Cultural adaptation of an existing children's weight management programme: the CHANGE intervention and feasibility RCT

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Plain English summary

The CHANGE intervention and feasibility RCT

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Plain English summary

M any programmes have been designed for children with excess weight and their families to help them try and lose weight. Often families start going to these programmes but do not complete them. This has been noted to be an issue in families from ethnic minority communities.

We aimed to adapt an existing programme for families of primary school children with excess weight to make it more suitable for Pakistani and Bangladeshi families. We asked parents from these communities who had experience of the existing programme what they thought about it and what they would like to change. We used this information to help us adapt the existing programme. We also aimed to make the programme acceptable to families of all ethnicities. We then aimed to (1) test delivery of the adapted programme, (2) see whether or not it was acceptable to Pakistani and Bangladeshi families and families of other ethnicities and (3) test methods to be used in a future research study to determine whether or not the adapted programme helps children to lose weight and provides value for money. We asked parents and children who attended and the staff delivering the new programme for their views. A panel of Pakistani and Bangladeshi parents helped us to plan our study methods.

The programme was successfully delivered and the parents, children and staff all enjoyed it. Overall, 76% of families from all ethnic backgrounds who started attending the programme completed it. This was substantially higher than the 58% of families who completed the standard (unadapted) programme. We identified several issues that we would need to take into account when designing a future study. These include making sure that the families taking part are not overburdened and that we take steps to make sure that as many families as possible are followed up until the end of the study.

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