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

| **No** | **Item** | **Description** | **Location in the manuscript (Section, pg no.)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity**  |   |   |  |
| Personal Characteristics  |   |   |  |
| 1.  | Interviewer/facilitator  | RP, MS, AS (Other interviewers involved are acknowledged in the manuscript.) | Methods, 9 |
| 2.  | Credentials  | RP: MPHMS: MPHAS: MPHOther interviewers (acknowledged) held graduate, or Master’s degree or PhD in psychology or public health.  | Title page, Methods, 9 |
| 3.  | Occupation  | RP, MS, AS were employed with the Public Health Foundation of India. RP was a PhD candidate at the time of conducting the study.  | Title page |
| 4.  | Gender  | RP, MS, AS: Females; other interviewers who conducted FGDs included both males and females.  | Methods, 7 |
| 5.  | Experience and training  | RP, MS and AS had acquired basic training on qualitative research in MPH program and have more than 3 years of research experience including qualitative research. RP also had 2 weeks training on qualitative research methods including analysis at Public Health Foundation of India before the study.   | Title page, Methods, 9 |
| Relationship with participants  |   |   |  |
| 6.  | Relationship established  | Yes   | Methods, 7 |
| 7.  | Participant knowledge of the interviewer  | Participants were briefed about the purpose of the study and written information was also provided for both adolescents and parents. The necessary ethical approvals were received before commencement of study.  | Methods, 7 |
| 8.  | Interviewer characteristics  | There are no potential sources of bias.  | - |
| **Domain 2: study design**  |   |   |  |
| Theoretical framework  |   |   |  |
| 9.  | Methodological orientation and Theory  | Thematic content analysis  | Methods, 9 |
| Participant selection  |   |   |  |
| 10.  | Sampling  | Purposive   | Methods, 7 |
| 11.  | Method of approach  | Researchers approached participants through announcements in school classrooms and trough visits to community based organisations working with the school going adolescents of the participating schools.  | Methods, 7 |
| 12.  | Sample size  | 300 | Methods, 7, Table 1  |
| 13.  | Non-participation  | All potential participants identified themselves after learning about the research program agreed for participation.  | Methods, 7 |
| Setting  |   |   |  |
| 14.  | Setting of data collection  | 19 of 22 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with adolescents were conducted in schools, and the remainder 2 in community settings.All teachers were interviewed in schools. 7 in-depth interviews (IDIs) with parents were conducted in school and 2 parents were interviewed in office of the Indian research organization. All psychiatrists and psychologists were interviewed in their clinics. 4 School counsellors were interviewed in schools and 11 school counsellors were interviewed in their office.  | Table 1 |
| 15.  | Presence of non-participants  | No.  |  |
| 16.  | Description of sample  | A sample of 191 adolescents was drawn from 9 secondary schools in Delhi and 7 secondary schools in Goa, along with 75 teachers; 3 school principals, 9 parents, 5 psychiatrists, 2 clinical psychologists and 15 school counsellors were interviewed. | Methods, 7 and Table 1 |
| Data collection  |   |   |  |
| 17.  | Interview guide  | Yes, the interview guide was prepared by the authors for the purpose of this study.   | Methods, 9, Additional File 2 |
| 18.  | Repeat interviews  | No  |  |
| 19.  | Audio/visual recording  | Yes, we audio-recorded all where permission was granted by participants, but 3 FGDs and 2 IDIs were not recorded  | Methods, 9 |
| 20.  | Field notes  | Field notes were made during the FGDs and the IDIs | Methods, 9 |
| 21.  | Duration  | 45-60 minutes | Methods, 9 |
| 22.  | Data saturation  | Data saturation was discussed within the team by reviewing the field notes.  | Methods, 9 |
| 23.  | Transcripts returned  | No  | - |
| **Domain 3: analysis and findings**  |   |   |  |
| Data analysis  |   |   |  |
| 24.  | Number of data coders  | Four | Methods, 9 |
| 25.  | Description of the coding tree  | Deductive and inductive codes were developed. Related codes were ordered into meaningful categories to convey inter-related ideas.   | Methods, 9 |
| 26.  | Derivation of themes  | Yes  | Methods, 9 |
| 27.  | Software  | Nvivo, 11.   | Methods, 9 |
| 28.  | Participant checking  | No.  | - |
| Reporting  |   |   |  |
| 29.  | Quotations presented  | Yes, quotations from participants were used to present the findings. The age and gender of participant and site are described for every quotation.  | Results, 10-20 |
| 30.  | Data and findings consistent  | Yes  | Results, 10-20 |
| 31.  | Clarity of major themes  | Yes  | Results, 10-20 |
| 32.  | Clarity of minor themes  | Yes | Results, 10-20 |