Review of: "Does Anger Management Among Prisoners Work? — A Review of Recent Meta-Analyses"

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This paper offers insights into anger management programs within prison settings, spotlighting their profound impact on reducing recidivism and enhancing inmate behavior. This research is pivotal for psychologists, criminal justice professionals, policymakers, and correctional facility administrators who seek to implement or refine anger management interventions. The core aim is to mitigate recidivism and enhance inmate behavior through evidence-based programs, explicitly highlighting the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT).

While the study presents a comprehensive exploration of anger management within correctional settings, it initially falls short in specifying its objectives clearly, leaving a gap in the reader's understanding of the article's direction. This critique underscores the necessity for an articulated aim to guide the narrative, ensuring a cohesive and focused discourse on the subject matter. Despite this, the research delves into a critical examination of recent meta-analyses, attempting to contextualize anger management's role in corrections thoroughly. Yet, it is evident that a more systematic approach to evaluating the literature is required. The call for uniform criteria in judging all cited literature is a valid critique, highlighting the need for methodological rigor and transparency in synthesizing existing research findings.

The paper's methodology lacks clarity and depth, particularly the selection and analysis of articles for the meta-analysis. This points to a broader issue within the research, where the methodological foundation does not robustly support the conclusions drawn. A more detailed description of the search strategy, selection criteria, and statistical analysis is crucial to elevate the research from a mere review of reviews to a substantive meta-analytical contribution. This would not only strengthen the validity of the findings but also provide a clearer understanding of the effectiveness of anger management programs in reducing recidivism and improving behavioral outcomes among prisoners.

Moreover, the paper's discussion on the research gap is insightful yet lacks concrete suggestions for future investigations. This is a missed opportunity to direct subsequent research efforts toward filling these identified gaps. Expanding the scope to include studies from diverse geographical locations and considering cultural variations in program effectiveness could enrich understanding of anger management's impact across different prison environments. This approach would address the current gap in literature from developing countries, adding valuable perspectives to the discourse.

The critique also highlights a significant oversight in the paper's lack of a theoretical framework and a comprehensive literature review. For a meta-analysis to be considered robust, it must include a systematic search strategy, clear selection criteria, detailed data extraction, quality assessment, and rigorous statistical analysis. The absence of these elements in

the paper raises questions about its classification as a meta-analysis and contribution to the field. To remedy this, a thorough revision is necessary, focusing on a systematic presentation of findings, a review of the search strategy, and a detailed methodology that aligns with the standards of a meta-analysis.

In conclusion, while the research tackles an important topic with vast implications for the criminal justice system and society, the paper lacks a comprehensive systematic review, a transparent methodology for combining the results of multiple studies, and a statistical analysis of pooled data. Hence, it requires substantial refinement to meet the criteria of a complete meta-analysis. Unfortunately, there is no discussion of the findings; therefore, the interpretation is not fully grounded, and the offered conclusions are limited. Incorporating a more detailed and transparent methodology and a clear objective and theoretical underpinning would significantly enhance its contribution to the field. Addressing the critiques and incorporating these revisions would clarify the effectiveness of anger management programs in prisons and pave the way for future research that builds upon these findings with greater precision and insight.

There are some contributions from the literature that the authors should consider including for future versions to underline and strengthen their arguments and discussion.

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