Modification of the adverse childhood experiences international questionnaire for cultural competency: methods for understanding childhood trauma in low-resource settings

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Objectives

• Qualitative study

• Modification of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Adverse Childhood Experiences International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ)

• Determine how to adapt ACE-IQ for cultural competence
Background

- ACEs refer to intense and frequent experiences that cause stress in a child.
• Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in community samples

• WHO ACE-International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ) includes abuse, dysfunction, neglect, peer, community, and collective violence factors

• ACE- IQ currently being validated for use globally with adults over age 18

• Measures prevalence of ACEs and the association with risk behaviors later in life
Methods

• Participants recruited through local non-government organization, Project Hope United Kingdom Thoughtful Path Munsieville

• Three focus groups: females 18-29 (N=6) and 30-50 (N=5); males 18-29 (N=5)

• Interview: male 30-50 (N=1)
Methods

• Focus groups completed in English
• Additional languages used to clarify
• Two note takers, audio recorded
• Guided questions regarding ACE-IQ
Methods

• Training in qualitative methods

• Four researchers independently analyzed data to identify themes

• Consensus

• Themes from each question to determine:
  1) Include question as written
  2) Include question with modifications
  3) Delete question

• Questions for inclusion with modification were discussed for final wording

• Added questions reviewed for consensus
Results

• Majority of ACE-IQ questions included
  – Two questions deleted

• Slight modifications for local vernacular
  – 23 questions were modified
  – Response options modified for four questions

• Additional questions (N=15):
  – Reporting sexual abuse
  – Exposure to additional ACEs
    • Abandonment
    • Severe neglect
    • Exposure to pornography
    • Witnessing sexual activity
    • Sex as currency
Limitations

• Lack of focus group for 30-50 year old males

• Social desirability bias
Conclusions

• Final modified ACE-IQ reviewed and approved for local implementation

• Provides a better understanding of ACEs in low-resource settings

• Tailored to the community and culture

• Methodology could be replicated
• Cultural relevance of ACE- IQ

• Validation of instrument for individual communities

• Creation of sustainable, community focused interventions
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