Dear editor

Thank you for the review of our manuscript "The Effect of Transactional Analysis on the Self-Esteem of Imprisoned Women; A clinical trial" and thank you for encouraging us to resubmit a revised paper. We would also like to express our gratitude to the reviewers for their valuable comments. Below you can find a point-by-point description of our responses to the reviewers’ comments.

We feel that, thanks to the reviewers’ comments, we have significantly improved the manuscript.

We would highly appreciate to receive your considerations regarding publication of this manuscript in BMC Psychology Sincerely yours,

Sakineh Miri

Kerman University of Medical Sciences.

Tel: +98 9131404498
Fax: +98 34 31325218
E-mail: miri.education@gmail.com
Reviewer reports:

Manuela Dudeck (Reviewer 1): Since therapeutic options for imprisoned women are rarely scientifically monitored, this study is extremely welcome.

The following points should be revised:

1. Is there a typo in the abstract? "No significant difference was observed between the two groups in this regard (p=0.001, t=-3.61)." You write that there were no significant differences, but the P-value is p=0.001?
RESPONSE: Thanks for your attention, it was a typographical mistake that was corrected in the abstract.

2. What has the control group done in the meantime? It would be better if they had done a different training program, e.g. to strengthen the back muscles, sports or similar. Since the control group was only a waiting group, it should be mentioned under limitations that the results might have been different, if they had received some kind of training.
RESPONSE: Thank you for your valuable comment, I will use this valuable point in future research and comment on the limitations.

3. It is a pity that the comparison of the self-esteem scores in the pre-test became significant. This should be mentioned as limitation. Perhaps instead of a random allocation to intervention and control groups, you could have parallelized according to pre mean score self-esteem, so that both groups end up containing women with comparable high scores.
RESPONSE: Thank you for your valuable comment, I will use this valuable point in future research and comment on the limitations.

4. Because the two groups differ in the self-esteem pre-value, another type of statistical analysis would helpful to make the rise of the experimental group's self-esteem visible. I would rather calculate an analysis of variance instead of two t-tests. An analysis of variance with two factors: the between factor "intervention versus control group" and the within factor "before versus after". If the interaction between both factors is significant, it proves that the intervention group shows a significantly steeper increase in self-esteem than the control group.
RESPONSE: Thank you, the covariance was calculated and highlighted in the Results section.

5. Is there a typo in the author naming? "Mahya Torkaman, Jamileh Farokhzadian, Sakineh miri, batool pouraboili" Are the names miri, batool pouraboili accidentally written in lower case?
RESPONSE: We appreciate your nice recommendations; it was a typographical mistake that was corrected in title page.

6. The first sentence of the introduction "Women, as very sensitive and vulnerable human beings, constitute nearly half of the human society" is trivial, I would delete it.
RESPONSE: Thanks for your valuable comment, this sentence was removed in the introduction.
7. The manuscript should be checked for spaces, misspelled words and grammatical errors.
RESPONSE: We appreciate your nice recommendations. Regarding the seventh comment, we checked
the text thoroughly again for any possible errors with regard to spaces, misspelled words and
grammatical errors. Please do not hesitate to highlight any part of the text that you wish extra changes.

Reviewer 2 (Reviewer 2): PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research
question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the
objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence
in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not
overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If
not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Self-esteem is an important issue especially for female prisoners and
apparently even more in cultures like in Iran. So the overall research question and purpose of the study
is to be considered very important.

However, what is striking is the label of women as "vulnerable" throughout the whole manuscript. This
is quite a paradox in a paper that addresses self-esteem in women and therefore not acceptable.
The research design is of high quality as it uses a full census of incarcerated women at this Point in
time and allocates them randomly to the Intervention vs. control Group which increases the Overall
power of the results.

The study is methodologically very well conducted (randomised group allocation) and covers an
important issue in the field of female forensic mental health. However, especially in the first part of the
introduction some of the (potentially) culturally influenced statements need to be changed since they
proclaim gender stereotypes and are not backed up by suitable references.
RESPONSE: Thanks for your valuable comment, these sentences were edited in the introduction and highlighted.

FORMATTING CHANGES:

1. Please include a title page as the first page of your manuscript where you list the title of the manuscript and the full names and institutional addresses for all authors. The corresponding author should be indicated.
   RESPONSE: We edited this section

2. Please supply the missing Abstract in your revised manuscript.
   RESPONSE: We edited this section

DECLARATIONS SECTION:
RESPONSE: We edited this section