Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 22 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

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.

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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