Reviewer’s report

Title: Family Empowerment (FAME): Study protocol for a pilot implementation and evaluation of a preventive multifamily program for asylum seeker families

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Gilbert Lemmens

Reviewer's report:

Pilot and Feasibilities Studies: Family Empowerment (FAME): Study protocol for a pilot implementation and evaluation of a preventive multifamily program for asylum seeker families

Review:

This paper describes a study protocol for a pilot implementation and evaluation of an MFT program for asylum seeker families. The current work is important for the field of mental and global health for several reasons. Asylum seeker families are increasing worldwide, experience a lot of psychosocial difficulties and often lack any or sufficient support from the local mental healthcare. Further the authors investigate a multifamily group intervention, which is an excellent, well established, intervention to enhance recovery and support in families, in particular families suffering with mental or somatic problems. Study objectives as well as the treatment intervention are clearly described, the trial is well designed using valid measurements and statistical analyses.

Some small remarks or questions.
1. Why are the authors not investigating parental function (EAS) and global functioning (ORS) pre- and posttreatment in the parents and children?
2. Why are they excluding psychiatric problems as families with psychiatric problems may benefit from these multi-family groups as the authors have stated in their introduction?
3. Why are the families divided over groups based on age of their child (0-5, 6-12; 13-18)? This may only make their recruitment more difficult?
4. It is not clear how the (in)certainty of asylum procedure may impact the families' functioning and the results of the trial and how the authors are going to take this into account.
5. It is not clear how the validity of the interviews and measurements will be impacted by the possible language problems or how language problems in the group may influence the treatment and its results.
6. Little information is given about the qualitative analyses (thematic analyses, grounded theory, IPA,…) that the authors are going to use. They should better describe this.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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