Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32- item checklist for interviews and focus groups

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No Item	Guide questions/description
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity Personal Characteristics	
1. Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview of focus group Samanthika Ekanayake page 9
2. Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? *E.g. PhD, MD* Samanthika Ekanayake, PhD Farah Ahmad, PhD Kwame McKenzie, MD page 1
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study? Samanthika Ekanayake- Post Doctoral Research Fellow Farah Ahmad - Assistant Professor Kwame McKenzie- Psychiatrist/ Professor page 1
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female? Samanthika Ekanayake- Female page 9 Farah Ahmad – Female Kwame McKenzie- Male
5. Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have? All three researchers have post doctoral training in qualitative research and have published qualitative papers in peer reviewed journals. Page 10
Relationship with participants	
6. Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement? Participants were referred to the study by community mental health case workers or by answering an advertisement in the community mental health agency. Page 8
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? *e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research*

	Participants were informed about researcher' ethnic background, occupation and credentials. Also a description of purpose of the research was given with the study information materials. Page 8-9
8. Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? *e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic* The Interviewer is a South Asian immigrant, woman page 9
Domain 2: study design Theoretical framework	
9. Methodological orientation and theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? *e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis* Thematic content analysis with some elements of grounded theory page 10
Participant selection	
10. Sampling	How were participants selected? *e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball* Purposive page 9
11. Method of approach	How were participants approached? *e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email* Participants were referred by case workers or answered and advertisement place at a community mental health centre, they were then approached face to face page 8-9
12. Sample size	How many participants were in the study? There were 10 participants – page 11
13. Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? There were no dropouts – page 11
Setting	
14. Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? *e.g. home, clinic, workplace* Participants were interviewed at the community mental health agency offices. Page 9
15. Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?

	Participants were interviewed alone. Page 9
16. Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? *e.g. demographic data, date* Participants were aged between 22-65 years of age. Seven women were born in India, two in Sri Lanka and one in Pakistan. Four women were Muslim, three Hindu and three Catholic. Two participants had university degrees, one had a high school diploma and all the other participants (7) had completed less than a high school education. None of the women were employed, and all were dependent on some form of income support from the government such as Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Employment Insurance (EI), or the Old Age Security (OAS) program. Eight women were married, one was unmarried and the other was a widow. Two of the women had some history of mental illness other than depression. Page 11
Data collection	
17. Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? A topic guide was used to direct the flow of the interviews. Page 9 The study was a pilot.
18. Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? No
19. Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data? Interviews were taped and transcribed. Page 9
20. Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group? Field notes were made during the interview. Page 10. They were not included in this data analysis
21. Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group? Interviews lasted 45-60 minutes page 9
22. Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed? Recruitment was stopped when no new themes emerged. page 11.

23. Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?
	Transcripts were not returned to the participants.
Domain 3: analysis and findings Data analysis	
24. Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?
	All three authors involved in coding. Coding separately conducted by Samanthika Ekanayake and Kwame McKenzie and then it discussed with the research team. Page 10
25. Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?
	Table 1 presents the thematic framework of the themes.
26. Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?
	Themes were identified from the data. Page 10
27. Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?
	NVivo$_9$ qualitative data analysis software. Page 10
28. Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?
	Subsequent to writing the paper results were presented to some of the participants. But formal participant checking was not undertaken.
Reporting	
29. Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes / findings? Was each quotation identified? *e.g. participant number*
	Yes. Results section pages 12-19
30. Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?
	We believe there is consistency between the presented data and the findings.
31. Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings? We have presented three major themes. : family and

	relationships; culture and migration; and, socio-economic Page 11
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?

Within the major themes we have discussed as separate subheadings minor themes. Page 12-19 and in our thematic framework.

Individual and family (abuse, physical health, bereavement. Sexual infidelity, aging and isolation)
Culture and migration (stress divorce and separation, cultural distance, stigma, difficulties in the new country)
Socio-economic factors (economic difficulties, discrimination and racism) |