



Translation and Validation of the Bahasa Malaysia Version of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire

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Abstract

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) encompass traumatic circumstances encountered during childhood, including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. The ramifications of ACE exposure in adulthood are linked to poor social, behavioural, and health outcomes. The ACE questionnaire has been widely used to identify individuals with childhood adversities and their relation to developing chronic diseases in adulthood. This research aims to translate and validate the 10-item ACE questionnaire from English to Bahasa Malaysia to facilitate its application in our context. The translation process involved forward and backward translation conducted by two language experts fluent in English as their second language. Content validation was performed by three public health specialists and three language experts. A pilot test was subsequently conducted involving 200 participants to assess the reliability of the translated questionnaire. After cross-cultural adaptation, we retained eight items with three domains of ACE. The item-level content validity index (I-CVI) ranged from 0.83 to 1.00, while the average scale-level content validity index (S-CVI/Ave) ranged from 0.88 to 0.98, signifying strong content validity. Furthermore, the overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient was determined to be 0.703, indicating good reliability. In conclusion, we affirm that the 8-item Bahasa Malaysia version of the questionnaire presents a valid and reliable tool for assessing ACE among adult males in Malaysia.

Keywords: Adverse childhood experiences questionnaire, Content validity, Internal consistency, Questionnaire validation

What was Known

- The English version of the Adverse Childhood Experiences questionnaire measures three domains: abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction.
- The Adverse Childhood Experiences questionnaire has been used widely in health and social research to identify childhood adversities and their relations to health outcomes.
- The original 10-item measure shows good internal consistency and construct validity.

What's New and Next

- The 8-item Bahasa Malaysia version of the Adverse Childhood Experiences questionnaire shows good content validity and internal consistency.
- Further research with a larger sample size is required to determine the questionnaire's psychometric properties among different races in Malaysia.

Introduction

Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) encompass traumatic conditions that children may face early in life, such as abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction¹. Exposure to ACE has been consistently linked to adverse social, behavioural, and health outcomes in adulthood. For instance, there is evidence suggesting the intergenerational transmission of problematic parenting behaviours from adults who experienced childhood adversity due to unresolved abuse experiences². Additionally, ACEs have been associated with an increased likelihood of alcohol abuse, chronic diseases, and post-traumatic stress disorder in adulthood³. Moreover, adults who have experienced childhood adversity face elevated risks of obesity, depression, anxiety, and asthma⁴. Early-life adversities often contribute to the perpetration of intimate partner violence among men, with factors such as living situations and financial status mediating this relationship. Men who grew up in violent homes may exhibit a propensity for aggression and a tendency to use violence as a means to resolve conflicts⁵.

The development of the ACE questionnaire started in 1995, involving 13,494 adults. It was a joint effort between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Kaiser