**Psychometric Properties Assessment of the Arabic Version of Community Attitudes toward the Mentally Ill Scale**

**Abstract**

**Background:** Mental illness is a stigmatized issue affecting various cultural groups, however, there is limited knowledge about Arabic communities’ attitudes and beliefs related to mental illness. This could be related to the lack of culturally appropriate measuring tools examining Arabic communities’ attitudes towards people with mental illness. The study aimed to report on the psychometric properties of the translated Community Attitudes toward the Mentally Ill 40-item scale among Arabic communities living in Australia.

**Design:** A quantitative cross-sectional, descriptive study was conducted to assess the psychometric properties of the Community Attitudes toward the Mentally Ill scale. Cronbach’s alpha was used to assess the reliability of internal consistency. Confirmatory factor analysis and exploratory factor analysis were conducted to assess the factor structure of the translated scale.

**Method:** A convenience sample of 312 participants was recruited from various Arabic organizations in Australia.

**Results**: Significant difference between the Arabic and English cohorts were identified in terms of age, gender, country of birth, English proficiency, and knowing someone with mental illness. A confirmatory factor analysis of the original 40-item CAMI indicated inadequate fit indices, leading to reduction of items to a 27-item version. This shortened version demonstrated improved internal consistency (Cronbach’s alpha = 0.835) and a viable 4-factor structure: Stigmatization and Exclusion, Community Integration, Social Rejection, and Tolerance and Compassion.

**Conclusions:** The Arabic version of CAMI Scale is found to be a culturally appropriate, reliable, and valid tool for examining Arabic communities’ attitudes towards people with mental illness, living in Australia.

Biography

Gihane has more than 20 years experience in mental health nursing and education. She worked as a Transcultural Mental Health Clinical Nurse Consultant and won 2 nursing achievement awards due to her contribution to mental health nursing. Her PhD was on the ‘lived experience of caring for a relative with mental illness’. At her current role as lecturer, she coordinated under-graduate and post-graduate units and is involved in the development and review of curriculum, supervision of HDR students. Her research interests are in mental health, transcultural nursing, evidence-based practice and nursing education which are reflected in her publications.