Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cultural adaptation of Internet- and mobile-based interventions for mental disorders: a systematic review protocol.

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Point-to-point response to the comments from the editor and reviewers

We would like to thank the reviewers for their detailed work on our manuscript, their positive feedback on the planned review, and the very helpful comments and notes. With the help of the replies, we could adapt the manuscript in a way that, in our opinion, improved the manuscript. We have revised the language aspects of the manuscript and clarified the methodology of the review. In the following, we will, point to point, respond to the reviewers’ comments. Additionally, amendments are highlighted in the manuscript.

Reviewer 1

Dear authors
this will be a very interesting systematic review to researchers in low income developing countries specifically.
There are very minor language corrections required and are indicated on the manuscript which I have uploaded.
I confirm that all the required elements for a systematic review protocol are visible to the reader.
best wishes
Dr Jane Kerr

Reply: Thank you very much for this encouraging statement. We hope that we could address all concerns regarding the language.
Reviewer 2

The authors propose a timely and original investigation of the cultural adaptation of Internet-based interventions for mental disorders. After a careful assessment of the manuscript, I did find their work interesting and relevant for both practitioners and theorists, as well, with a few comments that can be made.

Reply: Thank you very much for this positive feedback.

1. Please mind the spelling, I found multiple spelling mistakes in the manuscript.

Reply: Thank you very much for this important hint. We have carefully reread the manuscript and corrected the spelling mistakes.

2. I would suggest planning to perform a comprehensive search also in WOS and SCOPUS; WOS being a must.

Reply: Thank you very much for this helpful suggestion. We will extend the search and include Web of Science. We have added this information in the manuscript.

Changes in the manuscript:
(Abstract, p.2) A systematic literature search will be performed using the following databases: MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, CENTRAL, WoS.
(Par. Search strategy, p.7) Electronic databases will be searched to identify published work, including MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), Embase, and Web of Science (WoS).

3. The authors mention - "The term psychological intervention is defined according to Kampling et al. (60)" The definition should be made clear in the manuscript and not left to a reference suggestion.

Reply: Thank you very much for this note. We have included the definition in the manuscript.

Changes in the manuscript (Par. Eligibility criteria, p.5): The term psychological intervention is defined according to Kampling et al. (60, p.2): “Psychological interventions aim to recognise, improve or prevent distress by direct or interactive communication.” They include cognitive behaviour therapy, psychodynamic psychotherapy, behaviour therapy or behaviour modification, systemic therapy, third wave cognitive behavioural therapies, humanistic therapies, integrative therapies, and other psychological-oriented interventions.
4. Is there a reason why the authors did not expand to internet and computerized, as well as portable (which includes mobile, tablet, etc)?

Reply: Thank you very much for your question. Our search will include internet- and computer-based as well as mobile-based settings. We have adjusted the relevant text passages in the manuscript and hope that the issue is now more clearly formulated.

Changes in the manuscript:
(Par. Eligibility criteria, p.6) (d) Interventions must predominantly be provided in an Internet-, computer-, or mobile-based setting.
(Table 1, p.6) (d) In an Internet-, computer-, or mobile-based setting
(Par. Search strategy, p.7) A comprehensive search strategy developed by the project team will be used, which will include medical subject headings (MeSH terms) and text words related to the key elements of cultural adaptation of interventions in an internet-, computer-, or mobile-based setting.

5. Is there a reason for excluding grey literature on such a topic that will render most likely only a handful of studies?

Reply: Thank you for this question. We discussed this issue in detail. In the past 1-2 years, a relatively large number of studies has been published in the field of cultural adaptation of internet-based interventions, and already without having conducted the systematic search, we are aware of a decent number of published studies fulfilling the inclusion criteria of the planned review. This is why we finally decided to only include peer-reviewed literature.

6. "Interventions must have been adapted to the target group. If the intervention was only translated but not otherwise culturally adapted, it will be excluded" - Please specify how detailed should a study be in order to be included in your review. Will it be included even if it mentions cultural adaptation only without any other details? What definition of cultural adaptation you work by?

Reply: Thank you for these important questions. It is an aim of the review to illustrate different approaches and definitions of cultural adaptation. Thus, we do not provide any definition of cultural adaptation but will further investigate in more detail any intervention that is said to be "culturally adapted" by the authors. In the case that there is no further information about the components of the intervention that have been culturally adapted, the process of cultural adaptation, or the definition or guideline that the authors have used for their cultural adaptation, the authors will be contacted in order to gain missing information. If no information is received from the study authors, the respective study will be excluded. We have described this procedure more clearly in the manuscript.

Changes in the manuscript:
(Par. Eligibility criteria, p.6) (f) Studies will be included if an illustration of the methods to culturally adapt the intervention is provided in the manuscript or – upon request – by the authors.
We will contact the study authors to resolve any uncertainty and receive missing information, if the variables of interest are not available or not clearly presented in the studies.

7. Please add the search string that you will be using.
Reply: Thank you for this comment. The search string that will be used can be found in the Additional file 2.

We, again, thank both reviewers for their helpful feedback and work on the manuscript. We highly appreciate the reviewers’ time and effort. In our opinion, the resulting amendments have considerably improved the manuscript.