Development and Validation of Domestic Violence Scale for Intimate Partners

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Development and validation of domestic violence scale for intimate partners in Urdu language.

Study Design: Cross sectional survey research design and purposive sampling technique were used.

Place and Duration of Study: District Head Quarter Teaching Hospitals, Sargodha and Gujrat Pakistan, from Feb 2020 to Dec 2021.

Methodology: The domestic violence scale was based on 7 factors included neglect, psychological violence, spiritual violence, verbal violence, economic violence, physical violence, and sexual violence. Initially, 305 statements were developed on the bases of inductive and deductive approaches. 202 out of 305 items were selected after expert evaluation. Further, the pilot study retained 131 items. Moreover, for final administration data was collected by using a self-reported questionnaire on 654 married males and females from District Sargodha and District Gujrat Pakistan (including 320 injured women victimized by domestic violence reported in DHQ hospital Sargodha and Gujrat).

Results: Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO) Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Pallant showed an acceptable value above 0.6 showing the sampling adequacy of the Domestic Violence Scale. The KMO value of the domestic violence scale was 0.955, and the CFI was 0.948 with a significant $p<0.01$ value. The results indicated appropriate model fit indices for a significant model fit. There was high reliability of the domestic violence scale (0.951) at a 0.01 level of significance. At the end of all analyses 25 reliable and valid items retain in the scale.

Conclusion: Domestic violence scale is valid and reliable instrument to measure neglect, psychological violence, spiritual violence, verbal violence, economic violence, physical violence, and sexual violence.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Economic Violence, Sexual Violence, Spiritual Violence.

INTRODUCTION

Human is a unique creation of nature. A social being that tends to live in a complex social structure includes family, friends, and other social networks. In all important social networks, family is a basic entity of society where the human being lives together by birth, marriage or adaptation. A productive and healthy family system is established when the husband and wife show respect and love for each other and interact positively.[1] On the contrary, an unhealthy family grows when husbands deal with their wives in a discourteous way, insult them and use verbal and emotional aggression and do different types of violence on their wives.[2] Furthermore, domestic violence is abusive and violent behavior that exhibited against partners.[2] Although, husbands are equally prone to violence as wives and commonly experience verbal violence, whereas the violence is comparatively high among wives. A population-based study found that lifetime intimate partner violence victimization nearly 8% of

men and 23% of women.[3] There are seven types of domestic violence included neglect, psychological violence, spiritual violence, verbal violence, economic violence, physical violence, and sexual violence. Additionally, Neglect in marriage also called cold violence.[4] it is a complete withdrawal of verbal and physical communication, absence of love, care, and warmth towards the wife, and even also control of financial matters. It is considered to be the silent killer in marriage.[4] Deprivation and neglect can be considered a form of psychological violence. All forms of domestic violence often interact with each other and lead to a complex pattern of behavior. Due to psychological violence individual suffer from intimidation, verbal insult, harassment, defamation, and coercion.[5] Likewise, neglect and psychological violence, spiritual violence also exist among intimate partners. Furthermore, Spiritual violence is defined as manipulating someone's spiritual or religious beliefs, making fun of someone's religion, controlling, and also making any obstacle to religious practices.[6] Moreover, spiritual abuse is the leading cause of the increased divorce rate.[6] On the other hand, all types of domestic violence are unique and interrelated with each other. Mainly

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domestic violence starts with abusive com-munication, arguments, and opposition to others' opinions which lead to verbal violence. In addition, verbal violence is considered a use of power to control the victim by using intimidating or bullying, verbal assaults meant to embarrass, harass, humiliate, insult, or threaten vulnerable people to trigger anguish, pain, and distress.[7] Like other types of domestic violence, economic violence is also common. Moreover, economic violence is defined as not spending money on the spouse or giving limited money, which cannot fulfill basic needs. It also includes demanding money or force for the job. Mainly women become victims of economic violence.[8] Although, all types of domestic violence have a hazardous effect on the physical and mental health of all family members but physical violence is the most upsetting type.

While physical violence is defined as the use of power, a weapon, or any object to control the action of anybody by pushing, hurting physically, slapping, biting, hair pulling, kicking, grabbing, choking, burning and murder.[9] The estimated lifetime prevalence of physical intimate partner violence among ever-married /partnered women aged 15 to 49 was highest among the least developed countries, the ratio was 37%.[10] On the other hand, sexual violence is a form of physical violence. Women who experience intimate partner violence by their husbands mostly undergo sexual violence, which has co-occurrence with physical violence. Sexual violence is the use of power against any person to have any kind of sexual activity without the consent of another person such as touching sexual parts, intercourse by threat, or use of a weapon. It also includes forceful sex with another person and forced abortion.[8]

For the assessment of all possible forms of domestic violence among intimate partners, there was a dire need to develop a domestic violence scale in Urdu language which covers all possible domains of domestic violence. Present scale was based on seven factors included neglect, psychological violence, spiritual violence, verbal violence, economic violence, physical violence, and sexual violence.

METHODOLOGY

In the scale development procedure, both deductive and inductive methods were followed. The deductive method includes a literature review on construct which clarify the nature and variety of the target tool and through the inductive method twenty interviews from the targeted population were carried out.[11,12]

The study was conducted in District Head Quarter Teaching Hospitals, Sargodha and Gujrat Pakistan, from February 2020 to December 2021. Cross sectional survey research design and purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. Permission for the study was taken from the Advanced Studies and Research Board (A.S.R.B), University of Gujrat, Pakistan.

Inclusion Criteria: Both married males and females above age 18 years were included in the study.

Exclusion Criteria: Unmarried males and females were excluded from the study.

Data was collected from community and DHQ teaching hospitals of district Sargodha and district Gujrat (N=654). Victims of domestic violence having physical injuries reported in DHQ's for the treatment were (n=320). Moreover, data was collected by using self-reported questionnaire, written informed consent was taken before data collection. Need, significance and response format of the study briefly explained to participants. Participants were assured about their confidentiality and at the end of activity participants were thanked. Initially, 305 statements were developed with the help of deductive (literature review, previous scales) and inductive (interviews from the infected population) methods.[11,12] Five subject experts, three PhDs and two M. Phil scholars from the Department of Psychology, Uni-versity of Gujrat, Pakistan, were requested for expert evaluation of the scale. Only clear, suitable, and signi-ficantly relevant items were selected. On the bases of expert evaluation, 12 items were improved and 103 irre-levant, repeated, and ambiguous items were discarded.

The items' rating responses were also confirmed at this stage. The Scale was finalized on a 4 point likert scale ranging from 1=Never to 4=every time. The pilot study was conducted on 202 items.

Data analysis was done by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-22) and Analysis of a Moment Structures (AMOS-22), further reliability analysis, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) were carryout on data.

RESULTS

In final administration, exploratory factor analysis was conducted on 131 items. The sample adequacy was tested using KMO and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity. KMO value 0.955 and Bartlett's test of sphericity 0.000 showed that data is suitable for further exploratory factor analysis.

Table-I shows that 35 out of 131 items were loaded on 7 factors further, factors were fixed with a 0.50 absolute value of suppression. The factor loading values range from 0.506 to 0.851.

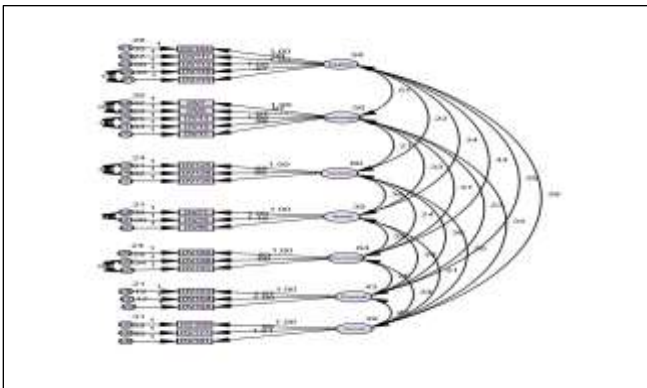**Table-I: Factor Loading of Domestic Violence Scale**

Item No	Neglect	Item No	Psychological Violence	Item No	Spiritual Violence	Item No	Verbal Violence	Item No	Economic Violence	Item No	Physical Violence	Item No	Sexual Violence
104	0.712	7	0.583	125	0.595	77	0.564	185	0.783	153	0.781	168	0.616
107	0.705	8	0.613	128	0.576	78	0.585	186	0.791	154	0.775	177	0.624
111	0.702	13	0.682	135	0.851	86	0.520	190	0.750	155	0.781	181	0.576
113	0.655	14	0.602	137	0.838	95	0.670	191	0.789	-	-	-	-
115	0.711	17	0.785	139	0.571	96	0.712	-	-	-	-	-	-
118	0.779	18	0.761	-	-	99	0.622	-	-	-	-	-	-
119	0.758	31	0.622	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

To confirm the results of EFA the CFA was done. The 35 items on 7 factors were advancing into the CFA.

Table-II: Model Fit Summary of 35 Items (n=654)

p-value	CMIN/DF	GFI	CFI	RMSEA	RMSR
0.000	3.895	0.909	0.948	0.062	0.030

Figure-I: Confirmatory Factor Analysis 25 items

The result shows the full scale Cronbach alpha reliability is r=.951. It indicates high reliability.

Table-III: Cronbach Alpha for the Scale Domestic Violence and its Seven Subscales (N= 654)

Sub Scales	Total Items	Cronbach Alpha R
Domestic Violence	25	0.951
Neglect	05	0.907
Psychological Violence	05	0.898
Spiritual Violence	03	0.831
Verbal Violence	03	0.827
Economic Violence	03	0.874
Physical Violence	03	0.891
Sexual Violence	03	0.795

DISCUSSION

Physical and Psychological injuries due to domestic violence increased the burden on the health sector. Subsequently, for the assessment of the nature of domestic violence, there was a dire need to develop and validate the domestic violence scale in the Urdu language. For the development of the scale, valid and reliable scientific methods were followed. Initially, the content validity of 305 statements was accessed by subject experts.[13] Further 202 items after the expert's evaluation were followed in the pilot study and 131 items retain in this process. The sample adequacy was tested using KMO and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity. The present study results show a KMO value 0.955, above 0.6 which is considered an acceptable value.[14] Furthermore, the Sphericity test showed a significant value of less than 0.001 which shows no identical matrix in the data.[15] Moreover, to confirm the results of EFA the CFA was done. The 35 items on 7 factors were advancing into the CFA. The CFI=0.948 has been witnessed that is within the acceptable limit of above 0.900 and the effectiveness of the scale was confirmed with a CFI value.[16] The CMIN/DF ratio is <5, which fall in acceptable value.[17] The acceptable value of GFI is considered to be ≥0.90.[18] In the current study, the values are approximately near the standard value. Literature has confirmed that the value of RMSEA 0.062 which is <0.08 that is reasonable model data.[19] The RMSR value is 0.030. The acceptable value of RMSR is <0.05 value.[20] At the end of all analysis 25 items were retained in the final scale. Additionally, the value of Cronbach's alpha coefficient is greater than r=0.70 that is considered statistically appropriate.[21] The subscale reliability of the Domestic Violence Scale for Adults demonstrated good reliability values.

CONCLUSION

Domestic violence scale completely established in Urdu language with 25 items and 7 sub scales. Scale can be used in further research.

Conflict of Interest: None.

Author's Contribution

Following authors have made substantial contributions to the manuscript as under:

TP: conception, data collection, analysis and write-up.

ZB: Write-up, revision and analysis.

Authors agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or

integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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