



The Fear of COVID-19 Scale: Psychometric Properties of the Ethiopian Amharic Version

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Abstract

Fear is an adaptive response that alerts individuals to the presence of a danger or threat. However, in the context of the current novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the fear experienced could be intense because the number of victims of the virus is continuously increasing globally and is inducing severe mental health concerns. The seven-item Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S) assesses the severity of fear related to COVID-19 and has already been validated in many languages. The present study evaluated the psychometric properties of the Amharic (Ethiopian) version of the FCV-19S. An online survey including the Amharic versions of the FCV-19S and the six-item UCLA Loneliness Scale (ULS-6) was administered to 307 Amharic-speaking participants using convenience sampling. The participants' age ranged between 18 and 70 years. In the evaluation process, confirmatory factor analysis, Item Response Theory, concurrent validity, and reliabilities (Cronbach's alpha, McDonald's omega, Guttman's lambda, and composite reliability) of the Amharic version of the FCV-19S were performed. The unidimensional structure of the FCV-19S was confirmed and the Amharic version of the FCV-19S had strong psychometric properties. All reliability coefficients of the Amharic FCV-19S were satisfactory, with sound concurrent validity shown by significant and positive correlations with loneliness. The results indicate that the FCV-19S can be used in research to assess the fear of COVID-19 among Amharic-speaking populations.

Keywords COVID-19 · Coronavirus-2019 · Fear of COVID-19 · Loneliness · Ethiopia · Amharic

The novel coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) outbreak has been deemed a global health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO 2020a). As it has spreads across the

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world, the pandemic has induced worries and fears increasing the risks of mental health problems. Internationally, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases has continued to increase and has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. At the time of writing (November 2020), the number of internationally confirmed COVID-19 cases was over 55 million and over 1.32 million deaths (WHO 2020a).

In the case of Africa, although the continent accounts for a small fraction of the total global COVID-19 cases, the increase in the number of confirmed cases is still alarming since the first case was recorded in mid-February 2020. By mid-November 2020, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases had exceeded 1.9 million resulting in more than 46,800 deaths in the continent (Africa Center for Disease Control 2020). South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Nigeria were the top five countries with high COVID-19 cases by the end of October 2020. Unless early detection and a robust system of preventing the spread of the virus are implemented, the COVID-19 outbreak may claim more lives in populous countries like Ethiopia. By mid-November 2020, Ethiopia had reported over 101,700 COVID-19 cases and over 1550 deaths (Information Network Security Agency 2020).

As part of its response to minimize the spread of COVID-19, Ethiopia has introduced various measures. These include delaying of national elections, declaration of national state of emergency, closing schools, enforcing physical distancing and facemasks in public, and a mandatory quarantine (Ethiopia UNHCR Global Focus 2020). These measures were introduced in early 2020 and scaled up a coordinated national response following the first case of coronavirus. However, because there was no national lockdown (Oqubay 2020), and some of the measures were relaxed after June 19, 2020 (Anadolu Agency 2020), there is a fear of uncontrolled large-scale community transmission of the virus. Despite the strict measures implemented, the number of new daily COVID-19 cases continued to increase and peaked at 1829 cases on August 21, 2020 (Daily New COVID-19 Cases in Ethiopia, Worldometers 2020). Furthermore, emerging study results suggest that stringent public health measures to inhibit the spread of the virus can result in isolation, financial insecurities, and disrupt daily life activities, which may also have negative consequences to psychological wellbeing (Galea et al. 2020; Satici et al. 2020). Being away from school and workplaces, possibilities of losing jobs, increased family responsibilities, and adjusting to these changes in life also have the potential to exacerbate pre-existing mental health problems (Fegert et al. 2020).

Public health measures introduced to curb the spread of virus may also result in less comfortable everyday living and result in negative psychosocial consequences (e.g., stigma). These situations demand individuals to make changes in their habits and behavioral patterns. Such forced changes and prohibitions of going to school, workplaces, or other already established patterns of living due to the COVID-19 may increase frustrations and anxieties. Mamun and Griffiths (2020) noted that social distancing, isolation, and quarantine can trigger a wide range of psychological responses including sadness, worry, fear, anger, annoyance, frustration, guilt, helplessness, loneliness, and nervousness.

As the number of COVID-19 cases increases, the possibilities of being exposed to this life-threatening virus also increase. This would likely increase uncertainties and thought ruminations about contracting the virus. Individuals experience fear of being infected by the virus and worry about the health of their loved ones (Satici et al. 2020). Therefore, regardless of exposure, individuals may experience fear of falling sick or dying. Studies have reported a high prevalence of psychological distress during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., Ahorsu et al. 2020; Satici et al. 2020). There could also be distrust of others as the virus spreads. Individuals may end up losing employment and experiencing financial losses, which would in turn

heighten fear, frustrations, and uncertainty among individuals. These in turn may intensify negative emotional experiences and increase irrational reactions to the situations that demand conscious reactions that could minimize chances of being infected by the virus.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there appears to have been a substantial increase in domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault. For instance, the WHO has also highlighted an increase in levels of violence occurring in the home, including violence against children, intimate partner violence, and violence against older individuals in several countries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (WHO 2020b). During a 2-month period during the pandemic in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), a police investigation reported 101 child sexual assault cases, with some of the attacks coming from family members (BBC News Afaan Oromoo 2020b). Emerging evidence also indicates that during the COVID-19 pandemic, “stay home” regulations have resulted in heightened rates of physical, sexual, and emotional intimate partner violence (Thakur and Jain 2020; Closson et al. 2020).

Additionally, in extreme cases, COVID-19-related suicides have been reported (e.g., Bhuiyan et al. 2020; Griffiths and Mamun 2020; Mamun and Griffiths 2020). Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO (2020b) has also given warning about the potential increase of self-harm or suicidal behaviors, loneliness, depression, and drug use. Arguably, the first COVID-19-related suicide case in Ethiopia was a 25-year-old woman who believed she was infected by the virus and was kept isolated from 36 passengers on a bus, who committed suicide by hanging herself using her scarf on June 2 (2020) in a room where she was quarantined alone (BBC News Afaan Oromoo 2020a). There are many COVID-19-related reasons that may contribute to suicidal behavior including (i) fear about one’s own health and the health of loved ones; (ii) fear of being threatened, ostracized, discriminated against, and stigmatized by others in the local community due to having (or thinking the individual has) the virus; (iii) pre-existing psychological issues; (iv) financial problems as a result of the COVID-19 measures (e.g., being unable to earn money during lockdowns, losing a job); or (v) lack of psychological readiness to embrace the crisis and move forward (Bhuiyan et al. 2020; Dsouza et al. 2020; Griffiths and Mamun 2020; Mamun and Griffiths 2020).

To reduce COVID-19 transmission and to manage its adverse psychological consequences, it is necessary to explore associated psychological consequences such as fear, anxiety, and stress. Attempts to introduce and implement psychological interventions as early as possible could lead to favorable changes in the psychological wellbeing of individuals. In recognition of the potential psychological impact, a number of new psychometric instruments have been developed to explore on psychological consequences of the virus including the COVID Stress Scale (Taylor et al. 2020), Coronavirus Anxiety Scale (Lee 2020), and the Fear of COVID-19 Scale (Ahorsu et al. 2020). The Fear of COVID-19 Scale developed by Ahorsu et al. (2020) assesses individual’s fear of COVID-19 and has been validated in different languages including English (Winter et al. 2020), Persian (Ahorsu et al. 2020), Turkish (Satici et al. 2020), Italian (Soraci et al. 2020), Arabic (Alyami et al. 2020), Bangla (Sakib et al. 2020), Russian (Reznik et al. 2020), Spanish (Broche-Pérez et al. 2020), Hebrew (Bitan et al. 2020), Japanese (Masuyama et al. 2020), Vietnamese (Nguyen et al. 2020), Greek (Tsipropoulou et al. 2020), Chinese (Chi et al. 2020), Malay (Pang et al. 2020), and French (Mailliez et al. 2020).

Translating, adapting, and validating the Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S) may help to understand the level of fear of COVID-19 among the general population, test the efficiency of psychological interventions that may facilitate managing the psychological impacts of the pandemic, and help stimulate cross-cultural research. However, there is lack of psychometrically valid measures of fear of the COVID-19 in Ethiopia.

Therefore, adapting and examining the psychometric characteristics of the Amharic version of the FCV-19S could be timely and valuable. Therefore, the present study adapted and validated the scale among an Amharic-speaking population and evaluated the scale's psychometric properties. In relation to concurrent validity, it was hypothesized that fear of COVID-19 would be positively associated with loneliness.

Method

Adaptation of the FCV-19S to Amharic

The English version of the fear of COVID-19 Scale was translated to Amharic through backward and forward translations by two independent bilingual doctoral candidates (who were not authors of the research) but volunteers by using the parallel blind technique (Behling and Law 2000). The translators were knowledgeable about the content areas of the construct. The translated items were back translated, and necessary revisions were made in terms of their semantic, idiomatic, and conceptual equivalence. Items were reviewed to resolve ambiguities and discrepancies between the translations. Clarity and understandability of the items were checked following the procedures of cross-cultural psychological instruments' adaptations suggested by Borsa et al. (2012). Consequently, the final Amharic version of the FCV-19S was piloted to check the understandability of the items and clarity of the instructions. The Amharic version of the FCV-19S was then finalized for the evaluation of the psychometric properties of the scale.

Participants and Procedure

A cross-sectional study was conducted to examine the psychometric properties of the Amharic version of the Fear of COVID-19 Scale using online survey during May 21–May 25, 2020. The target population was the Amharic-speaking population which was completed via an online survey link prepared on *Google Forms*. The questions included items related to demographic information, fear of COVID-19, and loneliness. The survey was distributed on social media through the support of public figures followed by more than 5000 people, via e-mail to e-mails of academicians' associations, and *WhatsApp* through *WhatsApp* groups of Ethiopians in the country and abroad.

Participants were asked about their willingness to take part in the study, their age, their gender, their country of residence, their knowledge of someone infected by the virus, and what preventive COVID-19 behaviors they personally engaged in. A total of 307 participants anonymously and voluntarily participated in an online survey using convenience sampling. These participants have provided their consent to participate in the study (see the "Ethics" section) and their age ranged between 18 and 70 years ($M = 30.9$, $SD = 7.96$) and 18.9% were female ($n = 58$). Most of the participants were young ($n = 232$, 75.6%) and 24% of the participants were middle-aged. Just under two-thirds of the sample were living in Ethiopia (62.87%) while 37.13% participants lived in other countries including Turkey, the USA, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Belgium, Kenya, Australia, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates. Detailed information about the participants is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Participant demographics ($N = 307$)

| Demographics | | <i>n</i> | % |
|---|------------------------------|----------|-------|
| Gender | Male | 249 | 81.1 |
| | Female | 58 | 18.9 |
| Country of residence | Ethiopia | 193 | 62.87 |
| | Abroad | 114 | 37.13 |
| Region in Ethiopia | Addis Ababa | 64 | 33.16 |
| | Oromia | 90 | 46.63 |
| | Amhara | 13 | 6.74 |
| | SNNPR | 12 | 6.22 |
| | Tigray | 4 | 2.07 |
| | Harari | 4 | 2.07 |
| | Dire Dawa | 3 | 1.55 |
| | Somali | 3 | 1.55 |
| Relationship status | Single | 141 | 45.9 |
| | Married | 166 | 54.1 |
| Who they live with | Family | 183 | 59.61 |
| | Alone | 70 | 22.80 |
| | Friend(s) | 54 | 17.59 |
| Knowledge of someone infected with COVID-19 | Yes | 36 | 11.73 |
| | No | 271 | 88.27 |
| Preventive measures taken against COVID-19 | Wearing face masks | 230 | 86.2 |
| | Handwashing and sanitization | 305 | 89.7 |
| | Physical distancing | 243 | 71.5 |
| | Staying at home | 158 | 46.5 |

Measures

Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S) The FCV-19S is a uni-dimensional scale that assesses the fear of COVID-19 and was developed by Ahorsu et al. (2020). The instrument comprises seven items (e.g., “My heart races or palpitates when I think about getting coronavirus-19”) which are responded to on a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*). The scores that can be obtained from the FCV-19S vary between 7 and 35, and higher scores indicate greater fear of COVID-19. The original version of the Fear of COVID-19 Scale was adapted to Amharic through backward and forward translations by two independent bilingual doctoral candidates who were not authors of the research but volunteers by using the parallel blind technique (Behling and Law 2000). Clarity and understandability of the items were checked before they were made ready to be administered for the validation study by following the procedures of cross-cultural psychological instruments’ adaptations by Borsa et al. (2012).

The UCLA Loneliness Scale (ULS-6) The ULS is a short form of the 20-item Revised UCLA Loneliness Scale (Russell et al. 1980) that assesses subjective feelings of loneliness (Neto 2014). The ULS-6 comprises six items that individuals are asked to rate their agreement with, of which five items (e.g., “How often do you feel that people are around you but not with you?”) were worded negatively and one item worded positively (Neto 2014). All items were scored on a 4-point scale ranging from 1 (*never*) to 4 (*often*). The internal consistency of the Amharic version of the ULS-6 in this study was .77. Its brevity, relevance in assessing loneliness and social isolation, and popularity were among the reasons in using the scale in the study. Loneliness has also been associated with various aspects of fear in previous research (e.g., Geukens et al. 2020; Jakobsson and Hallberg 2005; Rossi et al. 2020; Whitehead and Whitehead 2010).

Ethics

The study was approved by the first author's university ethics committee. Informed consent was obtained from participants through which they could make a knowledgeable decision on their willingness to participate in the study and complete the online survey. They were informed that they had the right to withdraw from the study at any time. Overall, the study procedures followed in the study were in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000.

Data Analysis

First, descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations, variance, skewness, and kurtosis) of the FCV-19S were examined. The construct validity of the scale was then tested with confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) using maximum likelihood estimation. The following indexes and criteria are used in CFA: standardized root mean square residual (SRMR) was below .08 and comparative fit index (CFI), goodness of fit (GFI), and incremental fit index (IFI) were above .90 (Hu and Bentler 1999; Kline 2015). Item Response Theory (IRT Chalmers 2012) was utilized to evaluate the discrimination, difficulty, and informativeness of the FCV-19S. Consequently, the item characteristic curve (ICC) and Graded Response Model (GRM) were examined. Relationships between FCV-19S and loneliness were examined for concurrent validity. Inter-item correlations were also checked. Finally, Cronbach's alpha, McDonald's omega, Guttman's lambda, and composite reliability were examined to evaluate the reliability of the FCV-19S. All analysis was carried out using IBM SPSS Statistics 22, AMOS 24, JASP 0.11.1, and Stata 14.2.

Results

Analysis of the demographic data indicated that over one-tenth of the participants reported that they knew someone who had been infected with COVID-19 (11.7%). To minimize the spread of the virus, participants most frequently engaged in behaviors included handwashing and use of sanitizers (89.7%), wearing facemasks (86.2%), physical distancing (71.5%), and staying at home (46.5%). During the online survey, the participants reported that they were living with family (59.61%), living alone (22.80%), or living with one or more friends (17.59%).

Descriptive statistics (mean, SD, variance, skewness, and kurtosis) of the FCV-19S are presented in Table 2. All items had skewness and kurtosis values within the ± 1.5

Table 2 Descriptive statistics for the Fear of COVID-19 Scale

| Item | Factor loading | Mean (SD) | CI | Variance | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|--------|----------------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Item 1 | .447** | 4.23 (.87) | 4.12–4.32 | .76 | –1.32 | 1.68 |
| Item 2 | .465** | 4.02 (1.02) | 3.89–4.13 | 1.04 | –1.15 | .86 |
| Item 3 | .811** | 2.27 (1.04) | 2.15–2.38 | 1.09 | .43 | –.56 |
| Item 4 | .678** | 2.89 (1.15) | 2.75–3.02 | 1.33 | .06 | –.93 |
| Item 5 | .721** | 3.20 (1.19) | 3.06–3.32 | 1.44 | –.22 | –1.01 |
| Item 6 | .890** | 2.21 (1.05) | 2.09–2.32 | 1.11 | .47 | –.57 |
| Item 7 | .835** | 2.53 (1.14) | 2.41–2.66 | 1.32 | .23 | –.91 |

** $p < .001$. SD, standard deviation; CI, confidence interval

range, indicating that they were normally distributed based on guidelines by Byrne and Campbell (1999). Fear of COVID-19 of those living in the country ($M = 21.65$, $SD = 5.58$) and not living in the country ($M = 20.79$, $SD = 5.78$) was compared and no significant difference was found ($t[305] = 1.28$, $p = .19$). After descriptive statistics, the construct validity of the FCV-19S was tested using CFA. The uni-dimensional structure of the FCV-19S fitted well with the data: $CMID = 82.91$, $df = 14$, $CFI = .93$, $GFI = .92$, $NFI = .92$, $IFI = .93$, $SRMR = .059$. Factor loadings ranged from .447 to .890 and were statistically significant (see Table 2). Results of the IRT are presented in Table 3. As shown in Table 2, all α values were higher than 1.0. Therefore, IRT results indicated that the FCV-19S has the appropriate item difficulty and the ability to discriminate between those who perform and those who do not.

After IRT, the concurrent validity of the FCV-19S was tested by examining its correlation with loneliness. In conditions of limited contact, lack of desirable social interaction, and absence of someone to turn to during the COVID-19 pandemic, loneliness becomes a risk factor. Therefore, it was hypothesized that loneliness would correlate positively with fear of COVID-19. Results of the analysis showed that the FCV-19S score was significantly and positively associated with loneliness ($r = .50$, $p < .001$). Concurrent validity was supported by inter-item correlations (Table 4). Therefore, a positive and significant relationship between all items was observed (ranging between .30 and .76).

Different types of reliability of the Amharic FCV-19S were then assessed (i.e., Cronbach's alpha, McDonald's omega, Guttman's lambda, and composite reliability were investigated). The reliability results indicated that the Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = .873$), McDonald's omega ($\omega = .876$), Guttman's lambda ($\lambda_6 = .873$), and composite reliability ($CR = .872$) were all very good. Finally, the average variance extracted (AVE) was found to be .51, indicating acceptable convergent reliability.

Discussion

The present study evaluated the psychometric properties of the Amharic version of the FCV-19S (see Appendix) among a general Amharic-speaking population both in and outside Ethiopia. This study is important not only for the assessment of COVID-19-related fear but also for the better understanding of vulnerability to psychological and physical illness due to the virus. During the pandemic, the increased tendency to be affected as much by the mental

Table 3 Item Response Theory estimates for the Amharic FCV-19S

| Item | Item parameter estimates | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | α | b_1 | b_2 | b_3 | b_4 |
| 1 | 1.06 | -5.21 | -2.73 | -2.19 | .36 |
| 2 | 1.09 | -3.77 | -2.16 | -1.54 | .67 |
| 3 | 2.98 | -.69 | .30 | 1.36 | 2.39 |
| 4 | 1.92 | -1.57 | -.20 | .64 | 1.93 |
| 5 | 2.08 | -1.73 | -.52 | .10 | 1.45 |
| 6 | 5.11 | -.52 | .29 | 1.28 | 2.14 |
| 7 | 3.21 | -.84 | .07 | .89 | 2.01 |

Table 4 Inter-item Pearson's correlation matrix and corrected item-total correlations

| Item | Item 1 | Item 2 | Item 3 | Item 4 | Item 5 | Item 6 | Item 7 | Corrected item-total correlations |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Item 1 | – | | | | | | | .47 |
| Item 2 | .41** | – | | | | | | .49 |
| Item 3 | .30** | .36** | – | | | | | .71 |
| Item 4 | .46** | .40** | .56** | – | | | | .67 |
| Item 5 | .31** | .43** | .56** | .50** | – | | | .68 |
| Item 6 | .35** | .36** | .76** | .56** | .63** | – | | .77 |
| Item 7 | .39** | .36** | .64** | .58** | .62** | .75** | – | .76 |

** $p < .001$

health than the infection itself (Reardon 2015) could be reversed if validated measures are employed as part of psychosocial intervention to minimize the spread of virus.

Overall, the results of the present study provide further support for the validity and reliability of the Fear of COVID-19 Scale, demonstrating good reliabilities, good concurrent validity, and acceptable construct validity for the Amharic version among Ethiopian populations. The results of the confirmatory factor analysis fitted the data very well and confirmed the scale's uni-dimensional factor structure. This is consistent with the past analyses of this scale (e.g., Ahorsu et al. 2020; Sakib et al. 2020; Satici et al. 2020; Soraci et al. 2020; Winter et al. 2020). In addition, the IRT results presented similar findings to the Turkish FCV-19S (Satici et al. 2020) indicating that item difficulties and features of the Amharic FCV-19S as being appropriate.

Cronbach's alpha for this uni-dimensional model was .87. Consequently, the internal consistency in the Amharic version of the FCV-19S is the same or very similar to other studies such as the English version ($\alpha = .84$ to $.86$; Winter et al. 2020), the Italian version ($\alpha = .87$; Soraci et al. 2020), the Hebrew version ($\alpha = .86$; Bitan et al. 2020), the Russian version ($\alpha = .80$; Reznik et al. 2020), the Bangla version ($\alpha = .87$; Sakib et al. 2020), the Persian version ($\alpha = .82$; Ahorsu et al. 2020), the Turkish version ($\alpha = .85$; Satici et al. 2020), the Greek version ($\alpha = .87$; Tsipropoulou et al. 2020), the Arabic version ($\alpha = .88$; Alyami et al. 2020), the Malay version ($\alpha = .89$; Pang et al. 2020), the Spanish version ($\alpha = .86$; Broche-Pérez et al. 2020), and the French version ($\alpha = .87$; Mailliez et al. 2020). In addition to the Cronbach's alpha, other reliability coefficients of the FCV-19S (McDonald's omega, Guttman's lambda, and composite reliability) were found to be very good. In addition, having an AVE above .50 and a corrected item-total correlation of above .40 provided additional evidence for the reliability.

In this study, and as expected, the fear of COVID-19 pandemic was found to correlate positively with loneliness. One possible explanation could be related to the measures in place at the time of the study (e.g., stay home orders, physical distancing) that may have increased loneliness, potential stigma, and social disconnection among many people. This result is consistent with the research findings of Killgore et al. (2020) who reported loneliness was a critical mental health concern during the social isolation efforts to minimize the spread of the virus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, during the pandemic, spending more time alone, quarantine, and other measures that have been implemented to minimize the spread of the virus may bring about social isolation. Such measures may have elevated the level of loneliness among the study participants. Increased levels of loneliness, harmful alcohol and drug use, and self-harm or suicidal behavior have also been noted as being among the consequences due to the psychological impacts of the COVID-19 (Mamun and Griffiths 2020; WHO 2020a).

Although there are important findings related to the psychometric properties of the Fear of COVID-19 Scale, the present study has several limitations that need to be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings. First, conducting a survey with self-report measures entails potential bias due to socially desirable responses. Future studies should aim to utilize other methodologies that would enable a more in-depth analysis. Second, although the online survey used to collect data in the present study was helpful in reaching Amharic-speaking participants in both Ethiopia and other countries, this convenience sampling approach is unlikely to be representative of Amharic-speaking populations, especially those who are not able to access the internet. With convenience sampling, differences in the percentages of male and female participants are to be expected, but a large percentage of the study sample comprised male participants. Moreover, gender gap in the workforce due to limited opportunities for women's education (World Bank 2019) together with high costs of internet might have contributed to gender differences in participating in the present study. This is likely to affect the generalizability of the findings. Future studies are encouraged to include more equally balanced percentages of male and female participants. Notwithstanding these limitations, the results of the present study provided support for the utility of the Amharic version of the FCV-19S and highlighted its potential to be used in clinical and research settings in the context of Amharic-speaking populations.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval All procedures performed in this study involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of University's Research Ethics Board and with the 1975 Helsinki Declaration.

Informed Consent Informed consent was obtained from all participants.

Appendix

Amharic version of the Fear of the COVID-19 Scale

1. የ ኮሮና ቫይረስ-19 በሽታ በ ጣምያ ሳስበኛል።
2. ስለ ኮሮና ቫይረስ-19 በሽታ ሳስብ ምኞት አይሰማኝም።
3. ስለ ኮሮና ቫይረስ-19 በሽታ ሳስብ እጅጅን እንደማለብ ያደርጋቸዋል።
4. በኮሮና ቫይረስ-19 በሽታ ታምሜኤን ዳልሞት እሰጋለሁ።
5. በሚበራዊ ማድያ ላይ ስለ ኮሮና ቫይረስ-19 በሽታ ዜናዎችና ዘገባዎች ሳይይጨን ቀኛል።
6. የ ኮሮና ቫይረስ-19 በሽታ ያሳስበኝና እንቅልፍ እምቢ ይለኛል።
7. ኮሮና ቫይረስ-19 በሽታ ይይዘኝ ይሁን ወይ ብዬ ሳስብዎልሁ ምት ይጠቅሙል።

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