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| Book Name: | **Crisis, AI, and the Future of Higher Education** |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_5887.2** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Reading Less, Connecting Remotely: A Snapshot of Postgraduate Academic Behavior in China During COVID-19** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

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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 *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. 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 is important because it explores how COVID-19 affected graduate students’ reading habits and communication with supervisors. It identifies key challenges faced during the pandemic and offers insight into improving support. These findings can guide future research and help enhance postgraduate education in similar situations. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **It is quite clear and relevant. It captures the key themes — reading habits, remote communication, postgraduate students, and the pandemic context** |  |
| 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. | The abstract is clear and well-structured but it could be more concise and focused. Firstly, state the main purpose of the study up front, for example: “This study examines the impact of COVID-19 on postgraduate students’ reading habits and supervisor communication.” Next, briefly describe the design (an online survey of 2,298 students across different disciplines) and highlight one or two key findings with concrete results. The author can also rephrase some repeated statements about future research and conclude with one strong sentence about the practical significance. |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | **Yes, the manuscript looks scientifically solid. The research is clear, the data and analysis make sense and the conclusions match the findings. Overall, it’s well done and credible.** |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.**  **-** | **The references are mostly sufficient and up to date. However, adding a few more recent studies (2022–2024) on postgraduate education and remote learning would make the literature even stronger.** |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Yes, the language and English quality are clear and appropriate for scholarly communication. Minor editing for conciseness would further improve the overall flow. |  |
| Optional/General comments | Overall, this is a clear and well-organized manuscript. The research is solid, and the writing is easy to understand. Only small improvements are needed.  the study is solid, well-written and relevant. With minor improvements to clarity and updated references, it could be even stronger |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s comment *(if agreed with the 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 detail)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Noorfatin binti Zakaria, Malaysia**