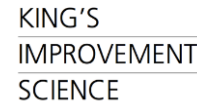


Defining, Describing and Assessing Pragmatic Qualities of Quantitative Instruments Measuring Implementation Determinants and Outcomes: A Scoping and Critical Review of the Literature

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Background

The pragmatic (i.e., practical) quality of quantitative implementation measures has received increased attention in the implementation science literature in recent years. Importance that has been placed on the identification and development of pragmatic implementation measures.

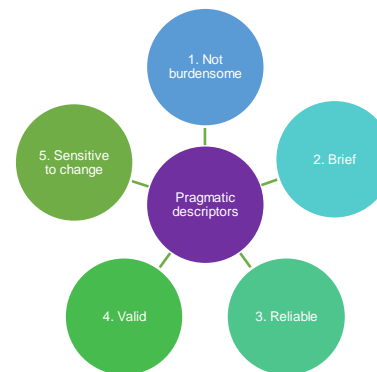
Aims

To identify and critically appraise the published literature to understand (i) how pragmatism is defined as a measurement construct/quality of implementation determinant and outcome instruments; (ii) how pragmatic qualities of instruments are appraised; and (iii) identify key gaps and limitations of the current evidence-base and (iiii) identify recommendations for future research.

Methods

We conducted a scoping review of the literature, also employing methods of critical review. We searched PubMed and PsycINFO databases, using the OVID interface, for relevant articles published between January 2010 and September 2020. Articles that contained a definition and/or described characteristics of 'pragmatism' as a measurement construct of quantitative implementation outcomes (as defined by Proctor's Implementation Outcomes taxonomy) and/or implementation determinants were eligible for inclusion.

Figure 1: Five most frequently used terms to describe the pragmatic quality of implementation measures



Limited diversity in the stakeholders involved in defining/conceptualising pragmatism

Results

- A degree of overlap in definitions and terms used to describe (i.e., descriptors) pragmatic qualities of quantitative implementation determinant and outcome instruments were found.
- 3 of the 9 included articles involved international stakeholders in defining and conceptualising pragmatism and employed specific methods to do so, including a systematic review of the literature, stakeholder interviews, concept mapping, and a Delphi process.
- We found limited diversity in the stakeholders involved in defining and conceptualising pragmatism.
- One article objectively assessed the pragmatic qualities, above and beyond the psychometric qualities, of implementation measures, using the Psychometric and Pragmatic Evidence Rating Scale (PAPERS).

Conclusion

Although the evidence base within the implementation literature on what pragmatism is and how it might be assessed is limited, some of the work identified in the review provides a strong foundation to build upon.