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Background

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is recognized as a developmental disability that can cause a wide range of challenges in social communication and interaction as well as restricted and repetitive patterns of behaviour.
- The symptoms of ASD emerge from early childhood and exist throughout the life cycle. Diagnosing ASD can be difficult since there is no medical test to diagnose ASD.
- Treatments for individuals with ASD, which are considered evidence-based in high-income countries (HIC), are still rarely investigated in lower-middle-income countries (LMIC). Basically, all of the research on attitudes and their relation towards the usage of EBPs has been conducted in HIC. Whether there are differences in the attitudes between professionals in LMIC and HIC is mostly unknown.

The Objectives of the Study:

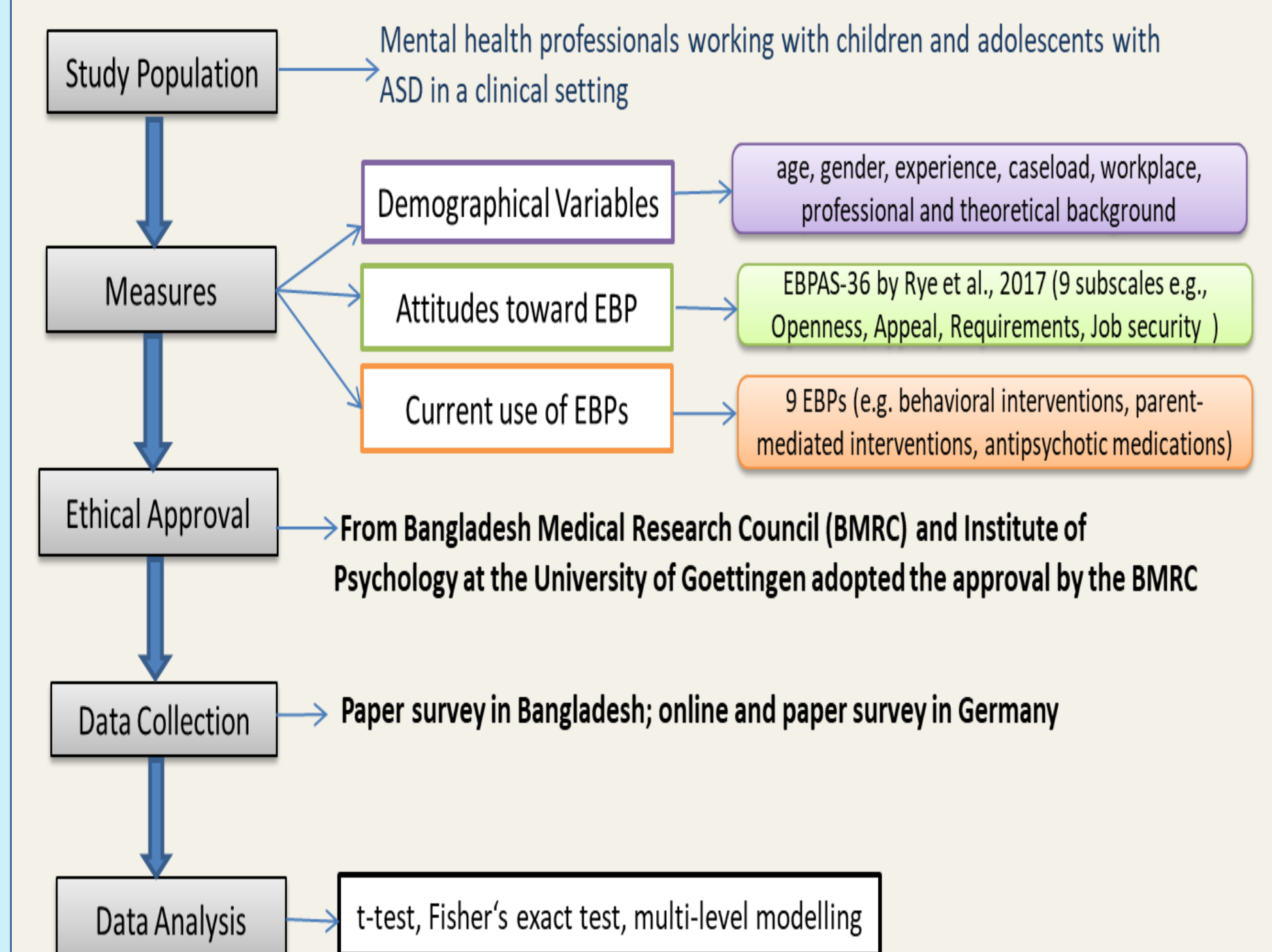
- To investigate potential differences in attitudes towards EBPs and in the number and types of EBPs used by mental health professionals in Bangladesh and Germany.
- To examine relations between demographic variables, attitudes, and EBPs among mental health professionals in Bangladesh and Germany.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

1. Do mental health professionals' attitudes toward EBP, the number and types of EBPs used differ between Germany as a HIC and Bangladesh as a LMIC?
2. Which socio-demographic factors predict professionals' attitudes in Bangladesh and Germany?
3. Do attitudes predict the number of different types of EBPs used by professionals? Are there differences between Bangladesh and Germany?

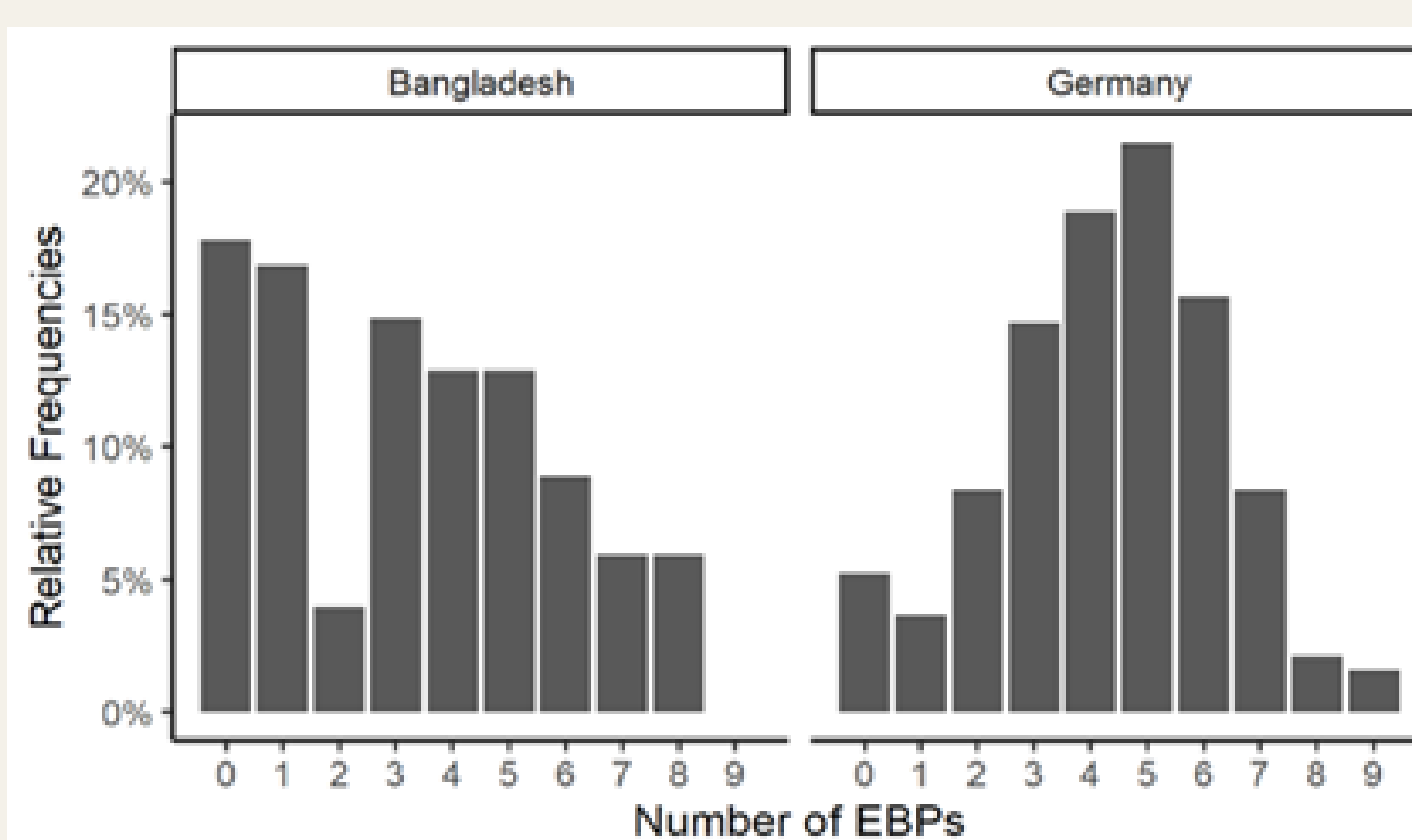
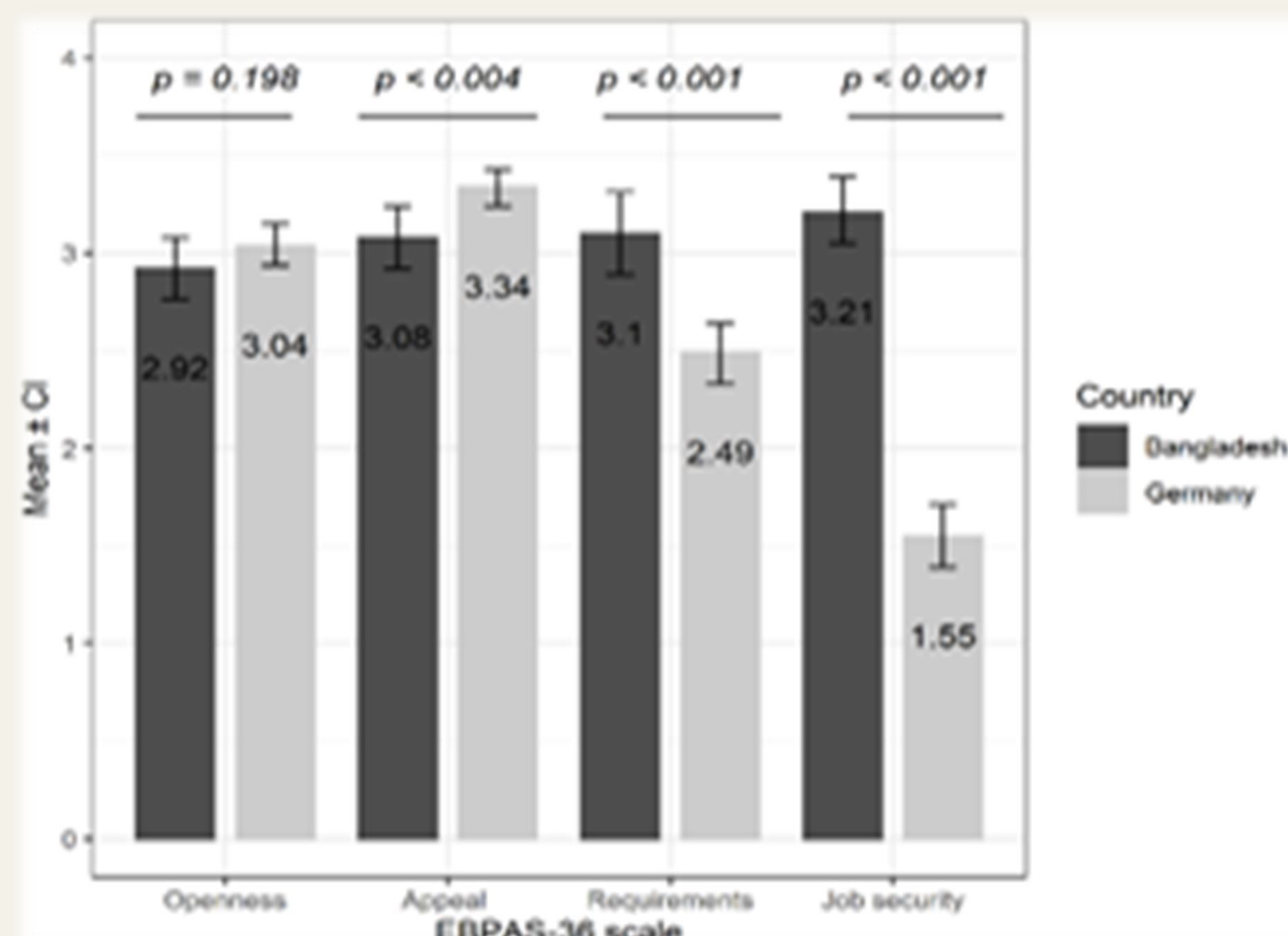
Lacking comparative studies before, there were no specific hypotheses for the present study. The Present study is exploratory in nature. Nevertheless, we expected to find differences.

Methods



OVERVIEW OF RESULTS

Research Question 1



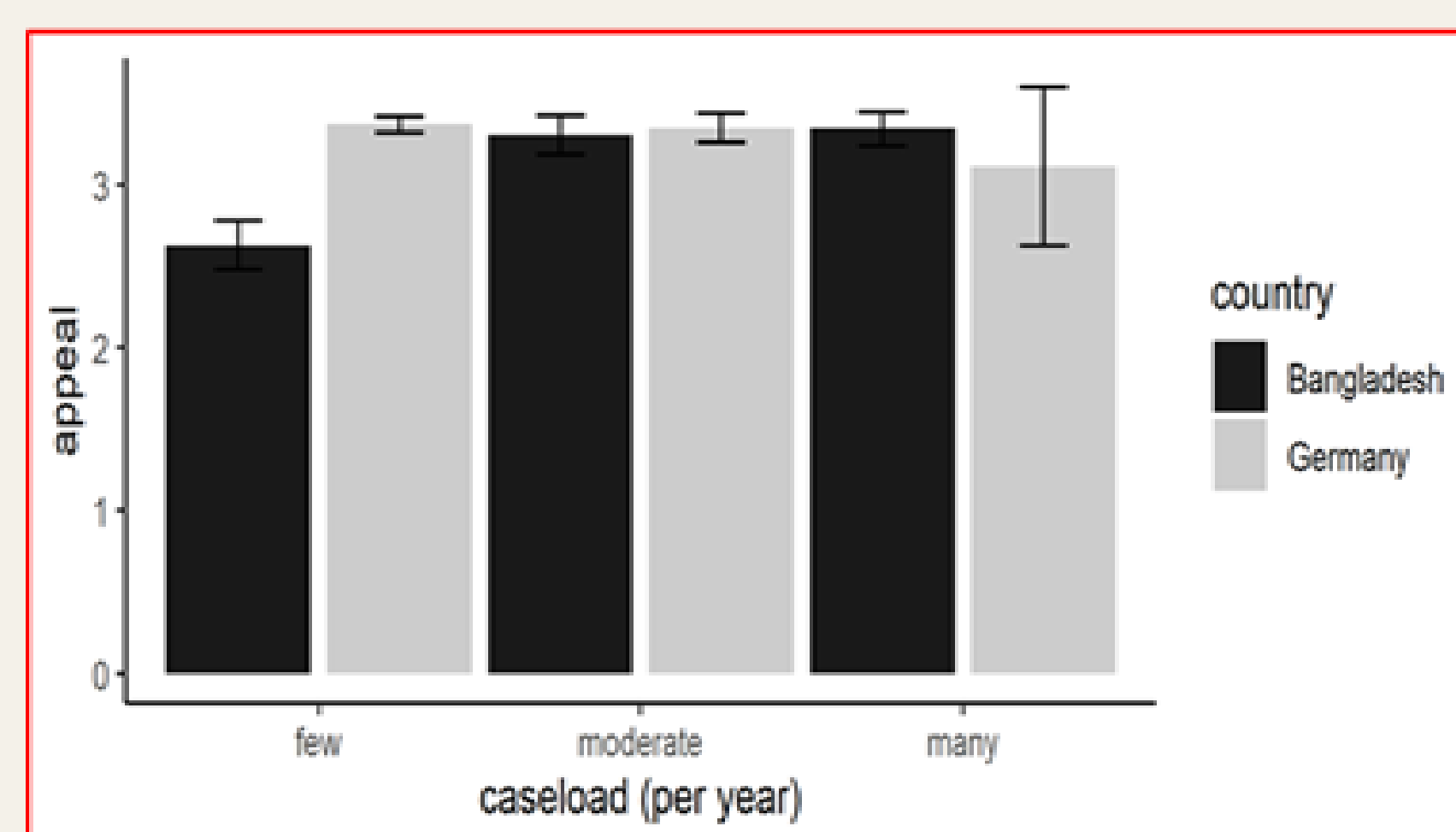
Highlights

- Professionals in both countries were equally open to using EBPs. German professionals reported greater appeal. Bangladeshi professionals claimed to be more likely to adopt an EBP when required and more willing to learn EBPs to enhance job security than German.
- German professionals reported a higher number of different EBPs used than Bangladeshi professionals.
- Demographical variables (caseload, age, gender, own practice) were related to attitudes.
- Both practitioners were more likely to use a greater diversity of EBPs when they appealed to them.

Research Question 2

Subscales (Outcomes)	Significant predictors
Openness	• Age • Caseload per year
Appeal	• Gender • Caseload per year
Requirements	• Caseload per year • Own practice
Job security	• Age

Significant difference between two countries



Implications

- Attention should be paid to country-specific factors when implementing EBPs.
- The role of caseload needs to be investigated in more detail.
- Working conditions and their relation to attitudes and usage of EBPs should be investigated in future studies comparing LMIC and HIC.

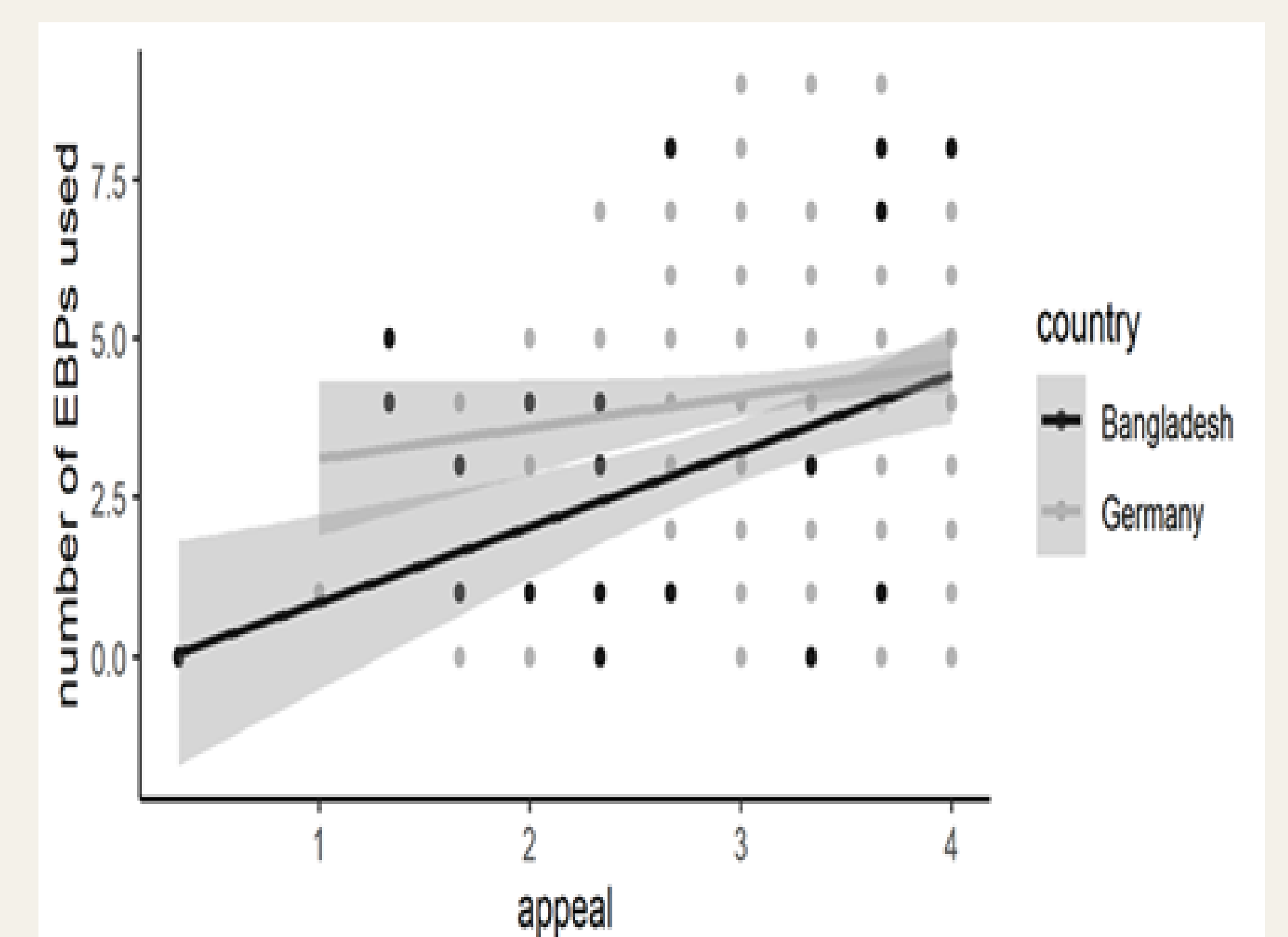
References

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Research Question 3



Conclusion

This is the first study that directly compared the attitudes towards EBPs and the usage of different EBPs in a HIC (Germany) and a LMIC (Bangladesh). This may help generate strategies to support the more widespread implementation of EBPs which improve the life not only of children and adolescents with ASD.

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