

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/poamed>

Original research article

Conducting cross-cultural interviews and focus groups concerning healthcare with Polish migrants in the UK – Lessons from a study on organ donation

Chloe Sharp, Gurch Randhawa *

Institute for Health Research, University of Bedfordshire, Luton, United Kingdom

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 15 March 2016

Received in revised form

26 May 2016

Accepted 22 June 2016

Available online xxx

Keywords:

Interviews

Polish migrants

Translator

Interpreter

Ethics

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The Polish migrant community in the UK are under-represented in health and social care research, and are specifically under-researched with the issue of organ donation.

Aim: To investigate the views of this community further, a qualitative research study examined the attitudes of Polish migrants toward organ donation.

Material and methods: A series of interviews and min-focus groups were conducted with three sample groups. For the first sample, the inclusion criteria was broad, the only requirement was that the participants were English speaking Poles who lived in Luton. The second sample had a tighter inclusion criterion and excluded highly skilled professionals and students and included low skilled workers and parents of young families who were English or Polish speaking and lived in Luton and Dunstable. The third sample was solely post-war Polish migrants who lived in Luton and Dunstable.

Results and discussion: This paper addresses some of the challenges overcome when researching the Polish migrant community, such as withdrawal in the recruitment phase of data collection and the use of Polish translators/interpreters.

Conclusions: The study contributes toward an understanding of the use of Polish migrant communities in health research, use of professional translator/interpreter and whispered interpreters in health research and the challenges of researching organ donation within an under-represented community. Patient education and communication with UK Polish communities is an under-researched area. This study offers some insights into the challenges of engaging with a rapidly growing section of the UK population.

© 2016 Warmińsko-Mazurska Izba Lekarska w Olsztynie. Published by Elsevier Sp. z o.o. All rights reserved.

* Correspondence to: Hitchin Road, Luton, United Kingdom. Tel.: +44 1582743797; fax: +44 1582743918.
E-mail address: gurch.randhawa@beds.ac.uk (G. Randhawa).

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poamed.2016.06.006>

1230-8013/© 2016 Warmińsko-Mazurska Izba Lekarska w Olsztynie. Published by Elsevier Sp. z o.o. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

In health and social sciences, qualitative research can gain insight into everyday health behaviors and attitudes. Qualitative research on sensitive topics can be challenging for participants and researchers and in the case of the present study, for translators and interpreters as part of the research team. In this paper, we provide the researcher's perspective on researching organ donation with the Polish community and we examine the challenges of: using focus groups as a data collection tool for the Polish community in organ donation research; recruiting and accessing non-English speaking participants; using translators in grounded theory research underpinned by social constructionism; using translators'/ interpreters' networks to recruit participants and the power dynamic that may be experienced and the argument for the use of professional translators/interpreters. The challenges encountered add to our understandings of involving Polish migrants in qualitative health and social care research for researchers.

Currently, there is a critical shortage of organs in the UK. There are 7 500 patients on the transplant waiting list and lack of available organs leads to around 1 000 patients a year that die waiting for an organ.¹ To address the organ shortage, the NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) strategy for 2020² has set out to improve ways to engage with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities that are over-represented on the transplant waiting list and under-represented on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR).¹

To effectively engage with BAME communities, an awareness of the each community's perspective on organ donation and transplantation could inform health promotion strategies. Past literature has largely focused on Black African, Black Caribbean and South Asian communities in the UK^{3,4} and the Polish migrant community have been under-represented in organ donation research. To understand attitudes toward organ donation that could have an impact on organ donor registration and family consent behavior where families allow for a relative's organs to be donated, a qualitative study investigated the views of the Polish community in the UK toward organ donation. Extrapolating findings from attitudinal studies conducted in Poland could be argued to have limited applicability to Polish migrants in the UK as the social, cultural, economic, political and religious environment and organ donation policies are different to Poland. To become an organ donor as a migrant may involve different considerations to be made than becoming an organ donor in one's home country.

The Polish community have been migrating to the UK for centuries but most notably the European Union enlargement in 2004 led to a significant influx of Polish migrants into the UK in search of economic opportunities. The recent Census data (2011) indicated the growth and settlement of the Polish migrant population as it reported that Polish is the second most common language spoken in the UK.⁵ Therefore, a significant Polish migrant population in the UK could lead to a need to increase awareness and education about organ donation amongst Polish migrants about signing the ODR whilst living in the UK and family discussion to better prepare

for organ donor requests that could be made to Polish families for relative's organs after death.

2. Aim

There is little research and guidance available informing researchers about the use of interpreters/translators in cross-cultural grounded theory research when researching sensitive topics. The aim of this paper is to examine the practical and ethical challenges of recruiting and accessing the Polish community in cross-cultural qualitative health research.

3. Material and methods

The present study examined Polish migration and settlement and perceived relationships between deceased organ donation, Mauss's (2002) gift-exchange theory and religion from a Polish perspective through focus group interviews and one-to-one interviews.⁶ A focus group interview and one-to-one interview are 'directed conversations' steered by the interviewer that generates research data.^{7,8} Kvale (1996) argued that the interviewer plays one of two roles: the interviewer is a 'miner' where knowledge is 'buried' in the interviewee to be 'mined out;' alternatively the interviewer is a 'traveler,' on a journey with the participant trying to understand the lived world from his or her perspective.⁹

The study took place in Luton and Dunstable, situated close to London. Luton is a large multi-ethnic town with its own university and airport and Dunstable is a smaller neighboring town. Luton and Dunstable were shown as suitable geographical areas to conduct the study based on Worker Registration Scheme data to have a high density of Polish migrants.¹⁰ In total there were three mini focus groups and 21 one-to-one interviews with one mini focus group and seven interviews in Polish. A focus group typically constitutes of 6–7 participants.¹¹ However in the present study mini focus groups were used. Mini focus groups were made up of four participants as this enabled participants to be involved in the study alongside friends or relatives if the participant did not want to be interviewed alone. This was deemed the most suitable strategy for the present study as a pilot study had highlighted two challenges of using focus groups as the main data collection tool. First, Polish migrants work and study long hours and pragmatically it was problematic to organize the focus group and second, we observed that one's religious beliefs were a sensitive topic that participants perhaps did not feel comfortable discussing outside of friends or family groups. A number of participants were 'non-believers' or were not devout Catholics, one participant withdrew from a focus group made up of participants who were strangers and we believe that this was due to the participant being atheist and feeling stigmatized in case she was in a focus group that had participants that were devout Catholics.

Grounded theory methodology guided the research design. Grounded theory is 'a systematic, inductive and comparative approach for conducting inquiry for the purpose of constructing theory.'¹² Grounded theory allows for an exploratory approach to be taken when collecting data in a systematic way.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8580300>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8580300>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)