



Peer Review Report Form

Manuscript Title:	A Phenomenological Study on the Lived Entrepreneurial Experiences of BSHM Alumni in the Hospitality Industry
Type of Article:	Original Article

FIRST ROUND

Editor

<u>General Comments and Recommendations</u>
The reviewers acknowledge the significance of your manuscript and recommend several revisions to further improve its clarity, coherence, organization, and overall scholarly quality. In addition, you are advised to thoroughly review and validate all references included in the manuscript. Please ensure that all cited sources are accurate, accessible, and retrievable through Google Scholar to uphold the credibility and reliability of the study. Additionally, make sure to include the DOI or website link for every reference whenever available to facilitate verification and accessibility of sources. Furthermore, only sources that are cited within the manuscript should appear in the References section, and all entries listed in the References section must also be cited in the text. For example, if 20 unique sources are cited in the manuscript, then only those 20 sources should be included in the References section. Please also note that repeated citations of the same source within the text are counted as a single reference entry; therefore, the total number of references may be lower than the total number of in-text citations.

Reviewer 1

<u>General Comments and Recommendations</u>
The manuscript discusses a relevant topic on hospitality graduates who entered entrepreneurship, and this has value for hospitality education and alumni development. However, the paper still needs stronger methodological clarity and deeper analysis before it can fully support its claims.

<u>Specific Comments and Recommendations</u>
The study uses only three participants, but the manuscript does not sufficiently justify how this number was enough to reach depth or saturation. Since the study is phenomenological, the authors should explain more clearly how the small sample still provided rich and meaningful data.



The presentation of themes needs improvement. Some themes do not clearly match the stated research objectives, and the first objective on "lived situations" is not separately developed in the results. This weakens the connection between the objectives, findings, and conclusions.

The discussion is still mostly descriptive. The authors should interpret the findings more deeply and connect them with existing literature on hospitality entrepreneurship, graduate entrepreneurship, and small business resilience. This is important so the paper will not read only as a summary of interview answers.

The methodology should give more details on how coding was done, how themes were reviewed, and how trustworthiness was ensured. Issues such as credibility, dependability, confirmability, and researcher reflexivity should be addressed because these are important in qualitative research.

Please indicate your recommendation by checking the appropriate box below.

<u>Decision</u>	
☐	Accept the manuscript for publication.
☐	Reconsider the manuscript after the authors have satisfactorily addressed and complied with the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
☐	Reject the manuscript, as it is not suitable for publication.

Reviewer 2

<u>General Comments and Recommendations</u>
I commend the authors for taking on this study. The topic about the lived entrepreneurial experiences of hospitality graduates is very relatable, especially in the context of Palawan.
<u>Specific Comments and Recommendations</u>
You mentioned that you only have three (3) participants for this study. While I understand that phenomenological studies can have a small number of participants because it allows for in-depth exploration, three is really on the absolute minimum borderline. The biggest issue here is that you did not justify if "data saturation" was reached. In academic journals, readers will immediately question how you can formulate solid themes and claim a comprehensive understanding of the BSHM alumni experience with only three people. You need to explicitly justify this methodologically or consider adding a few more participants to strengthen the validity.
Your research design claims to use a phenomenological approach to understand how individuals experience and interpret situations. However, looking at your "Results and Discussions" section, the themes and the significant statements you extracted are very superficial. For example, quotes like "For me, I have experienced zero sales" or "Posting products online keeps customers coming" are just basic factual statements. They do not capture the "lived experience" or the deep emotional and psychological interpretation of being an entrepreneur. The analysis needs to go deeper than just stating that they had a hard time budgeting or they used online marketing. What does it mean for them as hospitality graduates to face these realities?



Your section is titled "3. Results and Discussions". However, there is actually zero discussion happening here. You presented the themes, the subthemes, and the verbatim quotes from P1, P2, and P3. But after presenting their quotes, you did not triangulate or compare these findings with existing literature. In a journal, you must explain how your findings agree, disagree, or add to the current body of knowledge. For instance, you cited authors like Boldureanu et al. and Brown et al. in your Introduction. Why are they, or any of the numerous authors in your references, not mentioned in the discussion to back up your themes? You must integrate literature into your findings.

A major requirement for international journals is the paper's contribution to knowledge. Honestly, your findings and conclusions are very generic. You concluded that entrepreneurial experiences are shaped by real-life business situations and that financial limitations and customer behavior are central elements. You also concluded that they used digital platforms and business expansion as opportunities. These are common knowledge facts applicable to any small business owner. The paper fails to highlight what is unique about the BSHM alumni experience. How did their specific hospitality training uniquely shape their response to the pandemic or financial crisis? You need to rewrite the conclusion to highlight the unique theoretical or practical contribution of your study, otherwise, international readers will not see the value of the research.

Please indicate your recommendation by checking the appropriate box below.

<u>Decision</u>	
	Accept the manuscript for publication.
/	Reconsider the manuscript after the authors have satisfactorily addressed and complied with the reviewers' comments and recommendations.
	Reject the manuscript, as it is not suitable for publication.

SECOND ROUND

<u>Decision</u>	<u>Editor</u>	<u>Reviewer 1</u>	<u>Reviewer 2</u>
Accept the manuscript for publication.	/	/	/
Reconsider the manuscript after the authors have satisfactorily addressed and complied with the reviewers' comments and recommendations.			
Reject the manuscript, as it is not suitable for publication.			