

Review of: "The Psychological Impact of Leisure and Rehabilitation Activities in Children with Autism: A Delphi Approach"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study's goal to investigate the intrinsic power of engagement in various leisure activities among children and adolescents with Autism has the potential to contribute important and meaningful information to their therapists, parents, and service providers.

However, unfortunately, I find the manuscript not ready to accomplish an updated answer to their goal.

It even raises a philosophical question regarding the authors' approach evident from the wording they use: "the appropriateness of practicing a sport (or other activities) for people with ASD" (p. 15).

The introduction and the literature review lack more updated studies and more integrative writing, rather than describing each study separately. They give wide aspects of the intrinsic power of engaging in leisure activities among other populations and deal too little with the challenges and benefits children with neurodiversity experience, where most of them are external and social barriers.

As for the methods and results:

Along the manuscript, we miss the context where the study was conducted, the target population (we know a wide range that might change the whole perspective), and how the authors chose the list of activities. The Delphi method used in the study suits the goal and is described properly. However, it might trigger the readers. Nowadays, we cannot come to solid conclusions without asking the target population, especially those with autism, who sometimes reveal a different perception of their subjective intrinsic power regarding social phenomena such as engaging in leisure activities. The therapists who participate in the Delphi method might misinterpret the children and adolescents' reactions to engaging in the activities listed. For example, I was involved in a study where experienced therapists misinterpreted their responses to pain.

Discussion: The discussion adds important and beneficial benefits from the activities (like climbing); however, it is written like a list rather than an integrative paragraph. The introduction doesn't lead to the topics the discussion brings up. No limitations and no future studies appear in this section.

