

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Positive Career Counseling on Career Decision-Making and Future Orientation

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence "Studies indicate that counseling programs that promote self-reflection, strengths identification, and goal-setting tend to foster more adaptive career behaviors..." would be more rigorous if specific intervention studies were cited here to show empirical backing for this causal relationship.

The authors state that participants were selected via "purposive sampling," but then assigned randomly. The apparent contradiction between purposive sampling and randomization should be clarified. Were participants selected based on criteria and then randomized within that subset?

While the use of the CDDQ and FOS is appropriate, the article would benefit from inclusion of Cronbach's alpha values from the current study to demonstrate internal consistency within this specific sample.

The rationale for having nine sessions of 75–90 minutes is not justified. The authors should elaborate on how this dosage compares to established effective practices in career counseling literature.

The demographic report is clear, but the authors could deepen the analysis by discussing how demographic variables (e.g., education level or age) might moderate the intervention's effectiveness.

The table is informative, but the inclusion of effect sizes (Cohen's d) for pre-post changes within each group would improve the interpretability of the practical significance of the results.

When citing Milot-Lapointe and Arifouline (2025), the meta-analysis results could be described in more quantitative detail to reinforce the point (e.g., average effect size across studies).

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors mention "Recent innovations in career counseling practices..." but the transition between individual and group-based interventions is abrupt. Consider clarifying the structure of the paragraph to separate innovations in individual versus group settings.

The sentence "To address these complex and interconnected issues..." could be improved by clearly stating the research gap being filled. It is recommended to emphasize how this intervention adds novel insight to the field, especially within the Taiwanese cultural context.

The authors write "the necessary statistical assumptions were examined and confirmed", yet results of Mauchly's test, Levene's test, and Shapiro-Wilk are reported without interpretation. A brief interpretation of these results for readers unfamiliar with assumption testing is advised.

The results indicate large η^2 values, but the authors do not comment on these effect sizes in the text. Interpretation of η^2 (e.g., small, medium, large) would contextualize the magnitude of effects and enhance scientific clarity.

The Bonferroni post-hoc tests show non-significant change from post-test to follow-up. The authors should explore whether this plateau suggests ceiling effects or stabilization, and whether booster sessions might be needed for longer-term gains.

The phrase "retained these gains at the five-month follow-up" needs elaboration. The authors should discuss whether maintaining gains over five months is sufficient to claim long-term effectiveness, or if further studies should assess sustainability beyond one year.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.