

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Mental Health of South Asian Youth in Peel Region, Toronto, Canada: A Qualitative Study of Determinants, Coping Strategies, and Service Access
AUTHORS	Islam, Farah; Multani, Amanpreet; Hynie, Michaela; Shakya, Yogendra; McKenzie, Kwame

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER	Mansha Mirza University of Illinois at Chicago, United States
REVIEW RETURNED	26-Jan-2016

GENERAL COMMENTS	This paper presents qualitative research on a very important topic. Despite sample size limitations, the findings are relevant for future research. For the most part, the manuscript is well-written. However the methods section lacks details regarding data analysis and steps taken to enhance rigor of data collection with non-English speaking participants. Specific comments to help the authors provide these details are provided in the attached pdf document. The reviewer also provided a marked copy with additional comments. Please contact the publisher for full details.
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REVIEWER	Dorothy Leahy University College Dublin Ireland
REVIEW RETURNED	24-Feb-2016

GENERAL COMMENTS	Overall, this paper provided an interesting account of the barriers experienced by South Asian youth populations in the Peel Region. I would recommend publication subject to minor amendments. I would not highlight low sample size as a limitation in qualitative research. More detail is required in regards to the sampling procedure, why were young people difficult to recruit and also a possible explanation is required for why the authors found it difficult to recruit young males. Please include a section on ethical considerations. The authors indicated that the “coding was largely conceptually/theory-driven (as opposed to data-driven) following the research questions”, clearer links need to be provided in terms of
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	how the theoretical models informed the research questions and data analysis. The authors stated that: “A constant comparative technique and iterative refinement process was utilized throughout” please elaborate. I would suggest restructuring the results section by separating the author commentary from the participant quotes the current format is disjointed. Also the results section requires further review as some sections are repetitive. This paper requires a thorough proof read as grammatical errors and typos were apparent throughout. In the discussion the authors state that “Consensus on the definition of “mental health” and “recovery” from the South Asian youth perspective could not be reached with this sample size. Small numbers of participants usually render it difficult to reach consensus on concepts like mental health.” This is not the aim of qualitative research, further quantitative studies involving larger populations would be required to reach consensus.
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Reviewer Name: Mansha Mirza

Institution and Country: University of Illinois at Chicago, United States

Competing Interests: None declared

This paper presents qualitative research on a very important topic. Despite sample size limitations, the findings are relevant for future research. For the most part, the manuscript is well-written. However the methods section lacks details regarding data analysis and steps taken to enhance rigor of data collection with non-English speaking participants. Specific comments to help the authors provide these details are provided in the attached pdf document.

Thank you so much for your comments, Dr. Mirza.

Further details were added to the Methods section:

The interview transcript text was analyzed using Braun and Clarke’s (2006) guidelines on thematic analysis. Thematic analysis was used to identify, analyse and report the patterns within the interview transcripts and describe the findings in rich detail. The basic elements of interest in the transcribed interviews were preliminarily coded. This coding was largely conceptually/theory-driven (as opposed to data-driven) following the research questions. Qualitative analysis was done manually, and codes were organized into sub-themes and overarching themes. Themes or patterns related to the five research questions outlined above were searched for in the interview transcripts. A thematic map was finalized, and detailed analyses were written for each theme. A constant comparative technique and iterative refinement process was utilized throughout.

Further details regarding rigor have been added as well:

The recruitment poster had Punjabi, Hindi, and Urdu writing to attract non-English speaking South Asian youth. Interviews were offered in the major South Asian languages in Peel Region (Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali), and the interview team traveled to any location that was convenient for the participant.

Reviewer: 2

Reviewer Name: Dorothy Leahy

Institution and Country: University College Dublin, Ireland

Competing Interests: None

Overall, this paper provided an interesting account of the barriers experienced by South Asian youth populations in the Peel Region. I would recommend publication subject to minor amendments.

I would not highlight low sample size as a limitation in qualitative research.

Thank you for the suggestion, Dr. Leahy. We have omitted this comment from the paper.

This study's sample size was biased towards mental health service users since many of the referrals came from social workers.

More detail is required in regards to the sampling procedure, why were young people difficult to recruit and also a possible explanation is required for why the authors found it difficult to recruit young males.

Thank you for the comment. We have added to the paper:

The social workers tried to encourage their male clients to participate but found that young men were not interested in sharing their views. This may be due to the different socialization of male and female youth, where males are taught from a young age not to be as open and expressive about their emotions (Lewis, 1978).

We have also added:

Even after months of recruitment, the researchers found it difficult to recruit South Asian youth participants, most likely because of the stigma surrounding mental health and illness.

Please include a section on ethical considerations.

The authors indicated that the "coding was largely conceptually/theory-driven (as opposed to data-driven) following the research questions", clearer links need to be provided in terms of how the theoretical models informed the research questions and data analysis.

We have clarified this in the Methods section. Thank you.

The authors stated that: "A constant comparative technique and iterative refinement process was utilized throughout" please elaborate.

Thank you. The Methods section has been re-written:

The interview transcript text was analyzed using Braun and Clarke's (2006) guidelines on thematic analysis. Thematic analysis was used to identify, analyse and report the patterns within the interview transcripts and describe the findings in rich detail. The basic elements of interest in the transcribed interviews were preliminarily coded. This coding was largely conceptually/theory-driven (as opposed to data-driven) following the research questions. A constant comparative technique and iterative refinement process was utilized throughout. Qualitative analysis was done manually, and codes were organized into sub-themes and overarching themes. Themes or patterns related to the five research questions outlined above were searched for in the interview transcripts. A thematic map was finalized, and detailed analyses were written for each theme.

I would suggest restructuring the results section by separating the author commentary from the

participant quotes the current format is disjointed. Also the results section requires further review as some sections are repetitive.

This paper requires a thorough proof read as grammatical errors and typos were apparent throughout.

Thank you. A thorough proofreading was done again.

In the discussion the authors state that “Consensus on the definition of “mental health” and “recovery” from the South Asian youth perspective could not be reached with this sample size. Small numbers of participants usually render it difficult to reach consensus on concepts like mental health.” This is not the aim of qualitative research, further quantitative studies involving larger populations would be required to reach consensus.

Thank you. The comment has been removed from the manuscript.

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Dorothy Leahy University College Dublin
REVIEW RETURNED	18-Mar-2016

GENERAL COMMENTS	I would be happy to accept this revised manuscript for publication, however, my previous points regarding research ethics e.g., participant consent etc. and also the restructuring of the results section need to be addressed.
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