

Review of: "A Phenomenological Study of the Lived Experiences of Counseling Students in a Co-Facilitated Experiential Group"

Sabri Dogan¹

¹ Independent researcher

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The literature review provides a thorough overview of the importance of experiential group training in counseling programs, citing relevant sources and establishing the significance of the topic. The review effectively integrates theoretical frameworks such as experiential learning theories and group psychotherapy principles to support the use of experiential methodologies in training future counselors. The inclusion of various studies and perspectives (quantitative and qualitative) enriches the discussion, highlighting both the benefits and potential challenges of experiential group facilitation.

The methodology section of this literature review provides a detailed description of the research design, participants, procedure, and trustworthiness measures. It is well-organized and presents a clear rationale for the use of phenomenology, which aligns with the study's goal of exploring the lived experiences of counseling students in experiential group settings. However, there are several areas where further elaboration or clarification could enhance the rigor and clarity of the methodology.

While archival journal entries are mentioned as part of data collection, there is little discussion of how this data was analyzed in comparison to the interview data. Providing more detail about the role of these journals in the triangulation process would strengthen the methodology. For instance, were there significant discrepancies between what participants wrote in their journals and what they reported during interviews? Add more detail on the audit process, including who conducted the audit and how it impacted the study's findings or conclusions.

The discussion section suggests that the presence of skilled facilitators is "crucial" to the success of experiential groups. While this is a valid conclusion based on the study, the language used here is somewhat absolute. A more nuanced approach would be to acknowledge that while skilled facilitators are important, other factors (such as group dynamics, individual readiness for growth, or external influences) may also play significant roles. This would prevent overgeneralizing the findings to all experiential groups in different contexts.

Overall, great job.

