

EDITORIAL

Research Focus on Translations and Cultural Adaptations of Assessment and Treatment Tools for Efficient Clinical Practice

Evidence-based practice emphasizes the integration of the best available external evidence into patient care (Sackett *et al.*, 1996). Yet, a persistent challenge remains most assessment and treatment tools are developed within specific cultural and linguistic contexts, often tailored to populations in Europe, North America, or Asia. When these tools are applied indiscriminately across diverse global populations, they risk losing validity, relevance, and effectiveness. A tool that fails to account for cultural nuances, linguistic differences, and contextual realities may inadvertently compromise the quality of care provided.

This reality underscores the urgent need for researchers to prioritize translation, validation, and cultural adaptation of clinical instruments. Such efforts ensure that tools are not merely linguistically accessible but also culturally relevant, thereby enhancing their utility across heterogeneous patient populations. The literature consistently highlights regions like Africa, where populations are both culturally complex and linguistically diverse, as areas where this work is most critical. Ironically, despite Africa's rich tapestry of languages and traditions, the continent is yet to establish itself as a leader in this domain (Abubakar & van de Vijver, 2017, Mukhtar, NB., *et al.*, 2021, Ogbuagu, C., *et al.*, 2024). Even widely spoken languages such as Swahili and Hausa lack adequately translated and culturally adapted patient-related tools, leaving countless smaller language groups even further marginalized.

The implications are profound. Without culturally adapted tools, African patients are at risk of receiving care that is misaligned with their lived realities, thereby perpetuating disparities in health outcomes. This gap not only undermines clinical efficiency but also reinforces broader developmental challenges across the region. It is therefore imperative that academics, policymakers, and healthcare stakeholders in Africa recognize and invest in this vital research frontier. Translation and cultural adaptation should not be viewed as peripheral tasks but as central to the pursuit of equitable, evidence-based healthcare.

By fostering collaborations across disciplines, encouraging funding for adaptation projects, and building capacity among local researchers, Africa

can reposition itself as a global leader in this field. Such leadership would not only benefit African populations but also contribute to the global discourse on culturally competent healthcare. The time has come to elevate this neglected research area to the forefront of clinical practice and policy, ensuring that every patient, regardless of language or culture, receives care that is both evidence-based and contextually appropriate.

Important Notice:

Due to the eight months industrial action in 2022 BAJEBAP's 2022 publications were delayed, and 2023 manuscripts were published in its place. As a result, there was no 2023 journal edition, and publications resumed in 2024

References

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