



Transitioning from Special Education to Higher Education: Students' and Educators' Experiences


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the sentence, "Despite these efforts, challenges remain," it would be beneficial to specify what specific challenges are being referred to here to set the context more clearly for the reader.

In Table 1, under "Financial Barriers," consider expanding on the concept of "Financial aid" by specifying types or sources of financial aid that were discussed by participants.

The sentence, "Academic support, although available, was often underutilized," could benefit from examples or reasons why support was underutilized, as mentioned by participants.

In the quote, "I felt so alone at first," it would be helpful to know what specific factors contributed to this feeling of isolation according to the participant.

The sentence, "Navigating the system can be overwhelming," should be followed by specific examples of the system's complexities that participants faced.

The statement, "The stress was immense," could be expanded to describe specific stressors or situations that contributed to the participants' stress.

The sentence, "Balancing a job with studies was tough," should include more details on how students managed or coped with this challenge.

The mention of "Our disability services office is a vital resource," would be more informative if specific services or programs offered by the disability services office were detailed.

The sentence, "The academic difficulties faced by students in higher education have been consistently highlighted in the literature," would be more robust with specific references to studies that support this claim.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The reference to Morningstar and Clark (2003) mentions critical content areas for personnel preparation. Please elaborate on what these critical content areas are to enhance the reader's understanding.

The sentence, "Abdullah and Ibrahim (2021) explored the perspectives of teachers in Malaysia," could benefit from a brief explanation of the findings or conclusions of this study to illustrate its relevance.

The sentence, "Participants were selected using purposive sampling," should include more details on the criteria used for this purposive sampling to justify the selection process.

Please clarify how the interview guide was developed and whether it was piloted or validated before use.

The description of the coding process states, "Initial codes were generated from the data." Please provide more detail on how these initial codes were developed and whether a coding framework or software was used.

The statement, "Social integration challenges are also well-documented," should include citations to support this assertion and provide context.

The discussion of "Navigating support services" could benefit from linking back to the specific challenges mentioned in the findings to provide a cohesive narrative.

The sentence, "Emotional and mental health challenges were prevalent among the participants," should be expanded to discuss how these challenges impacted their academic and social experiences.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.