

The Social Context Of Medical Research

Development of a family functioning scale for the South African context: The substantive validity phase

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The assessment of family functioning in child maltreatment prevention has led to a renewed emphasis on measures that are suitable for the assessment of this construct across contexts. Existing measures, predominantly developed and validated in Western countries, do not consistently conform to the South African context, which is typified by a range of family structures. In the absence of a suitable family assessment instrument applicable for use in low-income South African settings and drawing on existing measures, the study that is reported aimed to develop and validate a standardised family functioning scale for administration to families with children aged 0-7 years. Specifically, this article reports on the substantive validity phase of developing the Family Functioning Scale (FFS). Obtaining from a preceding critical review of indices, the study process involved the conceptualisation and operationalisation of the construct of family functioning, item generation, and item refinement. The study represents an essential step in establishing the construct validity of the FFS. It is envisaged that the validated version of the FFS will contribute to the identification of risk and protective factors for child maltreatment in low-income neighbourhoods in South Africa, and the formulation of preventative interventions.

INTRODUCTION

Family strengthening interventions are crucial to the well-being of children and their families. Generative family functioning and structures help develop children's resilience and decrease their risks for negative health outcomes that may be related to violence, injuries, HIV/AIDS, child labour, poor nutrition and inadequate vaccination regimens (Roncone *et al.* 2007). Evidence indicates that behaviourally-directed parent intervention programmes can enhance positive parenting practices, thereby enhancing child coping skills and parental satisfaction and efficacy, with concomitant decreases in parenting stress, child behavioural problems, as well as child maltreatment (Begle & Dumas 2011). Studies indicate that effective family functioning plays a critical role in the prevention and reduction of child maltreatment (see Bromfield & Miller 2007; Dawe *et al.* 2007; Humphreys 2007).

An increasing number of child maltreatment

cases are being reported to child helplines globally (Child Helpline International 2012), underscoring the imperative for research on its assessment, mitigation and prevention. Research on child health and well-being implicates several factors in the risk for child maltreatment. Specifically, the chronic breakdown in parent-child interactions or its occurrence in tandem with other adverse factors (Begle & Dumas 2011) have been identified as predisposing influences in detrimental health and social outcomes in children. In reference to the latter, social privations such as low socio-economic status and substance abuse, amongst others, have been found to hamper families' ability to function (Coyle *et al.* 2009). For example, it has been reported that mothers with substance abuse problems tend to be punitive towards their children even after they reached sobriety (Chassin, Pitts, DeLucia & Todd 1999). Research also indicated that single parent

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73

Full text. Full text is available as a scanned copy of the original print version. Get a printable copy (PDF file) of the complete article (K), or click on a page. Medical educators need to be aware of the cultural context in which teaching medical students the same formal curriculum, researchers at the. Because of the important benefits that biomedical research offers to humans, some have argued that people have a general moral obligation to participate in. The Social Context of Health Care degree in public health, I was excited to go into the field to research a topic about which I was passionate. Interpreted must be seen in a social context; diseases are what physicians . of medical science to research the corporeal body, while it was the role of the. Learn more about Patient Social Context There have been many studies of differences in the responses of black and Sexual aspects of medical practice. The establishment on campus of a school of public health emphasizing the social and behavioral sciences provides the opportunity to integrate innovative basic. Social, Cultural and Community Context of Healthcare. Residents will learn how to recognize the diverse factors that influence the health of individuals in the. Information on the Research Priority Behaviour in Social Context. We research this from different disciplines, such as sociology, social, health and. The course is an introduction to the perspective of medical practice, working with medical profession; Cultures and norms; Caring for populations: research and The Social Context of Health and Illness is a 2nd MB examination, which. The Social Context of Health and Health Work breaks new ground by linking together sociology of health and social policy perspectives. Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), such as acupuncture and herbal medicine, is popular in many countries. Research; Open Access. The influence of social context on the treatment outcomes of complementary and alternative. The social context of public health. 1. The social context of public health District Health Management Community Research and Health. Processing of Social Context in Medical Encounters* ongoing research project on medical discourse. research discussion group at the University of. Summary. Although social research in the field of mental health is still a relatively .. It is the individual, rather than their social/economic/political context that is. This chapter uses a social determinants of health (SDH) lens to examine the Woven throughout the discussion is the importance of social context to population. Few of these approaches have been formally evaluated in a health context, such synthesis of the literature on case studies methods, across health and social. This review examined how the intersection of social context and health literacy has been operationalized in quantitative, empirical research.

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