Reviewer's report

Title: Education and employment status of adults with autism spectrum disorders in Germany – a cross-sectional-survey

Version: 0 Date: 21 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Collette Sosnowy

Reviewer's report:

This paper compares data about employment by a group of people with Asperger's syndrome (AS) living in Germany to national level data on the general population. The primary strength is the paper is that the data is reported clearly and the comparison that demonstrates the much poorer employment outcomes for people with AS is compelling and offers useful information that could impact policy and inform intervention efforts. The paper could be strengthened by connecting the introduction and discussion more than they currently are. The introduction adequately presents the argument that social impairments likely play a role in poorer employment outcomes, however the discussion is not sufficiently tied to it. It's a difficult challenge since the authors have shown that there is research that informs the qualitative conclusions that social impairments impact employability, yet this data is descriptive survey statistics. I encourage the authors to make clearer points in the discussion and demonstrate how this data supports or informs the knowledge presented in the intro. When making claims in the discussion, however, it is important to support conjectures with enough evidence to show that your ideas are logical extensions of current knowledge.

These are places that need clarification or greater support:
Note: P = page (using page numbers that are listed at the bottom of the document) and L=line (using the line numbers that are in the right hand column of the two columns of numbers)

- Remove sentence in P3 L5 ("typically...")
- P3L25 reference to Balwin's Australia study, how does this rate compare to other countries?
- P4L3 unclear what "partly" means in this sentence
what is difference between non working and unemployed?

eliminate the employment rate for people with co-occurring ID. Even though it is meant to offer comparison, it detracts from the central focus on people without ID.

ASD diagnosis and age were self-reported? This seems odd since they were form a cohort that presumably had documented clinical diagnoses. Please explain/clarify.

"living in a long term relationship"…does this mean that they physically lived with their partner or just were in a long term relationship? Clarify.

clarify what a "so called one-euro job" is

give a citation for the claim "it is well known in research…"

give citation that demonstrates that there are gender specific compensation strategies

be more specific about what topics/questions need to be further researched in order to develop measures

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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