

Enhancing Self-Determination and Working Memory in Individuals with Visual Impairments: Efficacy of Social Skills Training

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Current text: "Participants in the intervention group showed significant improvements in self-determination from pre-intervention (M = 45.25 SD = 6.34) to post-intervention (M = 58.43 SD = 5.27) and at the four-month follow-up (M = 55.37 SD = 5.82)."

Comment: The abstract should include a brief description of the significance of these findings and their implications for practice and future research to provide a more comprehensive overview.

Current text: "Participants were selected based on specific inclusion criteria including being aged 18-60 years having a documented visual impairment and demonstrating no severe cognitive or psychiatric disorders that could interfere with the intervention."

Comment: It would be helpful to explicitly list all inclusion and exclusion criteria in a table for clarity.

Current text: "Session 1: Introduction and Goal Setting."

Comment: Expand the description of each session to provide more detail on the activities and techniques used, which will help in understanding the intervention's methodology.

Current text: "Data were collected at three time points: pre-intervention (baseline) post-intervention (immediately after the last session) and at a four-month follow-up."

Comment: Specify the exact intervals between the data collection points to provide a clearer timeline of the study.

Current text: "The demographic characteristics of the participants were as follows: In the intervention group 11 participants (55.27%) were female and 9 (44.73%) were male with an age range of 25 to 65 years ($M = 42.37$ $SD = 10.23$)."

Comment: Present demographic data in a table format for better visualization and comparison between groups.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Current text: "The specific hypotheses are: Social skills training will lead to significant improvements in self-determination."

Comment: Clearly state both hypotheses in separate bullet points to improve readability and comprehension.

Current text: "Forty participants were recruited and randomly assigned into two groups: the intervention group and the control group each consisting of 20 participants."

Comment: Provide additional details on the randomization process to ensure transparency and reproducibility of the study design.

Current text: "The Bonferroni post-hoc test was applied to adjust for multiple comparisons and identify specific time points where significant differences occurred."

Comment: Include the rationale for choosing the Bonferroni test over other post-hoc tests and discuss any limitations associated with this choice.

Current text: "The control group did not receive any specific intervention but continued with their usual activities and services."

Comment: Provide a detailed description of what "usual activities and services" entailed to ensure a clear understanding of the control conditions.

Current text: "Assumptions for the repeated measures ANOVA were thoroughly checked and confirmed."

Comment: Detail the specific tests used to check these assumptions, such as Mauchly's test for sphericity, to provide more transparency.

Current text: "The ANOVA results indicated significant main effects for self-determination ($F(2, 76) = 41.52$ $p < .001$ $\eta^2 = 0.53$)."

Comment: Report partial eta-squared values for each effect to provide a clear understanding of the effect size.

Current text: "The significant improvements in self-determination and working memory have broader implications for the quality of life and educational practices for individuals with visual impairments."

Comment: Expand on the potential long-term impacts of these findings on policy and practice in special education.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.