



Assessing the applicability and transferability of interventions to alternative settings

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Overview of session



- Definitions of applicability and transferability
- How and why to use this method
- Assessing applicability and transferability in practice
- Advantages and disadvantages

Definitions

Wang, Moss and Hiller (2005) pg. 77

Applicability

“The extent to which the intervention process could be implemented in another setting”

Transferability

“The extent to which the measured effectiveness of an applicability intervention could be achieved in another setting”

Definitions

Wang, Moss and Hiller (2005) pg. 77

Applicability

Is it possible to run this intervention in an alternative setting?

Transferability

Can this intervention achieve the same effectiveness as it did in the other study setting?

Definitions

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Applicability

Is it possible to run this intervention in an alternative setting?

~~Transferability~~

~~Can this intervention achieve the same effectiveness as it did in the other study setting?~~

Why should you assess applicability and transferability?



LIMITED COST

Organisations may not have the finances to test all interventions



ETHICAL

In some situations, waiting for the best possible evidence may not be possible e.g. developing countries and AIDS



ASSESS MULTIPLE FACTORS

Focus on study setting, organisational politics and individuals who may receive the intervention (Burchett et al., 2013)

Framework

Wang, Moss and Hiller (2005)

Applicability

Does the political environment of the local society allow this intervention to be implemented?

Is there any political barrier to implementing this intervention?

Would the general public and the targeted (sub)population accept this intervention? Does any aspect of the intervention go against local social norms? Is it ethically acceptable?

Can the contents of the intervention be tailored to suit the local culture?

Are the essential resources for implementing this intervention available in the local setting?

Does the target population in the local setting have a sufficient educational level to comprehend the contents of the intervention?

Which organization will be responsible for the provision of this intervention in the local setting?

Is there any possible barrier to implementing this intervention due to the structure of that organization?

Does the provider of the intervention in the local setting have the skill to deliver this intervention?

If not, will training be available?

Framework

Wang, Moss and Hiller (2005)

Transferability

What is the baseline prevalence of the health problem of interest in the local setting? What is the difference in prevalence between the study setting and the local setting?

Are the characteristics of the target population comparable between the study setting and the local setting?

With regard to the particular aspects that will be addressed in the intervention, is it possible that the characteristics of the target population, such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational level, etc will have an impact on the effectiveness of the intervention?

Is the capacity to implement the intervention comparable between the study setting and the local setting in such matters as political environment, social acceptability, resources, organizational structure and the skills of the local providers?

Implementing the framework

Delphi

Include experts such as health psychologists, stakeholders and academics

Reach consensus on the extent to which the intervention could be applied/transferred

Literature review

Use the existing literature and own knowledge to assess applicability and transferability

Subjective interpretation

Implementing the framework

Interventions to reduce sickness absence amongst healthcare workers

Existing interventions	Applicability	Assessment
Exercise only intervention: Tai Chi (Palumbo et al., 2012)	Exercise took place during working hours and at home	Barriers with delivering intervention during work hours due to high and increasing workload
Multicomponent intervention: Exercise, communication skills, ergonomics (Roussel et al., 2015)	Intervention implemented at policy level – management change practices within the ambulance service	Possible resistance from managers and staff to implement interventions
Influenza vaccination (Wilde, 1999)	Already implemented in the NHS (Pereira et al., (2017)	

Advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

- More cost-effective than conducting an intervention
- Method is easily adopted

Disadvantages

- Unclear eligibility criteria (Black, 1996)
- Multiple components of interventions
- If used inaccurately, could lead to inappropriate use of research (Burchett et al., 2013)

Any questions?



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