


OPEN PEER REVIEW

Access to Justice: The Role of Legal Aid in Society

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction adeptly sets the stage for the study by contextualizing the significance of legal aid within broader societal and justice frameworks. However, it could benefit from a more explicit linkage between the documented disparities in access to civil justice and the study's objectives. Specifically, outlining how this study contributes to addressing these disparities or gaps in the literature would enhance its relevance and impact.

The methodology section is thorough, detailing the qualitative approach, participant selection, and data analysis strategy. To improve, consider providing more justification for the choice of semi-structured interviews over other qualitative methods. Additionally, a brief discussion on the limitations of purposive sampling in this context and how these limitations were mitigated would add depth to the research design.

The findings are well-presented and categorized. However, integrating direct quotes from participants more systematically throughout the results section could enrich the narrative and provide more direct evidence of the themes identified.

The discussion ties the findings back to the existing literature effectively, yet it could be strengthened by more explicitly stating the novel contributions of this study. Highlighting unique insights or contradictions with previous studies would clarify this manuscript's value addition to the field.

The future directions proposed are thoughtful and relevant. It would be beneficial to further prioritize these recommendations, perhaps suggesting a roadmap for short-term versus long-term initiatives. This would provide clearer guidance for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers interested in advancing legal aid services.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The literature review is robust and informative but could be more explicitly connected to the study's research questions. Specifically, identifying gaps in the current literature that this study aims to fill would sharpen its focus and rationale.

While the study is rooted in a strong empirical approach, incorporating a theoretical framework or model could enhance its analytical depth. This could involve applying existing theories on social justice and access to justice or developing a conceptual model based on the study's findings.

The discussion offers insightful connections between the study's findings and broader societal implications. Expanding this section to include more concrete examples of how these findings could inform policy or practice would increase the manuscript's practical relevance.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.