E-Poster

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Knowledge and Use of the ICF for Health Needs Assessment and Rehabilitation: The Case of Pakistan

Topic: ICF

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BACKGROUND

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) was introduced by the World Health Organization (WHO) to facilitate data collection, health policy development and clinical research in disability and health sectors. Although ICF has been widely adopted worldwide, there are still large areas of uncertainty regarding its implementation in low and middle income countries (LMIC). This study aims to fill the gap, through addressing the knowledge and use of ICF in Pakistan.

METHODS

In this cross-sectional study, a public online survey using Kobo Toolbox with close-ended questions was circulated among health professionals in Pakistan to assess their knowledge, awareness and use of the ICF. We addressed three main domains: (I) the demographics, education, and professional experience of respondents, (II) knowledge and use of ICF in clinical practice, and (III) Clinical practice and settings.

We used a filtering question asking participants whether they 'knew the ICF' or 'not'. Moreover, among the respondents, those who provided at least two correct answers (out of the total 4 assessing ICF knowledge) were labelled as having moderate to good knowledge, compared to those who gave one or no correct answer (labelled as poor knowledge).

We used the Fisher's Exact Test to examine the relationship between "claimed" or "actual" ICF knowledge and the educational and professional variables.

RESULTS

We collected 52 responses, 63% from medical doctors (none of whom was a PRM physician) 22% from allied health professionals (mainly nurses) and 15% from medical students. Up to 48% of participants claimed to know ICF, though only 56% declared they used it. The questions checking the actual ICF knowledge received at least two correct answers from 39% of those claiming to know ICF (i.e. 17% out of the total respondents). The "actual" knowledge was greater among people with a Doctoral degree or having a longer professional experience of at least 16 years.

CONCLUSION

Only a few health professionals, not directly involved in rehabilitation, have any awareness of the ICF and even a smaller percentage demonstrate to know its main concepts.

Integrating training programs and CME /CPD courses for any health profession with the fundamentals of ICF is warranted in Pakistan.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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