Improving Family Functioning with Social Skills Training: Evidence from a Quasi-Experimental Study

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1.   Round 1

1.1.   Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The objective is clear and well-defined. However, articulating specific hypotheses derived from the literature review could strengthen the research's foundation.

The review is comprehensive, yet it could benefit from including studies that present counterarguments or have found limited effects of social skills training on family functioning, offering a more balanced view.

The quasi-experimental design is appropriate for the study's aims. A more thorough justification for the sample size and the choice of convenient sampling could enhance the methodological rigor. Including power analysis to justify the sample size would also be beneficial.

The presentation of results is clear. Incorporating visual representations, such as graphs or charts, could enhance the interpretation of the findings.

The discussion effectively ties the findings back to the literature, highlighting the study's contribution. Expanding on the theoretical and practical implications, particularly in relation to existing models of family dynamics, would be valuable.

The acknowledgment of limitations is appropriate. Discussing potential biases introduced by the quasi-experimental design and convenient sampling in more detail would be beneficial.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While the sample is relevant, the use of convenient sampling limits the generalizability of the findings. Future research should aim for random sampling to enhance representativeness.

The description of the social skills training intervention is detailed and informative. However, providing more details about the qualifications and training of the facilitators could add to the credibility of the intervention.

The use of the family functioning scale is appropriate. Clarifying why this particular scale was chosen over others could provide further context for its suitability.

The analysis using ANOVA with repeated measures is suitable for the study design. Including effect sizes for the main findings would offer a more comprehensive understanding of the intervention's practical significance.

Suggestions for future research are relevant. Proposing specific methodologies or populations for future studies could guide subsequent investigations in this area.

The manuscript mentions adherence to ethical guidelines, which is commendable. Expanding on any ethical dilemmas encountered during the study and how they were resolved would enhance transparency.

The conclusion succinctly summarizes the findings and their implications. A stronger call to action for practitioners in marital counseling could underscore the practical relevance of the study.

The manuscript is generally well-written. Minor editorial revisions could improve flow and readability.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.