**Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): 32-item checklist**

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| **Item number** | **Guide questions** | **Reported on** |
| **Domain 1: Research team and reﬂexivity** | | |
| *Personal Characteristics* |  |  |
| 1. Interviewer/facilitator | Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group? | In Data collection |
| 2. Credentials | What were the researcher’s credentials? E.g. PhD, MD | PhD, MPH, MBBS |
| 3. Occupation | What was their occupation at the time of the study? | Academic faculty and staff in the University and medical centers |
| 4. Gender | Was the researcher male or female? | Female/male |
| 5. Experience and training | What experience or training did the researcher have? | Training in social science, public health and medicine |
| *Relationship with participants* |  |  |
| 6. Relationship established | Was a relationship established prior to study commencement? | No relationship was established between interviewers and participants prior to study commencement. |
| 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 aware of the primary purpose of the study (Participant recruitment) |
| 8. Interviewer characteristics | What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic | Interviewers have extensive experience in conducting qualitative research (in data collection). |
| **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 | Reflexive thematic analysis (in Data analysis) |
| *Participant selection* |  |  |
| 10. Sampling | How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball | Purposive sampling was employed (in Participant recruitment) |
| 11. Method of approach | How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email | Mail and telephone (in Participant recruitment) |
| 12. Sample size | How many participants were in the study? | 30 (in Results) |
| 13. Non-participation | How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons? | 95 because they were busy or not interested (in participant recruitment) |
| *Setting* |  |  |
| 14. Setting of data collection | Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace | Via online video conferencing such as Zoom (data collection). |
| 15. Presence of non-participants | Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers? | No |
| 16. Description of sample | What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date | Characteristics of the sample were described in Results and Table 1. |
| *Data collection* |  |  |
| 17. Interview guide | Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested? | In data collection |
| 18. Repeat interviews | Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many? | Repeat interviews were not conducted. |
| 19. Audio/visual recording | Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data? | Yes, in data collection |
| 20. Field notes | Were ﬁeld notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group? | Field notes were made (in data collection). |
| 21. Duration | What was the duration of the inter views or focus group? | 65-127 minutes (in data collection). |
| 22. Data saturation | Was data saturation discussed? | Yes (in data analysis) |
| 23. Transcripts returned | Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction? | Transcripts were not returned to participants due to time constraints. |
| **Domain 3: analysis and ﬁndings** | | |
| *Data analysis* |  |  |
| 24. Number of data coders | How many data coders coded the data? | Two (in data analysis). |
| 25. Description of the coding tree | Did authors provide a description of the coding tree? | Yes, but not presented in the manuscript. |
| 26. Derivation of themes | Were themes identiﬁed in advance or derived from the data? | Themes were derived from the data (in data analysis). |
| 27. Software | What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data? | NVivo was used (in data analysis). |
| 28. Participant checking | Did participants provide feedback on the ﬁndings? | Participants did not provide feedback. |
| *Reporting* |  |  |
| 29. Quotations presented | Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/ﬁndings? Was each quotation identiﬁed? e.g. participant number | Quotations were presented and participant number was provided. |
| 30. Data and ﬁndings consistent | Was there consistency between the data presented and the ﬁndings? | Consistency was checked (data analysis). |
| 31. Clarity of major themes | Were major themes clearly presented in the ﬁndings? | Major themes were presented (results). |
| 32. Clarity of minor themes | Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes? | Minor themes and diverse cases were described. |