

Research Questions

1. What are the strengths of the SSKAAT-R when used for clinical purposes?
2. What are the weaknesses of the SSKAAT-R when used for clinical purposes?
3. What parts of the SSKAAT-R require revisions to better support clinicians in their work with people with intellectual/developmental disabilities?

Background

With knowledge that individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities often have gaps in sexual knowledge and are vulnerable to exploitation, assessment tools are essential to inform sexual education intervention. The Socio-Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes Assessment Tool-Revised (SSKAAT-R; Griffiths & Lunsky, 2003) is one of the most commonly utilized tools to evaluate socio-sexual knowledge among people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. However, with growth in society's socio-sexual knowledge and increased use of technology for dating and social interaction, the tool has received criticism for being outdated. The current study is part of a larger project aimed to update the SSKAAT-R.

Methods

Feedback was gathered from clinicians who have used the SSKAAT-R, including psychologists, behaviour analysts, and psychotherapists.

Phase 1

- Questionnaires completed through Google Forms

Phase 2

- Semi-structured Interviews conducted through Zoom
 - Content Analysis

Participant Characteristics (n=23)

Age, mean (SD)	42.42 (10.37)
Years of experience in field, mean (SD), range	15.33 (6.81), 3-30
Employment setting, No. (%)	
Private Practice	7 (30.44)
Education	5 (21.74)
Community organization	7 (30.44)
Hospital	2 (8.70)
Other (e.g., correctional facility)	2 (8.70)
Familiarity with the tool: used regularly, No. (%)	6 (26.09)

In your opinion, what are the strengths of the SSKAAT-R?

In your opinion, what are the weaknesses of the SSKAAT-R?

Are there specific topics that you believe should be added to a revised version of the SSKAAT-R?

Prompt – any specific subtests?

Questionnaire Analysis (n= 23)

Length, No. (%)		Subtests to be retained*, No. (%)	
The length is just right	15 (65.22)	Anatomy	18 (100)
Should be somewhat shorter	5 (21.74)	Women's bodies	17 (94.44)
Should be somewhat longer	3 (13.04)	Men's bodies	17 (94.44)
Overall impression, No. (%)		Intimacy	18 (100)
Very Impressed	15 (65.22)	Pregnancy	13 (72.22)
Impressed	4 (17.39)	Birth Control	14 (77.78)
Neutral	4 (17.39)	Healthy Boundaries	18 (100)

*Only 18 participants provided responses for the "subtests that should be retained" question (n=18)

Interview Analysis (n=6)

Strengths

50% of participants felt the comprehensiveness of the measure was a strength

"It feels like a very comprehensive assessment"

66.67% of participants appreciated the flexibility in administration

"I like how it's able to be broken down or used in individual sections as well. It doesn't have to be used as a whole tool"

83.33% of participants felt the visual nature of the test was a strength

"A lot of our clients really appreciate having something visual to look at... So I think it gives people that sense of really being part of something and participating in an assessment"

Suggestions for Revision

100% of participants mentioned a need for updated images and updated terminology

"This is a good assessment, it just needs to be brought into this this generation. Just bring it forward a bit [in relation to images]"

100% of participants mentioned a need for addressing knowledge around online relationships/sex

"...the inclusion of things like online dating and online relationships, online safety, texting and messaging"

66.67% of participants mentioned the importance of including knowledge and attitudes questions on gender and sexual identity

"We're really looking at how can we empower people with disabilities and or autism to kind of be, whoever they want to be. And be as safe as possible doing that"

100% of participants indicated that an online administration would be helpful

"I would also say for a client, just their own engagement in it, I just think that clients are often more engaged and willing to participate in more electronic or online kind of tools"