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| Book Name: | **Crisis, AI, and the Future of Higher Education** |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_5887.3** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Navigating Research Productivity and Delayed Graduation Challenges among Graduate Students During COVID-19** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

**Special note:**

**A research paper already published in a journal can be published as a Book Chapter in an expanded form with proper copyright approval.**

**Source Article:**

**This chapter is an extended version of the article published by the same author(s) in the following journal.**

**Chinese Studies, 13(2): 124-150, 2024.**

**DOI: 10.4236/chnstd.2024.132009**

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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 makes a timely and significant contribution to the literature on the impact of COVID-19 on graduate students, specifically focusing on China a major higher education hub. It presents robust empirical findings from a large-scale survey (n=2298) and provides valuable insights into how different demographic groups were variably affected in terms of research productivity and delayed graduation. The manuscript’s strength lies in its nuanced analysis across multiple demographic variables and its evidence-based recommendations. This research is particularly relevant to policymakers, university administrators, and scholars interested in educational resilience and crisis response in higher education. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | Yes, the title is suitable and accurately reflects the content of the manuscript. It clearly states the core focus of the study and mentions the COVID-19 context, which is central to the investigation. |  |
| 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 informative and summarizes the core findings, methodology, and recommendations well. However, it would benefit from slightly improved structure for clarity. Suggested improvements:   1. Include the exact research questions or at least indicate them more clearly. 2. Mention the statistical methods used (e.g., Chi-square, SPSS) briefly. 3. Emphasize that the findings were derived from a sample of 2,298 Chinese graduate students, which adds weight to the study. |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | Yes, the manuscript is scientifically sound. It is grounded in a well-defined methodology, supported by a large and diverse sample. The statistical analyses are appropriate for the research questions posed, and the conclusions follow logically from the results. The manuscript clearly defines dependent and independent variables, applies valid measurement techniques, and reports Cronbach’s alpha and KMO/Bartlett’s test to ensure reliability and validity. |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.**  **-** | Yes, the references are sufficient and cover both international and China-specific literature, with many from 2020–2023. A few suggestions for additional sources could include more comparative international perspectives or studies on long-term pandemic effects on academic research output (if available), but this is not essential. |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | The language is generally appropriate for scholarly communication. However, there are some awkward or grammatically incorrect phrases throughout the manuscript. Suggested action:  A thorough language proofreading by a native or professional editor is recommended to ensure clarity and fluency, particularly in the Introduction and Discussion sections. |  |
| Optional/General comments | Consider including more visual summaries such as tables or concise graphs to highlight key cross-tabulated findings, especially where results are complex.  Strengthen the discussion section by briefly contrasting findings with more international contexts or broader implications beyond China. |  |

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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:**

**Umar Ibrahim, Nigeria**