Counseling Strategies for Enhancing Self-Advocacy in Young Adults with Disabilities

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction, you state, "Self-advocacy is defined as the ability to understand and communicate one's needs, rights, and desires." This definition would benefit from citing a specific source that provides this definition. Consider adding a citation to strengthen this statement.

The paragraph mentioning the recruitment of participants via disability support organizations, educational institutions, and social media platforms should provide more details on how these methods were implemented. Were there any challenges or limitations in this recruitment process?

The section on support systems could be expanded to discuss any differences in the types or effectiveness of support systems (e.g., family versus professional counselors) based on participants' specific disabilities or backgrounds.

The "Negative Advocacy Experiences" section mentions discrimination and frustration. Providing more detailed examples or quotes from participants who faced these challenges would add depth and help readers better understand these experiences.

The discussion of institutional barriers would benefit from specific examples or case studies that illustrate these barriers in action. For instance, detailing a participant's experience with bureaucratic hurdles could make this section more relatable.

The role of assistive technology is acknowledged, but the specific types of technology used by participants are not detailed. Including examples of the assistive technologies that were particularly effective or challenging could provide practical insights.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review section, especially when discussing the works of Lee (2023) and Tideman & Svensson (2015), could be expanded to provide more context and background on their studies. This would help readers understand the significance of these references in the context of your research.

In the "Study Design and Participants" section, the demographics of the participants are briefly mentioned. It would be useful to include a table summarizing the demographic information (e.g., age, gender, type of disability) for clarity and ease of reference.

In the "Measure" section, the duration of interviews is mentioned as between 60 to 90 minutes. Including an average or median duration would provide additional clarity. Additionally, specifying the number of interviews conducted in person versus via video conferencing or phone could offer insights into any potential biases or limitations in data collection.

The process of thematic analysis, as described, is thorough. However, it would be beneficial to include a brief example of how initial codes were developed into themes to provide readers with a clearer understanding of your analytical process.

When presenting the themes under "Findings and Results," integrating more direct quotes from participants could enhance the richness and authenticity of the data. For instance, under "Understanding of Self-Advocacy," a participant's detailed quote would be more impactful.

The mention of leadership training programs is brief. Providing more details on the structure, content, and outcomes of these programs would be valuable. How do these programs specifically address the development of self-advocacy skills?

The discussion on the intersectionality of disability with race and gender is currently limited. Expanding this to include more detailed findings or examples from your participants would strengthen the discussion.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

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