Research Article

The Effect of Motivational Interviewing on Adolescent Risk Behaviors: A Literature Review

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Abstract. Motivational interviewing is a client-centered counseling method that is used to promote behavior change by eliciting client motivations for change and analyzing conflicting client motivations. The purpose of this literature review was to summarize the effect of motivational interviewing on adolescent risk behaviors. Articles published in English between 2015-2020 were searched in MEDLINE, CINAHL, and the Cochrane Library. The reviewers extracted and summarized the data using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) data extraction tool. A total of six articles were included in this review. It can be concluded from the results that counseling combined with motivational interviewing is beneficial at reducing risky sexual behavior in teenagers and in preventing HIV transmission.

Keywords: adolescent, motivational interviewing, risk behaviors, review

1. Introduction

Motivational interviewing is a client-centered counseling method that has been successfully utilized to promote behavior change by eliciting client motivations for change and analyzing conflicted client motivations [1]. Motivational interviewing is a brief intervention that is used to address a variety of health behavior issues [2]. The study’s findings imply that motivational interviewing is an excellent tool for addressing teenagers’ unique issues, such as the need for self-determination and increasing autonomy [3]. [4] research in the United States of America demonstrates that motivational interviewing interventions can considerably reduce risky sexual behavior and boost condom use [4]. Although motivational interviewing is considered easier to utilize than didactic educational counseling, the intervention has a significant effect, indicating that motivational interviewing can help reduce unprotected sex among research participants [5].

Several previous research found that this motivational interviewing-based intervention was most effective at overcoming smoking and alcohol use problems. Additionally, research on motivational interviewing with an emphasis on sexual behavior and life skills
is still in its infancy and is conducted seldom. Motivational interviewing has been demonstrated to be effective in reducing drug use and improving sexual health in adolescents, particularly sexual minority adolescents. The researchers discovered empirical support for the Young Men Health Project (YMPH), a four-session motivational interview-based intervention designed to reduce drug use and risk behaviors for HIV transmission [6]. Because the use of change talk is one of motivational interviewing’s strengths, when OARS is used to induce change talk, clients see more behavioral changes. Someone influential can have an effect on the client’s transformation conversation. In one study, participants whose significant others engaged in supportive discourse were more likely to make their own positive change statements and actually achieve greater degrees of behavioral change [7]. The purpose of this review was to summarized the effect of motivational interviewing on adolescence risk behaviors.

2. Methods

A review was used to examine the efficacy of motivational interviewing on adolescence risk behaviors in this study.

2.1. Strategy for Search

The purpose of the search approach was to find research that had already been published. A preliminary search of MEDLINE, CINAHL, and the Cochrane Library was followed by a review of the title, abstract, and index keywords used to characterize the paper. The articles covered in this evaluation were those that were published in English between the years 2015 and 2020. We began by selecting keywords from the MeSH database that included the following terms: motivational interviewing OR counseling AND adolescent or teenager or youth AND risk behaviors OR homosexuality OR substance abuse.

2.2. Criteria for Inclusion

The quantitative section of this review included studies examining the effect of motivational interviewing on teenage risk behaviors. Adolescents and those under the age of 18 were included. Randomized controlled trials, non-randomized controlled trials, quasi experimental studies, before and after studies, and prospective and retrospective
cohort studies were inclusion criteria. Adolescence risk behaviors including sexual risk behavior, drug use, and alcohol use.

2.3. Extraction of data

The reviewers extracted and summarized data using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) data extraction tool. Participants’ demographics, sample inclusion and exclusion criteria, study setting, number and reasons for withdrawal from study, type and description of motivational interviewing intervention, application and follow up of intervention, measure of outcomes, statistical methods, and study outcome descriptions are among the data collected.

2.4. Methodological quality assessment

The Appraisal tool from the JBI was used to assess methodological validity. All papers chosen for inclusion underwent a rigorous, independent evaluation to identify and choose papers of the highest quality, with the exception of those that minimize bias and have good validity and accuracy. According to expert opinion, either bench research or consensus has been reached.

3. Results

3.1. Searching results

The literature searches generated 213 studies through searches of databases, excluding duplicates. From above number, we excluded the studies that were not included motivational interviewing and adolescence risk behaviors. A total of 6 articles included in this review.

3.2. Summary of results

The characteristics of included studies was shown in Table 1.

The use of condoms during anal sex was increased in China for men who had sex with men after a four-week motivational interviewing intervention [8]. In the control group, the average HIV knowledge score was six = (SD=2), but in the intervention group, the average score was seven (SD=2) [8].
**Table 1: Characteristics of included studies**

| Authors, years, country | Study design | Sample | Intervention | Instrument | results |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|------------|---------|
| J. Chen et al, 2016, China. | Quasi-experiment with pre and post intervention. | N = 120 participants | The motivational interviewing intervention was carried out for four sessions. Each session averages about 60 minutes; MI intervention uses core skills, namely open questions, affirmations, reflections, and summary. | sexual behavior | The motivational interviewing intervention could be carried out and resulted in increased use of condoms during anal sex for men. HIV knowledge scores increased from baseline to post-intervention in both groups, but the increase was not statistically significant (P=0.06). |
| P. Monti et al, 2016, Amerika. | Randomized Controll Trial. | N = 184 | The one-session Motivational Interviewing manual incorporates an open exploration of the pros and cons of drinking, personalized and printed graphic feedback of alcohol use and consequences assessment, normative comparisons, discussion of use and consequences, and sexual risk behaviors including engaging in multiple partner sex and sex without a condom. | Alcohol Use and Sexual Behavior (TLFB-SS) | Decreased alcohol use and sexual behavior |
| Melanie A. Gold et al, 2016, Amerika. | Random Control Trials. | N = 572 female adolescents with an average age of 17 years who are at risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. | Counselor-Guided Motivational Intervention (CAMI) on the basis of the conceptual framework of TTM and the use of MI as a counseling strategy compared with didactic education counseling (DEC) to reduce STD and pregnancy risk behaviors among adolescent girls. | TLFB (Time Line Follow Back), which is done for 90 days. | The significant effect of the intervention indicated that the CAMI intervention could help reduce unprotected sexual intercourse. |
| Laurel P. Gibson, et al, 2020, Amerika Serikat | Randomized Controlled Trial | N = 156 adolescents, | Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Behavioural Skills Training (BST). | TPB-based Instrument | Risky sexual behavior decreased significantly from the start |
| Pettifor, Audrey et al, 2015, Malawi-Afrika Timur | Randomized Controll Trial | N = 27 adolescents | Motivational Interviewing (MI). Participants will receive four sessions. The three core components that form the basis of the intervention and become the focus of the counseling session are understanding AHI, increasing the client’s intrinsic motivation to abstain. | - | Very few participants reported having unprotected sex after the intervention. Participants reported a tendency to have fewer sex partners and not have sex during the follow-up study. |
| Sylvie Naar-King et al, 2012 | Randomized Clinical Trials | N = 100 | Motivational Interviewing intervention consisted of 5 weeks. Individual counseling sessions are 90 minutes long followed by three monthly booster sessions of 90 minutes each. | Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity codes (MITI). | Hasil menunjukkan bahwa MI berpotensi berkurang perilaku seksual berisiko, tetapi berdampak pada pengurangan zat penggunaan kurang konsisten. |
Researchers in the United States, led by Peter M. Monti in 2016, found that the effects of motivational interviewing on sexual risk were comparable to those of alcohol in a sample of 184 participants. The intervention group reported fewer days of sexual intercourse under the influence of alcohol or drugs than the control group [9]. Melanie [5] conducted a study in America found that the Counselor-Guided Motivational Intervention (CAMI) intervention had a substantial effect on reducing unprotected sexual intercourse among participants who completed the study. The CAMI intervention had a substantial effect in reducing unprotected sexual intercourse among participants who completed Gold’s 2016 trial in America [5].

At a 3-month follow-up, Laurel P. Gibson’s 2020 study, which was conducted in America with a sample of 262 adolescents, revealed that the intervention had a positive effect on risky sexual activity and condom usage. Risky sexual activity dropped considerably from baseline to follow; this decrease did not change according to the settings under which the study was conducted. The usage of condoms in the previous month, which is a component variable of the sex-risk index, increased considerably from baseline to follow-up across groups and did not differ by treatment condition, as previously reported [4]. Sylvie Naar-King [10] found that motivational interviewing can reduce risky sexual behavior. Future study with HIV-positive patients could include developing interventions that examine the influence of motivational interviewing on drug use [10]. According to Sylvie Naar [10] study, motivational interviewing therapies work through strengthening patient-provider communication and fostering client-centered behavior change to increase motivation and self-efficacy. Motivational interviewing is one of the most effective HIV interventions for adolescents [10].

3.3. Results of assessment methodological quality

The Randomized Control Trial (RCT) research have been classified as a high-quality study with a recommended grade of A according to the JBI grading system. Random number charts were utilized to generate allocations; allocation concealment was accomplished through the use of numbers on the charts. Each group was identified as experimental or control. Although blinding and loss to follow-up are not recorded properly, they do not create a danger of bias because the only measure is cost effectiveness.
4. Discussion

Motivational interviewing is a client-centered counseling strategy that focuses on increasing intrinsic drive and promoting healthy behavior, particularly via the exploration and resolution of ambivalence [11]. Motivational interviewing is used to ascertain a client’s readiness to engage in certain behaviors through the application of specific skills and tactics that respect the client’s autonomy and facilitate client trust and decision-making [12]. According to [10], motivational interviewing interventions are effective in changing behavior because they establish a clear framework for improving provider-client communication and promoting client-centered behavior change with the goal of increasing motivation and self-efficacy [10].

The findings of this study corroborate those of [13], who found that motivational interviewing-based counseling can provide concrete examples of risk behavior reduction strategies and that the group receiving motivational interviewing-based interventions demonstrated increased risk behavior reduction skills [13]. Motivational interviewing is a type of counseling that use client-centered instructions to build intrinsic drive to change and to resolve ambivalence between present behavior and desired outcomes [14]. Additionally, therapy sessions are typically structured to facilitate behavior change through the use of a client-centered, nonjudgmental, and empathic approach [12].

The intervention used in this study consisted of five stages consistent with [15] theory, namely precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, and maintenance, where these stages can increase the effectiveness of motivational interviewing in resolving client problems [15]. The intervention was divided into three sessions in this study. The first session is precontemplation-contemplation, in which the client’s concerns are brought to light and knowledge of the change possibilities discussed is increased. The second session is preparation-action, during which participants will establish action plans and commit to making changes. The third session is maintenance, during which the researcher assists the client in remaining focused on the behavior modification strategy.

Miller and Rollnick [16], on the other hand, defined four general concepts of motivational interviewing, namely: Empathy Expression. A counselor will demonstrate empathy, warmth, sincerity, and unconditional positive regard throughout a therapy session in order to establish a solid therapeutic relationship. Clients are encouraged to comprehend their own thoughts and attitudes through the use of skills such as listening, feeling understood, being thoughtful, and being active [17]. Create inconsistencies, particularly Counselors assist clients in expressing and describing their varied thoughts, feelings,
and conflicts so that the client becomes aware of the disconnect between the client’s wishes and the events that occurred [17]. Accept resistance, specifically Resistance is a regular occurrence during the transformation process. As a result, the client is adamant about not changing. Additionally, resistance is referred to as the outcome or outcome of the therapist’s or counselor’s encounter with the client. This principle demonstrates that the counselor must acknowledge all of the client’s reluctance to change, but with the ability to reflect, the counselor can provide feedback by asking many views and recalling the client’s prior statements regarding motivation to change. Accordingly, the counselor can provide subtle feedback in the form of confrontational (oppositional) remarks, arguments, and persuading. Additionally, the counselor can accept resistance while introducing fresh ideas for the client to consider, so leading the client down a different route [17]. Assisting with self-efficacy The counselor encourages and supports the client’s belief in himself and his ability to change his life. The counselor demonstrates to the client that he or she is capable of completing and overcoming the task or obstacle. Counselors can repurpose change discourse and examine the client’s commitment to change while promoting self-efficacy. The change in question is permanent, with full knowledge of the importance of other positive behavior adjustments [17].

5. Conclusion

It can be concluded that counseling combined with motivational interviewing is beneficial at reducing risky sexual behavior in teenagers and preventing HIV transmission. This study demonstrates that motivational interviewing counseling has an effect on lowering sexual behavior in adolescents, which is important in the prevention of HIV transmission.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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