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ASSENT AND CONSENT IN PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT RESEARCH: SCHOOL CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVES

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School students' views and perceptions of informed parental consent and child assent about child participating in research in the Middle East are not known. Focus group interviews were conducted to understand high-school students' perspectives toward child and adolescent assents and consents in research including the importance of, and depth of information needed in consent and assent, and perception toward written versus verbal consent and assent. The majority of students agreed that it is necessary to take parental approval and they would not participate in research if their parents refuse. Furthermore, the majority of male students agreed that if the research requires only questionnaires to be completed, then child's approval is sufficient whereas measures, such as blood sugar screening required approval from both the parent and child. Females believed it is enough to provide parental consent to participate in research unless information provided is adequate, then child approval is enough. All students stressed on the importance of including detailed information, however, parental consent needs to have a more detailed information than child assent. In conclusion, parts of the students' perceptions were congruent, whereas other views were not congruent with proper conduct of paediatric research. Such a situation warrants further research and actions.

BIOGRAPHY

Nihaya A Al-sheyab had graduated from the faculty of health at the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, in 2009 majoring in adolescent health behaviour modification. His main research interest is examining the effect of peer-led education on school students' lifestyle behaviours including tobacco smoking. She is currently the principal investigator for several funded research projects mainly focusing on healthy lifestyle adoption by adolescents in Jordan and Australia focusing on adolescent tobacco smoking. She is currently the principal investigator for several funded research projects mainly focusing on healthy lifestyle adoption by adolescents in Jordan and Australia focusing on adolescent tobacco smoking. Additionally, Nihaya was appointed as a vice dean from 2015-2016 in the faculty of nursing at JUST which helped her to prioritize the health needs of the local communities, and thus organize and manage relevant activities effectively. Prior to this position, Nihaya was the chairman of the department of community and mental health nursing at JUST, through which she had conducted several community-based activities and open medical days to improve health and well-being of youth and women in particular in rural and urban suburbs in Jordan.

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