

EDITORIAL REVIEW REPORT

Review of "patel dissertation ch3"

A scholarly review of the submitted manuscript, validated by the QA & Final Approval Agent.

File reviewed	patel-dissertation-ch3.docx
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chapter 3 reads as a competent and largely well-organised methodology and literature treatment. The chapter is held back by two principal issues. First, the theoretical framework introduced in Chapter 1 disappears once the literature review opens — themes are presented without the organising lens that transformational leadership theory should provide. Second, Research Question 2 is framed comparatively across cohorts while the sampling described in §3.4 is purposive within a single site. The reviewing agents recommend addressing these two before the committee meeting; the remaining findings are tone, structure, and citation hygiene that can be revised in a single editorial pass.

II. SCORES

Submission readiness	84 / 100
Overall quality	87 / 100

III. REVIEWER FINDINGS

7 findings across 2 reviewers

P. 12 · §2.3 · SYNTHESIS

MAJOR

“Transformational leadership theory was foundational in this study, and the literature reviewed broadly supports the themes discussed.”

Issue. The transition between the theoretical framework and the literature review lacks sufficient scholarly connection. The chapter shifts to a thematic treatment without re-stating how transformational leadership theory should organise the synthesis that follows.

Recommendation. Add a bridging paragraph immediately after the framework introduction that explicitly explains how transformational leadership theory informs each theme discussed in §2.4 through §2.7.

P. 17 · §2.5 · CITATION

MAJOR

“Participation rates improved significantly following the intervention (Reyes, 2022).”

Issue. The citation on page 17 appears within the narrative but is absent from the reference section. The source (Reyes, 2022) cannot be located.

Recommendation. Verify APA 7 formatting requirements and either remove the in-text citation or include the complete reference entry with author, year, title, source, and DOI in the reference list.

P. 24 · §3.4 · METHODOLOGY

MAJOR

“Research Question 2 examines whether transformational leadership practices differ across cohorts.”

Issue. RQ2 is framed comparatively across cohorts, but the sampling described in §3.4 is purposive within a single site.

Recommendation. Either widen the sampling strategy to include at least one comparison site or reframe RQ2 as a single-site inquiry into within-cohort variation.

P. 14 · §2.4 · TONE

MODERATE

“The literature is really clear about this, and it definitely supports the intervention.”

Issue. Register shifts to colloquial here. Words like “really” and “definitely” weaken the analytical voice.

Recommendation. Rewrite to: “The literature is consistent on this point, and the evidence supports the intervention.”

“This chapter will discuss the methodology used in this study.”

Issue. Empty chapter opener — restates the heading rather than orienting the reader.

Recommendation. Open with a one-sentence statement of the methodological stance (e.g. "This study employs a qualitative multi-site case design grounded in transformational leadership theory.").

“Themes 1 and 3 both address professional learning communities and their effects on adaptive capacity.”

Issue. Theme 1 and Theme 3 perform similar analytical work. Their distinct labels create the appearance of redundancy that a committee will notice before any reviewer can defend it.

Recommendation. Consolidate Theme 1 and Theme 3 into a single theme, or differentiate their analytical purpose explicitly in the paragraph that introduces each.

“Recent scholarship (Bass & Riggio, 2018) has expanded the original four-I model.”

Issue. Bass & Riggio (2018) is appropriate, but the chapter would benefit from at least one citation post-2020 to demonstrate recency.

Recommendation. Add one to two more recent references (2020+) to anchor transformational leadership theory in current scholarship.

IV. REVISION PLAN

- 01 p. 12. Add a bridging paragraph between the framework and the literature review that explicitly explains how transformational leadership theory organises the themes that follow.
- 02 p. 24. Resolve the alignment between RQ2 and the sampling strategy — either widen sampling or reframe RQ2 as a single-site inquiry.
- 03 p. 9. Consolidate Theme 1 and Theme 3 or differentiate their analytical purpose in the opening paragraph of each.
- 04 p. 17. Locate or remove the orphaned Reyes (2022) citation and verify the reference list entry.
- 05 p. 14. Replace colloquial phrasings ("really", "definitely") with scholarly register.
- 06 p. 22. Replace the empty chapter opener with a one-sentence statement of methodological stance.
- 07 p. 11. Add one to two post-2020 citations to the framework section to demonstrate recency.