

Standardization of Karachi Domestic Violence Screening Scale - Urdu Version

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ABSTRACT The purpose of present paper was to report the preliminary findings of a study aimed at developing a valid and reliable domestic violence screening scale in Urdu language. It will be used as a screening instrument to screen physical, psychological and sexual abuse committed by husbands against wives with specific reference to population in Karachi, who understand Urdu language. The Karachi Domestic Violence Screening Scale ((KDVSS) English Version was developed by first author of this study in her Master's thesis project in 2001. Realizing the need for an Urdu scale, it was decided to develop an Urdu version of Karachi Domestic Violence Screening Scale (KDVSS). The item pool of English Version of KDVSS was used to select items for Urdu Version. The scale was translated, reviewed by experts and then empirically validated through women's reports of experiencing intimate partner violence. This indigenous scale comprised of 35 items organized into five subscales i.e. Abuser Characteristics Sub-scale, Victim Characteristics Sub-scale, Physical Abuse Sub-scale, Psychological Abuse Sub-Scale and Sexual Abuse Sub-Scale. A sample of 200 women taken from different towns of Karachi city participated in study. The findings indicated that the scale has a significant internal consistency measured by Cronbach's Alpha. Karachi Domestic Violence Screening Scale (KDVSS) had good test re-test reliability over a period of one month's time. The values of convergent validity Pearson r (.899) and discriminant validity Pearson r (-.927) were also significant. KDVSS appears to be a screening instrument that is a good screener of domestic abuse committed by husbands against their wives.