

Assessment Support Needs for People with Intellectual Disability

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Abstract

The researcher examined the literature on assessments for people with intellectual disability to identify support needs and the availability of modifications and accommodations. Three major findings emerged: a dearth of literature on the topic, comprehension challenges with assessment items, and insufficient supports aligned with assessments. Recommendations for research and practice are provided.

Assessment Overview

Importance

- Provides information essential to the quality of services provided to people with intellectual disability

Challenges

- Exploration prompted by researcher's experience during a self-determination employment intervention for adults with intellectual disability (Dean, Burke, Shogren, & Wehmeyer, 2017)
- Participants experienced difficulty with question comprehension and expression of responses

Method

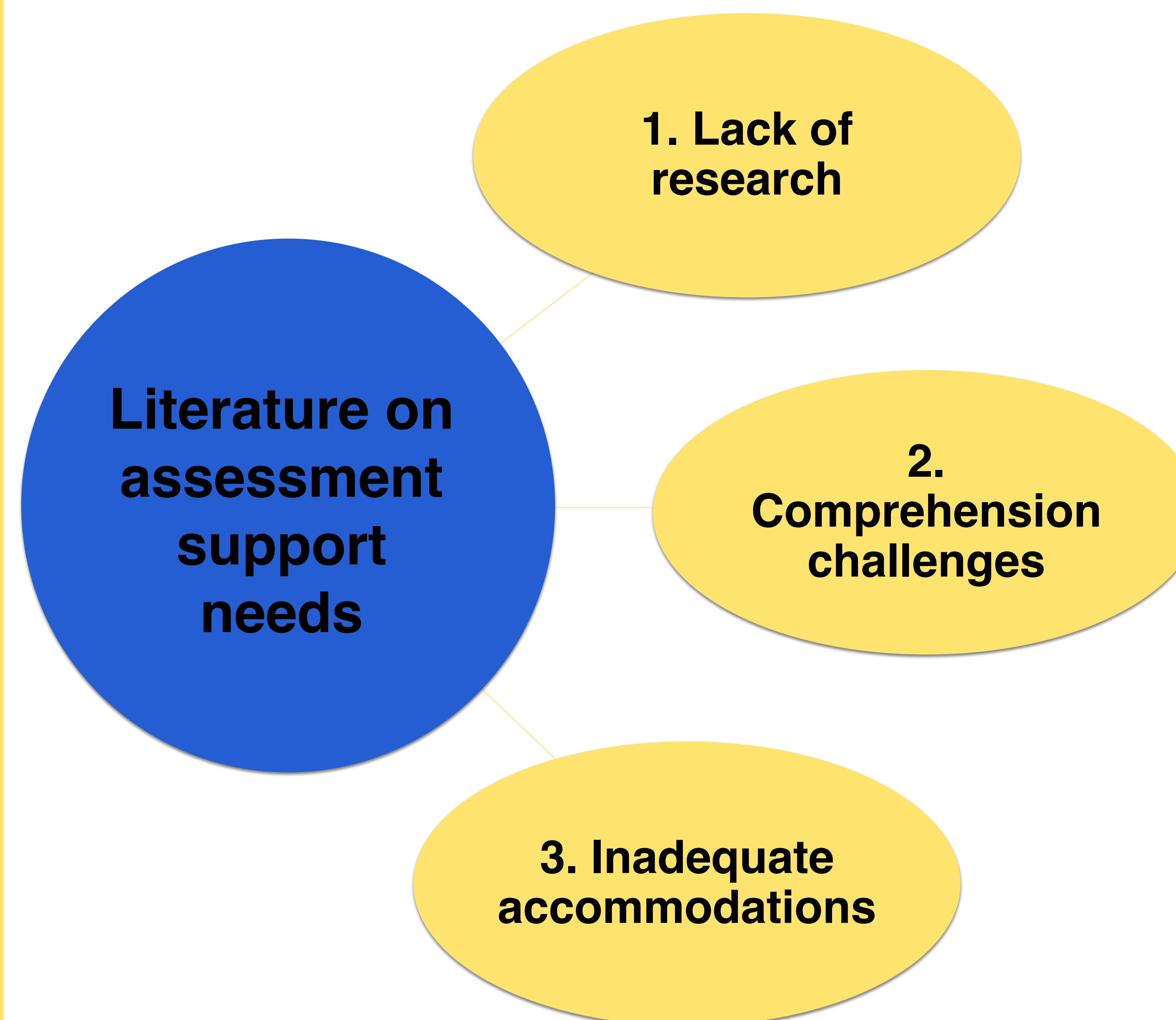
Research Questions

- What are common support needs of people with intellectual disability when participating in assessments?
- What modifications, accommodations, and supports are available on assessments for people with intellectual disability?

Search Procedure

- Key words: assessment, intellectual disability, accommodations, supports
- Search of ERIC and PsycINFO
- Hand search of *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities* and *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*

Themes



Key Findings

1. There is a dearth of research on the topic. The researcher was unable to complete a full review of the literature given the lack of publications.
2. The wording of items on assessments can present challenges for people with intellectual disability (Emerson, Felce, & Stancliffe, 2013).
3. Accommodations and supports aligned with assessments are often insufficient or not present, or the onus is placed on the person with the disability (e.g., ETS, 2013).

Recommendations

- Increased research and documentation of support needs for people with intellectual disability using assessments
- Development of corresponding resources for published assessments
- Increased focus on accessibility for people with more significant support needs during assessment development
- Enhanced training for professionals using assessments with people with intellectual disability on the selection and use of supports

References

- Dean, E. E., Burke, K. M., Shogren, K. A., Wehmeyer, M. L. (2017). Promoting self-determination and integrated employment through the Self-Determined Career Development Model. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 1, 1-8.
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