

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Exploring the Challenges of Reintegrating Ex-Offenders into Society

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The abstract provides a comprehensive overview of the study but lacks specific details on the research questions or hypotheses. Including these elements would enhance clarity and focus.

The interview guide questions listed in paragraph 3 could be more detailed. For instance, specify if there were follow-up questions or probes used to elicit more in-depth responses.

The data analysis section (paragraph 5) mentions the use of NVivo software but lacks detail on the coding process. Describe the steps taken to ensure inter-coder reliability and how coding disagreements were resolved.

In the findings section on employment challenges, the subcategory "Supportive Employment Programs" mentions that some ex-offenders found hope through these programs. Provide specific examples or quotes from participants to illustrate this point.

The subcategory "Family Relationships" discusses rebuilding trust with family members. Including a quote from a participant who successfully rebuilt familial relationships would strengthen this section.

The section on mental health issues should discuss the availability of mental health services in more detail. Are there specific barriers (e.g., geographic, financial) that prevent ex-offenders from accessing these services?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "Employment is often cited as one of the most critical factors for successful reintegration" needs a citation to support this claim. Refer to specific studies that highlight the importance of employment in reintegration.

The discussion on social integration (paragraph 2) would benefit from more recent references. The meta-analysis by Rade, Desmarais, and Mitchell (2016) is useful, but additional studies from the last five years should be included to provide up-to-date insights.

The paragraph on psychological challenges mentions mental health issues such as depression and PTSD. Including prevalence rates of these conditions among ex-offenders would provide a clearer picture of the scope of these issues.

The description of the study design (paragraph 1) should include more detail on how participants were selected from community organizations. Were there any specific criteria used by these organizations for participant selection?

The paragraph on housing challenges would benefit from quantitative data. For example, how many participants faced homelessness, and how did this impact their reintegration efforts?

The discussion on employment challenges reiterates findings without integrating them with broader literature. Compare your findings with those from other studies to highlight similarities and differences.

The discussion on social integration should explore potential interventions or policy changes that could mitigate social exclusion and stigmatization. This would provide actionable insights for practitioners.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.