Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effect of Transactional Analysis on the Self-Esteem of Imprisoned Women; A clinical trial

Version: 0 Date: 02 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Manuela Dudeck

Reviewer's report:

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?

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

7. The manuscript should be checked for spaces, misspelled words and grammatical errors.
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.

Unable to assess

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
   •

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests below.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.