

**THE VALIDATION OF 'QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE FOR MEN WITH INVOLUNTARY CHILDLESSNESS (TLMK)'
TAMIL VERSION**

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ABSTRACT

Background: Childlessness is an alarming issue especially in a country like India where children are considered the mainframe of any family. Is involuntary childlessness only women have difficulty or are men also have difficulties? What would be the quality of life of these men who are unable to produce children? Is it possible to assess the same? These queries form the main objective of our study. TLMK (Tübinger Lebensqualitätsfragebogen für Männer mit Kinderwunsch) is an instrument specially designed for measuring Quality of Life of Men with involuntary childlessness. The questionnaire was originally in German, then translated and standardized in English. Many of the existing quality of life measures, focused on physical impairments, and do not represent the specific emotional difficulties of infertile individuals. Quality of Life of men with involuntary childlessness has 35 statements covering four dimensions as follows: a.) Desire for child, b.) Sexual relations, c.) Gender identity and d.) Psychological Wellbeing. The participants check their responses using this Likert scale.

Objective: To develop a scientific tool in Tamil language to measure the quality of life of men with Involuntary childlessness.

Methodology: Permission was obtained from the author of TLMK in order to translate from English to Tamil. Content and face validity were established through translation and back translation by experts. To establish split half reliability and internal consistency, 30 men with involuntary childlessness were taken as samples from Chennai city, Tamil Nadu.

Results: The split half reliability score was found to be 0.70 and the Cronbach alpha showed an internal consistency of 0.867. The data was analyzed using SPSS 11.5. TMLK Scale Tamil Version can be used on involuntary childless men to assess their baseline and ongoing quality of life during medical treatment. It can also be used as an outcome variable in the evaluation of integrated psychological counseling.

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