

Appendix 2: COREC for Bissau-Guinean Quaranic schoolboys in times of COVID

Manuscript: *Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the life of Bissau-Guinean religious (Quranic) schoolboys during a state of emergency: a qualitative study*

COREC guidelines

Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity

Personal characteristics

1. Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	Hamadou Boiro (HB)
2. Credentials	What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD	HB is a senior researcher at the Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa (INEP), Bissau, Guinea-Bissau. He has an MA degree (1999) and DEA (2000) in social anthropology from Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal; since 2016 he is a PhD student in anthropology at the University of Iceland.
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	Anthropologist, working with risk communication and community engagement for WHO and the National COVID-19 High Commissioner in Guinea-Bissau.
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female?	Male
5. Experience and training	What experience or training did the researcher have?	HB has extensive experience in the collection and analysis of data in Senegal, The Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau. For WHO, he worked as a social scientist in the Ebola epidemics in West Africa in 2015 and the Democratic Republic of Congo 2018–2020, and in the COVID-19 pandemic response in Guinea-Bissau.

Relationship with participants

6. Relationship established	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	Initially, leaders of the main Islamic association in Guinea-Bissau were contacted and informed about the research. With their approval, individual <i>chernos</i> were approached; according to tradition, the parents have entrusted their son to a <i>cherno</i> who becomes their <i>de facto</i> guardian.
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		Verbal permission to conduct the study was thus given by the <i>cherno</i> of each participant. No prior relationship was with study participants. They were identified in Bissau and Gabú, either on the streets or in their respective <i>dudal</i> .
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research	The interviewer HB has been conducting research on <i>dudal</i> and <i>almudos</i> for more than a decade, and has gained the trust of the <i>chernos</i> . Before taking the interviews, with permission of the <i>chernos</i> , the participants were given information on the research, and about the researcher (HB) who would conduct the interview.
8. Interviewer characteristics	What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic	HB is experienced in working with <i>almudos</i> and <i>chernos</i> in Guinea-Bissau. After short presentation of HB and his former engagement with <i>almudos</i> and <i>chernos</i> , the participants were informed that the researcher was interested to know more about their knowledge about Covid and the daily experience of the pandemic. The interviews were anonymous and recorded with participant's permission; if expressing reluctance for recording, written notes were taken. Observations with focus on adherence to preventive measures against Covid, were made when HB met the boys in the street and at their <i>dudal</i> .

Domain 2: study design*Theoretical framework*

9. Methodological orientation and Theory	What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis	The study is part of a larger ethnographic study, ongoing since 2009, about the Bissau-Guinean <i>almudos</i> in Senegal, The Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau. This study applied content analysis of semi-structured and open-ended interviews. The interview guide was adapted in the Fula language for better comprehension of the participants, and how to communicate the questions in a local context.
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Participant selection

10. Sampling	How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball	Purposive sampling.
11. Method of approach	How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email	Face-to-face
12. Sample size	How many participants were in the study?	14 boys, aged 12-16 years
13. Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?	None of those invited declined to participate.

Setting

14. Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace	The data was collected in the capital Bissau, and the regional centre Gabú in the boys <i>dudal</i> . Participants in the study did not mix or have contacts within the group. Interviews and observations were made at the <i>dudal</i> but also when the boys were identified in the street.
15. Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?	Only the researcher and the participant were present during the interviews
16. Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date	Children, boys, aged 12-16 years. All from Guinea-Bissau, except one came from Guinea (Conakry).

Data collection

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17. Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?	The interview guide (both in English and Portuguese) was adapted by the researchers to the local situation. There was no formal pilot of the interview guide.
18. Repeat interviews	Were repeat interviews carried out? If yes, how many?	No.
19. Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?	Audio-recording.
20. Field notes	Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?	Field notes were kept by the researcher to help in the work, for planning, analysis of interview notes, etc..
21. Duration	What was the duration of the interviews or focus group?	20-45 minutes for each interview
22. Data saturation	Was data saturation discussed?	During implementation, similar information gradually emerged from participants.
23. Transcripts returned	Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?	No.

Domain 3: analysis and findings

Data analysis

24. Number of data coders	How many data coders coded the data?	HB was the only data coder.
25. Description of the coding tree	Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?	No.
26. Derivation of themes	Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?	The interview guide was set up with the following themes, each with several sub-questions: general, background, education, family, neighbourhood, friends, internet and future. See supplementary material. The themes and sub-questions guided the

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		data collection and the interview. During the coding of the data, themes emerged and were continuously developed.
27. Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?	Microsoft Word and Atlas.ti
28. Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?	No.

Reporting

29. Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes / findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number	Yes, but without participant number.
30. Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?	Yes
31. Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?	Yes
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Description of both diverse cases and discussion of minor themes.