Effectiveness of a Family-Based Problem-Solving Program on Children's Self-Esteem During the Coronavirus Pandemic

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"The introduction presents a strong rationale for the importance of self-esteem in children; however, it could be enhanced by providing a more specific connection between self-esteem and the outcomes the study aims to investigate. For instance, explicitly linking the role of self-esteem to the effectiveness of problem-solving interventions would help set the stage for your research."

"The literature review does not delve deeply into how existing problem-solving training programs specifically affect self-esteem in children. It would be beneficial to include studies that examine the relationship between problem-solving skills and self-esteem in both clinical and educational settings."

"You discuss the benefits of problem-solving for self-esteem but could further elaborate on how these skills translate into long-term behavioral changes in children. Are there any longitudinal studies that support the sustainability of these effects?"

"The inclusion of both pre-test and post-test measures is appropriate, but the methodology would benefit from a more detailed explanation of how the control group was selected. Was there any specific criteria for matching the control and experimental groups beyond convenience sampling?"

"The description of the intervention is clear, but there is a lack of detail about the content and structure of the problem-solving sessions. For example, what specific problem-solving strategies or techniques were taught? A brief outline of the session topics would help readers better understand the intervention."

"In Table 1, the descriptive statistics for self-esteem in children are well presented. However, it would be useful to include effect sizes (e.g., Cohen's d) for the post-test and follow-up phases to provide readers with a sense of the magnitude of the intervention's impact."

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"You mention that children with low self-esteem face challenges such as academic underachievement and psychological problems. While this is an established claim, I suggest citing more recent literature to provide a broader perspective on how self-esteem affects cognitive and emotional development. This would help contextualize the study in current research."

"The statement, 'These children undoubtedly have talents that should not be overlooked,' feels somewhat general. Could you provide evidence or examples from prior research that demonstrate how children with low self-esteem still exhibit creativity, intelligence, or other talents? This would make the argument more convincing."

"The decision to use a convenience sampling method is noted, but you should justify why this sampling approach is appropriate for your study. Given the sample size of 100, a more rigorous sampling method might have yielded more generalizable results. Consider discussing this limitation in the limitations section."

"The results section could benefit from a more detailed description of the statistical analyses used. For example, you mention ANCOVA, but it would be helpful to explain why this test was chosen over other statistical methods, especially considering the design of the study with pre-test, post-test, and follow-up measurements."

"Table 2 presents multivariate analysis results, but it would be helpful to provide more context on how the multivariate variance analysis results relate to your research question. For instance, how do the results inform our understanding of the intervention's impact on self-esteem?"

"In the discussion, you mention that the problem-solving program improved both general and specific components of self-esteem (e.g., family, social, academic). However, the discussion lacks an exploration of the underlying mechanisms that explain these improvements. For example, how does improving problem-solving directly enhance self-esteem? A more in-depth discussion of these mechanisms would add clarity."

"While the study provides evidence of the intervention's effectiveness, the conclusion does not adequately address the limitations or implications for future research. I recommend discussing the potential limitations, such as the generalizability of the findings, and suggesting areas for further research, particularly in terms of examining the long-term effects of such interventions."

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2.   Revised

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