

Adapting imported models: issues for consideration

Tension between two competing aims:

1. Develop effective intervention and implement with fidelity
2. Ensure intervention is appropriate to specific culture and setting

Useful terminology

Mechanism + Context → Outcomes

(Pawson and Tilley *Realist Evaluation*)

Mechanism

- active ingredient
- causal pathway
- logic model
- theory of change

Context

- setting

Some examples

- Early years Family Nurse Partnership (Olds et al. 1998)
- Gay Heroes (Flowers et al. 2002)
- SHARE & RIPPLE → *Mema kwa Vijana* (Ross et al. 2007; Plummer 2012)
 - peer educators
 - transactional sex

Criteria included in 25 frameworks reviewed: Burchett et al. 2011

Categories	Types of Criteria
Setting [context]	Local need for intervention Setting characteristics Population characteristics Ease of implementation General applicability/transferability to settings/populations
Intervention [mechanism]	Intervention characteristics Acceptability Adaptation
Outcome	Effectiveness/efficacy Relevance of outcome measures Unintended effects Differential effects Sustainability Cost-effectiveness Potential effectiveness in new setting
Evidence	Consistency Assessment of study design/methods

Stages in developing an intervention

- A Defining and understanding the problem/ needs assessment
- B Clarifying which causal or contextual factors are malleable/modifiable and have greatest scope for change
- C Identifying when to intervene and how
 - purpose of intervention and change mechanism
- D Designing the intervention/ applying mechanism
- E Testing and refining the intervention on small scale
 - formative evaluation: potentially many cycles
- F Implementation and impact/outcome evaluation

Stage of design	Transferability issues	Examples
Defining the problem	Local need for intervention Setting [context] Population characteristics	poor attachment mobilisation and motivation legal practices moral double standards
Clarifying malleable causal factors	Setting [context] Population characteristics	fundamental cultural beliefs
Identifying when to intervene and how	Setting [context] Population characteristics	cultural beliefs and values; kinship patterns
Designing the intervention/ applying mechanism	Setting [context] Population characteristics Intervention characteristics [mechanism]	infrastructure; media literacy; language skills; motivation; core active ingredient?
Piloting and refining the intervention	Setting [context] Ease of implementation Acceptability	professional skills and adaptability cultural values; perceived origin
Outcome evaluation	Setting [context] Effectiveness/efficacy Relevance of outcome measures Unintended effects Differential effects Sustainability Cost-effectiveness	historical conditions; institutions nature of control group what works with whom? institutions; governance existing services; wage levels