improve the overall quality of communication.

The research design and methodology are appropriate for the study's objectives, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches to offer a comprehensive view of the issue. **Further refinement could involve a more detailed justification for the chosen methods and an exploration of their limitations, which would strengthen the argument's foundation and enhance the study's reliability.**

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths:

1. **Focused Study Area:** Concentrates on a geographically and thematically specific area of research, providing depth.
2. **Comprehensive Methodology:** Utilizes both quantitative and qualitative data, enriching the analysis.
3. **Practical Recommendations:** Offers actionable suggestions for improving safety management practices.
4. **Statistical Analysis:** Employs robust statistical techniques to validate findings.
5. **Relevance:** Addresses a significant issue with implications for safety and quality in road construction.

Weaknesses:

1. **Title Clarity:** The title could be more concise and impactful.

2. **Abstract Detail:** Lacks detail on the study's novelty and practical implications.
3. **Originality Emphasis:** Needs more emphasis on the study's unique contributions.
4. **Reference Selection/Update:** Could clarify the relevance and selection process of cited literature. Update the reference list with recent contributions.
5. **Communication Clarity:** May benefit from simpler language and clearer explanations.

Recommended Adjustments:

1. **Refine the Title:** Make it more concise and focused on outcomes.
2. **Enhance the Abstract:** Clearly state novel contributions and implications.
3. **Highlight Originality:** Emphasize unique insights and contributions to the field and the context of the Sidama Region.
4. **Broaden Literature Review:** Update and expand the reference list to include the most recent studies.
5. **Clarify Reference Selection:** Explain the selection criteria for references to strengthen the manuscript's academic foundation.
6. **Improve Future Work Section:** Offer more detailed guidance for future research directions, particularly in technology and regulatory frameworks.
7. **Detail Societal Implications:** More explicitly connect the findings to societal impacts, emphasizing benefits like improved safety and economic growth.
8. **Enhance Sentence Structure:** Simplify sentence construction and reduce the use of jargon to improve readability.
9. **Justify Methodological Choices:** Provide a deeper rationale for the selected research methods and discuss their limitations.
10. **Revise for Clarity:** Conduct a thorough review for grammar, punctuation, and clarity to ensure the manuscript communicates its case effectively.

These adjustments aim to refine the manuscript's focus, enhance its contribution to the literature, and improve its accessibility and impact on the target audience.