

Validity and reliability of a questionnaire on TB stigma among pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Selangor, Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Tuberculosis (TB) is an old disease that continues to present a public health challenge globally. Stigma towards TB can be a barrier to the diagnosis and treatment of TB patients and subsequently hinder efforts to control the disease. **Objective:** This study aimed to evaluate the validity and reliability of a TB stigma questionnaire in a sample of Malaysian adult TB patients. **Materials and methods:** An adopted 15-item TB stigma questionnaire was administered to 711 patients. Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed to establish construct validity and internal consistency examined using Cronbach's alpha. **Results and conclusion:** The PCA identified 4 domains with 56.2% total variance. However, one item, "Is a girl unable to decide for getting pTB treatment?" had a low factor loading and another item, "Do you think there is less chances of marriage due to pTB diagnosis?" cross-loaded between two components, and therefore both were removed. The final PCA with varimax rotation on the remaining 13 items extracted three components with a Cronbach alpha of 0.81 and 54.1% total variance. The findings indicate that the trimmed 13-item questionnaire has moderate validity and reliability in measuring TB stigma in Malaysian adult patients. Further studies should be carried out to develop a more socio-culturally appropriate TB stigma questionnaire for the Malaysian population.

Keywords: tuberculosis, stigma, validity, reliability