

Structural Family Therapy and Culturally Informed Care with an Incarcerated Family: A Clinical Case Study


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement "Most of these individuals are racially and ethnically minoritized males" would benefit from including specific statistics or citations to strengthen the claim. Providing data will enhance the credibility of this assertion.

The sentence "The effects on urban communities due to mass incarceration are vastly significant" could be expanded to include specific examples or studies demonstrating these effects. This would provide a clearer picture of the impact on urban communities.

The description of creating a family tree or map as part of SFT is very general. It would be helpful to provide a step-by-step example of how this process works in practice, including any challenges that might arise and how to address them.

The statement "It is important to note that any intervention in this type of therapeutic model will not be effective if the family members/clients are not in agreement that their family is dysfunctional and that there is a need for change" should include strategies for gaining family agreement or buy-in.

The cause of Jane's adversarial relationship with her mother and brother is noted as unclear. Consider including hypotheses or potential factors that could be explored in therapy sessions.

The description of John's struggles in school would benefit from more detail about his emotional disorder and how it manifests in his behavior and interactions, both at home and in school.

The account of James' upbringing and family background is rich but could be enhanced by connecting these experiences more explicitly to his current family dynamics and challenges.

The discussion of family dysfunction types (disengaged vs. enmeshed) should include specific indicators or examples from the case study that illustrate these concepts.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

It is mentioned that "Finding models of therapy that successfully address the needs of this demographic will also help to decrease recidivism rates." Consider adding a brief overview of existing models and their effectiveness, to better frame the need for Structural Family Therapy (SFT).

The claim that "SFT allows a therapist to correctly identify and describe a problem" should be supported with references or examples from the literature to illustrate how SFT accomplishes this.

The explanation of the SFT model's flexibility would benefit from specific case examples or scenarios where this flexibility was particularly advantageous in therapy sessions.

The assertion that "SFT does not specifically address the impact of knowledge within the incarcerated family's culture and belief systems" should be expanded to explain why this is a limitation and how culturally informed care can address this gap.

The sentence "Without effective and appropriate communication between the therapist and clients therapy will not be effective" would benefit from specific examples or research findings that highlight the consequences of poor communication in therapy.

The case study would be more robust if it included more detailed information about James' wife's perspective and her role in the family dynamics during and after his incarceration.

The initial intake process is well described, but it would be helpful to include any assessment tools or instruments used to gather the family history and evaluate family dynamics.

The discussion of joining the family as part of the therapeutic process would be strengthened by including techniques or strategies for building this therapeutic alliance, especially in the context of culturally diverse families.

The explanation of the family life cycle stages James missed due to incarceration should be linked more directly to specific interventions that can help him catch up on these developmental milestones.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.