

¹Kieun Kim, ²Seolhyang Baek, ³Yanghyun Kim, ⁴Miyong Jung, ⁵Sunhyun Kim, ⁶Kyurae Lee, ⁷Gyung-Mee Kim, ⁸Hye-Jung Shin

¹Department of Pediatrics, CHA Gangnam Medical Center, CHA University, Seoul, Republic of Korea,

²Department of Nursing Science, Kyeongjoo Hospital, Dongguk University, College of Nursing, Kyeongjoo, Republic of Korea

³Department of Family Medicine, Korea University College of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea

⁴Department of Family Medicine, MedifoYOU Clinic, Seoul, Korea

⁵Department of Family Medicine, Saint Mary's International hospital, Catholic University College of Medicine, Incheon, Republic of Korea

⁶Department of Family Medicine, DongIncheon Gil Hospital, Gacheon University, Incheon, Republic of Korea

⁷Department of Psychology, Haewoondae Baik hospital, Inje University College of Medicine, Republic of Korea

⁸Department of Pediatrics, National Medical Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Background

It is well known that obesity, diabetes or chronic disease are related with nutrition. However it has not been known whether health providers have concepts or competence about counselling of nutritional support in clinical practice basis. There is rare of information about differences among types of profession jobs.

Objective and Hypotheses

We investigated a survey with standardized questionnaire tool among different types of profession jobs doctors, nurses, dieticians with modified Korean version from original NUTCOMP (nutrition care competence) tool by Lauren Ball. Evaluation items to assess nutrition care competence are confidence in knowledge about nutrition and chronic disease, confidence in nutrition skills, confidence in communication and counselling about nutrition, attitudes towards nutrition care.

Results

Fig 1. Validation of the translated NUTCOMP questionnaire from English to Korean language

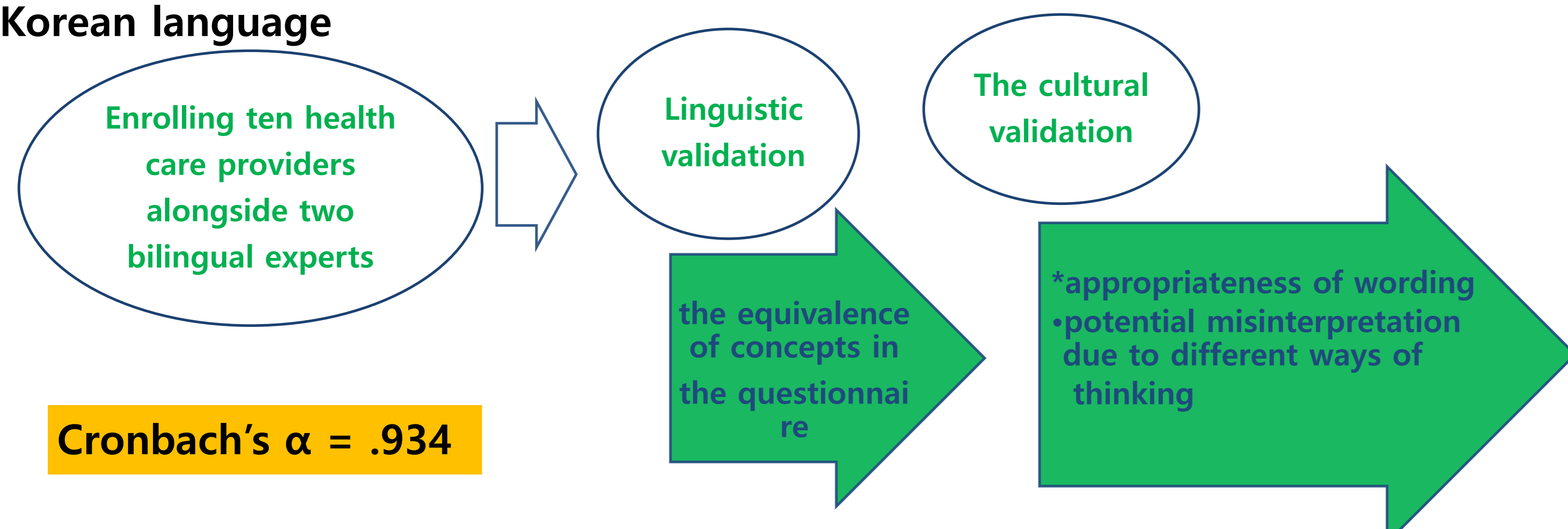


Table 1. Demographic findings of survey participants

Category	Subcategory	Frequency	percent
Profession	Doctors	36	53.7
	Nurses	18	26.9
	Dietitians	13	19.4
Gender	Male	14	20.9
	Female	53	79.1
Age	~ 24	1	1.5
	25 ~ 34	44	65.7
	35 ~ 44	14	20.9
	45 ~ 54	8	11.9
Current job duration (year)	Mean ± SD 7.25 ± 6.42	(range 1~ 28)	
Previous nutrition education (n=67)	Completion of a program\$ that did not include any nutrition content	18	26.9
	Completion of a program\$ that included some nutrition content	33	49.3
	Completion of a program\$ that was predominantly focused on nutrition	16	23.9
Previous engagement in continuing education on the topic of nutrition	yes	21	31.3
	no	46	68.7
Need of further nutrition education	Strongly disagree	1	1.5
	Disagree	2	3.0
	Neither agree nor disagree	14	20.9
	Agree	36	53.7
	Strongly agree	14	20.9
Motive for initial interest in nutrition	yes	30	44.8
	no	33	49.3

Table 2. Comparison of nutrition care competence between doctors, nurses and dietitians

Category	Profession	Mean	SD	F	P	Post-hoc
Knowledge	Doctors	21.94	3.00	9.772	.000	Doctor=Nurse < Dietitian
	Nurses	21.78	2.98			
	Dietitians	26.00	3.08			
Skills	Doctors	34.11	5.06	31.387	.000	Doctor=Nurse < Dietitian
	Nurses	34.44	5.50			
	Dietitians	46.58	2.94			
Counselling and communication	Doctors	29.06	4.08	5.178	.008	Doctor=Nurse < Dietitian
	Nurses	30.11	6.13			
	Dietitians	34.15	5.16			
Attitude	Doctors	28.64	4.82	1.077	.347	
	Nurses	27.00	3.22			
	Dietitians	28.77	3.03			

Table 3. Spearman's rho of nutrition care competence between knowledge, skills, counselling and communication, attitudes

	Knowledge	Skills	Counselling and communication	Attitude
Knowledge				
Skills	.716 (P<.001)			
Counselling and communication	.432 (P<.001)	.665 (P<.001)		
Attitude	.294 (P=.016)	.321 (P=.009)	.407 (P=.001)	

Table 4. Factors influencing the nutrition care competence in health care providers

Model		Non- Standardised		Standardised	t	P	modified R ²
		B	s.e	β			
1	Constant	146.06	6.50		22.472	.000	.244
	Continuing education on the topic of nutrition (yes=0, no=1)	-16.957	3.73	-.506	-4.543	.000	
2	Constant	130.24	8.995		14.479	.000	.301
	Continuing education on the topic of nutrition (yes=0, no=1)	-14.49	3.727	-.432	-3.887	.000	
	Previous nutrition education (yes=1, no=0)	5.93	2.427	.272	2.444	.018	

Conclusion

The NUTCOMP Korean version is valid tool to assess nutrition care competence in the Korean health care providers.

Doctors and nurses reported relatively lower level of nutrition care competences than those of dietitians. In terms of knowledge, skills, counselling and communication. Also nutrition education experiences are important to affect confidence about nutrition care.

Findings have limited value of applicability because of small scale of the sample population so to be applied the questionnaire to larger number of health care providers.

