

Validation of School-Based Health Education on Knowledge and Attitude of Female Students towards Female Genital Mutilation

Abstract:

Background: Over the years, the governments conducted multiple interventions to address female genital mutilation. However, this inhumane practice continues because of several cultural and educational factors. Therefore, this study **aimed** to develop and validate school-based health education program for female students to raise their knowledge and change their attitude towards female genital mutilation. **Methods:** Quasi-experimental study was conducted to validate health education program by using a stepwise approach as the following: the content validity was assessed by academic experts (n = 15) using the suitability assessment of materials (SAM) tool; face validity was assessed by adolescent students (n=40) using a self-administered three-point Likert scale; and a pre-and post-intervention assessment of knowledge and attitude among adolescent students (n = 200) was done to evaluate the construct validity. **Results:** The content validity ratios were ranked above 60% by the experts. The face validity results also revealed excellent validity indices varying from 75 to 100 %. Additionally, there were statistically significant improvements in the mean knowledge and attitude scores ($P < 0.001$) post-intervention with huge effect sizes ($d = 6.38$, and $d = 3.54$ respectively). **Conclusion:** the validation process helps in assessing the relevance of health education program for greater acceptance and responsiveness by adolescent students and for ensuring more program implementation fidelity.

Keywords: Validation, education program, knowledge, attitude, female genital mutilation.