An Investigation Of Reliability Of Hindi Version Tools Measuring Rape Supportive Attitude, Cognitive Distortions, Sexual Fantasy, And Sociomoral Reasoning Among Young Adults

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ABSTRACT

Background: This study aims to evaluate the reliability coefficient of Hindi version tools assessing socio-cognitive factors including rape supportive attitude, cognitive distortions, sexual fantasy and sociomoral reasoning among young adults. Method: The tools include, Rape Supportive Attitude Scale, the RAPE Scale, Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire-Revised- Shorter Version, and Socio-Moral Reflection Measure- Short Form. All of these tools were back translated and used for analysing reliability as per the aim of the study. The data was collected from a sample, consisting of 60 males, who completed the Hindi Translations of these scales, followed by the English versions after a gap of a week. Results: Descriptive statistics, internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha), and test-retest reliability (Pearson correlation) were analysed using SPSS-24. Internal consistency analysis indicated high reliability for the Hindi version tools, with Cronbach's alpha coefficients ranging from 0.78 to 0.85. Test-retest reliability analysis showed strong positive correlations between scale scores obtained on two different occasions (r ranging from 0.84 to 0.97), suggesting good stability of the scale. Conclusion: In conclusion, the Hindi translation of the scales demonstrated comparable internal consistency, and test-retest reliability to the original English versions. These findings indicate that the Hindi translations are reliable measures for assessing socio-cognitive factors in Hindi-speaking populations.

INTRODUCTION

Rape is a heinous crime that inflicts severe physical, psychological, and social consequences on its victims. It is a violation of human rights and remains a prevalent issue with far-reaching implications for individuals and communities worldwide (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2015). In order to effectively address and combat this pervasive problem, it is essential to gain a comprehensive understanding of the attitudes, perceptions, and moral reasoning that underpin rape-supportive attitudes. Researchers and practitioners have developed scales to assess these constructs, including the Rape Supportive Attitude Scale (RSAS) by Lottes (1998), The RAPE Scale by Bumby (1996), Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire-Revised-Shorter Version (SFQ-RSV) by Bartels & Harper (2018), and the Socio-Moral Reasoning Questionnaire - Short Form by Gibbs et al. (1992).

Social cognition is a fundamental aspect of human psychology that plays a crucial role in how individuals perceive, interpret, and navigate the social world. It encompasses a diverse range of cognitive and emotional processes that allow us to understand and respond to the thoughts, feelings, and intentions of others (Frith & Frith, 2012).

Aker's Social Learning Theory of Social Cognition proposes that individuals learn behaviors, including deviant and criminal acts, through social interactions and observations of other's actions. The theory emphasizes the role of differential association, reinforcement, and imitation in shaping human behavior. Individuals are more likely to imitate behaviors that are reinforced or rewarded, while punishment or negative consequences can reduce the likelihood of imitation. Learning occurs through both direct and indirect interactions, influencing not only behavior patterns but also the beliefs, values, and attitudes associated with these behaviors. Aker's theory has had a significant impact on criminology, providing insights into the processes underlying the acquisition of deviant and criminal behaviors (Akers & Sellers, 2009).

Social Information Processing Theory (SIP) is a psychological theory that explains how individuals process social cues and interpret information to respond to social situations.

Developed by Crick and Dodge (1994), the theory emphasizes five main steps: encoding, interpretation, response generation, response decision, and behavioral enactment. The theory highlights the cognitive processes involved in social interactions and provides insights into the development of social behaviors. It has been widely applied to understand various social phenomena in children and adults.

The present study aims to investigate the reliability coefficient of a range of socio-cognitive factors, including rape supportive attitude, cognitive distortions, sexual fantasy, and moral judgment. To ensure the study's applicability and inclusivity, authors have taken the initiative to translate the scales measuring these factors into the Hindi language. By doing so, they aim to make the assessment instruments accessible and suitable for the Hindi-speaking population, facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of these crucial socio-cognitive variables within this cultural context.

Rape Supportive Attitude refers to the acceptance, endorsement, or justification of beliefs, attitudes, or behaviors that minimize, trivialize, or rationalize sexual violence, particularly rape, against others. It involves attitudes that blame victims, deny the seriousness of sexual assault, or place responsibility on the victim rather than the perpetrator. Individuals with rape supportive attitudes may hold beliefs that certain situations or behaviors of the victim make them responsible for the assault, or that some victims "deserve" to be assaulted. Rape supportive attitudes perpetuate harmful myths about sexual violence and contribute to a culture that tolerates and normalizes such behaviors (Burt, 1980).

Cognitive distortions refer to systematic errors in thinking that can lead individuals to perceive reality inaccurately or in a biased manner. These distortions are often automatic and unconscious, influencing how individuals interpret events, experiences, and other people's actions (Beck, 1976).

Sexual fantasy refers to imaginative thoughts, mental images, or scenarios involving sexual content that individuals experience during waking hours or while asleep. These fantasies can involve various erotic themes, desires, or scenarios, and they may or may not align with an individual's real-life sexual experiences or preferences. Sexual fantasies are considered a normal and common aspect of human sexuality, and they can serve as a means of sexual expression, arousal, and exploration (Leitenberg & Henning, 1995).

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Moral judgment refers to the cognitive process by which individuals assess and evaluate the rightness or wrongness of actions or behaviors based on their moral principles, values, and ethical standards. It involves making decisions about what is considered morally acceptable or unacceptable in various situations. Moral judgment is influenced by a combination of cognitive, emotional, and social factors, and it plays a critical role in guiding individual's behavior and interactions with others in society (Kohlberg, 1969).

In this study, the scales used for studying these socio-cognitive factors are as follows: Rape Supportive Attitude Scale by Lottes (1991), The RAPE Scale by Bumby (1996), Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire- Revised- Shorter Version by Bartels & Harper, (2018) and Socio-moral Reflection Measure-Short Form by Gibbs, et.al., (1992).

While these scales have been extensively used and validated in English-speaking populations, their cross-cultural applicability is limited due to their original language and cultural context. Cultural variations, language nuances, and social norms can significantly impact attitudes, perceptions, and moral reasoning surrounding rape (Liu et al., 2021). Consequently, it is crucial to translate these scales to ensure their relevance and reliability within different linguistic and cultural contexts.

Therefore, the primary objective of this study is to undertake the translation of the Rape Supportive Attitude Scale, The RAPE Scale, Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire-Revised- Shorter Version, and Socio-Moral Reflection Measure -Short Form into Hindi, one of the most widely spoken languages in India. By translating these scales to the Hindi language, we aim to enhance the accuracy of data collection and facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of rape-supportive attitudes, cognitive distortions, sexual fantasies, and socio-moral reasoning within the Hindi-speaking population.

The translation process involves meticulous attention to linguistic and cultural adaptation to ensure the scales maintain their intended meanings and psychometric properties. Following established guidelines for scale adaptation (World Health Organization, 2018), the process includes forward and backward translations, expert reviews, and pilot testing to evaluate the reliability of the translated scales.

By translating these scales in Hindi, this study contributes to the growing body of research on attitudes towards rape,

cognitive distortions, sexual fantasies, and socio-moral reasoning. The findings will enable researchers and practitioners to measure and compare these constructs across different cultures and linguistic communities, facilitating cross-cultural research and promoting evidence-based interventions to prevent sexual violence and support survivors.

There is a noticeable scarcity of studies in India that explore attitudes towards rape, cognitive distortions, sexual fantasies, and socio-moral reasoning. Limited research exists in these crucial areas, hindering a comprehensive understanding of these phenomena within the Indian context. By making these scales accessible in the national language, researchers can engage a wider and more diverse participant pool, thereby opening up avenues for more extensive research on these topics in India. The outcomes of this study will deepen our understanding of rape-related attitudes within the Hindi-speaking population.

Aim

The aim of the study is to evaluate the reliability coefficient of Hindi version tools assessing socio-cognitive factors including rape supportive attitude, cognitive distortions, sexual fantasy and sociomoral reasoning among young adults.

Objectives

- To assess the reliability coefficient of the translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing rape supportive attitude.
- To assess the reliability coefficient of the translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing cognitive distortions.
- To assess the reliability coefficient of the translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing sexual fantasy.
- To assess the reliability coefficient of the translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing socio-moral reasoning.

Hypotheses

- The translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing rape supportive attitude will demonstrate a high reliability coefficient.
- The translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing cognitive distortions will exhibit a high reliability coefficient.

- The translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing sexual fantasy will show a high reliability coefficient.
- The translated Hindi version of the tool for assessing socio-moral reasoning will demonstrate a high reliability coefficient.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

The sample for this study consisted of 60 male participants between the ages of 18 and 35 years, who were proficient in both Hindi and English. Out of 60 participants, 29 participants were college going students, and around 31 participants were working individuals. Convenience sampling technique was used to collect the data.

Psychological Tools

1. **The Rape Supportive Attitude Scale,** developed by Lottes (1991) is a widely used scale that measures rape-supportive attitudes, focusing on the acceptance of rape myths, victim-blaming, and endorsement of aggressive sexual behavior (Lottes, 1991). This scale provides valuable insights into individual's beliefs and attitudes that perpetuate a culture conducive to rape. It allows researchers to identify societal norms and cultural factors that contribute to the tolerance or acceptance of sexual violence. The English version of the Rape Supportive Attitude Scale demonstrated high reliability in two separate samples. In the first sample of 246 college students, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was .91, indicating strong internal consistency. Similarly, in the second sample of 390 students, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was also .91, reaffirming the scale's high reliability (Lottes, 2010). The Spanish translation of the Rape Supportive Attitude Scale showed comparable reliability to the original version, as indicated by the Cronbach's alpha coefficients ranging from .91 to .92 (Sierra, et.al., 2007).

2. **The RAPE Scale**, developed by Bumby (1996), is a self-report measure designed to assess rape-related cognitive distortions. It consists of 36 statements that reflect attitudes and beliefs related to rape. The scale aims to capture individual's perceptions, judgments, and cognitive distortions regarding rape and its

victims. The statements in the Bumby RAPE Scale cover a range of attitudes and beliefs associated with rape, including victim blaming, minimizing the seriousness of rape, and endorsing rape-supportive behaviors. The scale assesses various dimensions related to rape, including perceptions of rape severity, victim credibility, and the perceived likelihood of engaging in rape-supportive behaviors. By measuring these cognitive distortions, the Bumby RAPE Scale provides insights into the underlying beliefs and attitudes that may contribute to the perpetuation of rape culture. Overall, the Bumby RAPE Scale provides a comprehensive assessment of rape-related cognitive distortions and contributes to our understanding of the attitudes and beliefs associated with sexual violence. The Bumby RAPE Scale has consistently shown strong reliability in various studies. Each item of the scale had a high item-to-total correlation, averaging at .65, with all correlations exceeding .30. In Bumby's (1996) evaluation and in the study by Hermann, et.al., 2012, the scale demonstrated excellent internal consistency, with Cronbach's alpha coefficients of .96 and .95, respectively. This indicates that the items in the scale consistently measure the same underlying construct. Furthermore, Bumby found a good test-retest correlation of .86 over a 2-week period, suggesting stability and consistency of scores over time (Bumby, 1996).

3. **The Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire-Revised-Shorter Version,** developed by Bartels and Harper in 2018, is a self-report measure that assesses sexual fantasies across various themes. It consists of 37 items grouped into six sections, each representing different categories of sexual fantasies: masochism, sadism, romance, indifferent sexual activities, pre/tactile courtship disorders, and body functions. The questionnaire captures a wide range of sexual fantasies, providing insights into individual's desires, preferences, and the content of their sexual thoughts. In addition to the structured items, this questionnaire also includes two open-ended questions. The first open-ended question asks participants to list their favorite sexual fantasy, providing them with the opportunity to describe a fantasy that may not be covered in the structured items. The second open-

ended question asks participants to describe their favorite sexual fantasy scenario, incorporating various sexual behaviors and providing context for understanding how different behaviors may be combined in fantasy. (Bartels & Harper, 2018). The components of the scale, including Masochistic, Sadistic, Romantic, Impersonal, Pre/tactile Courtship Disorders, and Bodily functions, demonstrated good internal consistency. The Masochistic component had a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.97, indicating strong reliability. Similarly, the Sadistic component had a Cronbach's alpha of 0.95, while the Romantic component had an alpha of 0.89. The Impersonal component had an alpha of 0.88, and the Pre/tactile Courtship Disorders component had an alpha of 0.86. The Bodily functions component had a slightly lower alpha of 0.73, indicating acceptable reliability. Additionally, the shorter 37-item scale was found to be psychometrically equivalent to the Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire-Revised, as evidenced by high correlation coefficients ($r > 0.90$) between the full and reduced clusters (Bartels & Harper, 2018). Sexual fantasies play a complex role in individual's lives and can reflect various aspects of their attitudes, desires, and preferences. By capturing the nature and content of sexual fantasies, researchers can gain insights into individual's sexual scripts, motivations, and potential risk factors associated with rape or sexually aggressive behaviors (Blais-Lecours et al., 2017).

4. **The Sociomoral Reflection Measure-Short Form,** developed by Gibbs et al. (1992), is a structured interview that assesses an individual's sociomoral reasoning abilities. It consists of 11 questions designed to evaluate concerns related to basic universal values, such as morality, life, affiliation, law, legal justice, contract, and truth. Each question represents a value frequently encountered in practical settings. The Socio-moral Reflection Measure-Short Form is administered as an interview, allowing for a more in-depth exploration of an individual's moral reasoning process. The questions are designed to prompt individuals to reflect on moral dilemmas and provide responses that indicate their understanding, evaluation, and reasoning behind their moral judgments. The measure aims to assess individual's

cognitive processes and moral evaluations when faced with situations involving moral choices and dilemmas. By examining how individual's reason and reflect on moral issues, the Socio-moral Reflection Measure-Short Form provides insights into their capacity for moral reasoning and the extent to which they consider universal moral values in their decision-making (Gibbs et al., 1992). The Socio-moral Reflection Measure-Short Form has shown exceptional internal consistency, with a correlation coefficient of .92. Additionally, it exhibited good test-retest reliability, with a correlation coefficient of .88, as demonstrated in a study by Gibbs et al. (1992). In the specific setting of Northern Irish, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the total sample was 0.79 (Ferguson, et.al., 2011). The Socio-moral Reflection Measure-Short Form demonstrates good convergent validity and acceptable concurrent validity (Gibbs, et.al., 1992).

Translation Procedure

The translation of the scales was conducted following the recommended methodology by the World Health Organization (WHO), involving mental health professionals proficient in both Hindi and English languages. The primary objective during the translation process was to maintain the simplicity of language while preserving the meaning of the "stem/item" of the scales. Careful attention was given to address issues related to semantics and cultural factors to ensure the scale's relevance and applicability in the Hindi-speaking population.

In accordance with the translation process, a draft version of the scales in Hindi was developed based on the input and expertise of the mental health professionals. This draft version underwent a back-translation process, where the Hindi version was translated back to English by independent translators who were proficient in both languages. The back-translations were then compared with the original English version to assess the congruence in meaning conveyed by each item.

Upon reviewing the back-translations and comparing them with the original English scales, any discrepancies or inconsistencies were identified. If any items were found to be inappropriate or not adequately capturing the intended meaning, further modifications were made to the Hindi translation. This iterative process ensured the refinement of

the translation, taking into account linguistic equivalence and cultural relevance.

Through this meticulous translation process, a final version of the scales in Hindi was developed, which aimed to accurately capture the constructs being measured while accounting for linguistic and cultural nuances specific to the Hindi-speaking population. The final translated scales were deemed suitable for use in the validation phase of the study, where their psychometric properties would be assessed in the Hindi-speaking sample.

Procedure

The procedure for administering the translated questionnaires on a sample of 60 male students consisted of two stages. Firstly, the Hindi versions of the scales were administered to the participants. After a gap of one week, the English versions of the questionnaires were then administered to the same population.

During the first stage, the participants were provided with the Hindi versions of the scales. The participants were instructed to read each item carefully and respond honestly based on their own beliefs, attitudes, or experiences. Confidentiality and anonymity were assured to encourage open and truthful responses.

Following the completion of the Hindi questionnaire administration, a one-week interval was provided to minimize potential response bias and allow participants to have a sufficient break between the two administrations. This gap aimed to reduce the influence of previous responses on the English questionnaire.

In the second stage, the participants were administered the English versions of the questionnaires. The participants were instructed to approach the English questionnaire in the same manner as the Hindi version, providing their honest responses based on their understanding of the items.

The order of administering the questionnaires was deliberately chosen to ensure that participants responded to the Hindi versions first to minimize the potential influence of the English questionnaire on their responses. This order aimed to capture the participant's genuine attitudes and perspectives by allowing them to express themselves in their native language initially.

By administering both the Hindi and English questionnaires to the same sample population, this procedure aimed to examine the consistency and comparability of responses across the two languages. The methodology ensured that participants had the opportunity to express their views in both languages, providing valuable insights into the translation and validation of the scales.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics was used to compute Mean and Standard Deviation of the Hindi Versions of the Scales. Internal Consistency was measured using Cronbach's Alpha and Test-Retest Reliability was evaluated using Pearson Correlation Method. Cronbach's alpha is a measure of internal consistency, indicating how well the items in a scale or questionnaire are interrelated or correlated. It is calculated by assessing the average inter-item correlation among all the items in the scale.

On the other hand, test-retest reliability evaluates the stability of the measurement over time. It is determined by administering the same scale or questionnaire to the same group of participants on two separate occasions, with a time interval in between. The correlation between the scores obtained at both time points reflects the test-retest reliability. In the present study, the test-retest reliability was calculated between the Hindi and English versions of the tools.

Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24 was used to analyse the data.

RESULTS

Table 1: Mean (M) and Standard Deviation (SD) of Hindi Version of Rape Supportive Attitude Scale, The RAPE Scale, Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire- Revised- Shorter Version, and Socio-Moral Reflection Measure-Short Form

Tools	M	SD
Rape Supportive Attitude Scale	2.75	0.70
The RAPE Scale	2.60	0.92
Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire- Revised- Shorter Version	3.85	0.72
Socio-Moral Reflection Measure- Short Form	3.30	1.02

Table 2: Internal Consistency and Test-Retest Reliability of Hindi Version of Rape Supportive Attitude Scale, The RAPE

Scale, Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire- Revised- Shorter Version and Socio-Moral Reflection Measure-Short Form

TOOLS	INTERNAL CONSISTENCY	TEST-RETEST RELIABILITY (HINDI-ENGLISH VERSION)
Rape Supportive Attitude Scale	0.81	0.85
The RAPE Scale	0.85	0.86
Sexual Fantasy Questionnaire- Revised- Shorter Version	0.78	0.84
Socio-Moral Reflection Measure- Short Form	0.79	0.97

The Cronbach's alpha coefficients indicates a good level of internal consistency reliability for the above-mentioned scales in the Hindi version. This suggests that the items within the questionnaire are moderately to highly correlated with each other, consistently measuring the same construct as in English versions of these scales.

The results of test-retest reliability suggest a strong positive correlation between the scale scores in both languages, indicating a high level of agreement between the Hindi and English versions. These results suggest that the Hindi-English versions of the scales are highly comparable and show similar patterns of responses. The high correlations between the scale scores in Hindi and English support the notion of cross-language equivalence, indicating that the Hindi translations capture the intended constructs similar to the original English versions.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study provide valuable insights into the reliability coefficients of the Hindi translations of scales assessing Cognitive Distortions, Rape Supportive Attitude, Sexual Fantasy and Moral Judgements. The results indicate that the Hindi versions exhibit comparable internal consistency and test-retest reliability to the original English versions.

The internal consistency reliability analysis demonstrated high internal consistency for the Hindi translations, as indicated by the Cronbach's alpha coefficients. This suggests that the items within each scale are correlated and consistently measure the

targeted constructs. This finding indicates that the translated scales are reliable measures for assessing socio-cognitive dimensions in the Hindi-speaking context.

The test-retest reliability analysis showed strong positive correlations between the scale scores. This suggests the cross-language agreement between the Hindi and English versions of the scales. The high Pearson correlation coefficients in Table 2 suggest strong positive correlations between the scale scores in Hindi and English, indicating a high level of agreement between the two versions. This provides evidence for the equivalence of the Hindi translations with the original English versions in measuring socio-cognitive factors.

Overall, the results of this study provide evidence for the reliability of the Hindi translations of scales assessing cognitive distortions, rape supportive attitude, sexual fantasy and moral judgements. These findings contribute to the body of knowledge and availability of culturally reliable instruments for research in Hindi-speaking populations. Researchers and practitioners can confidently use these translated scales to assess and address attitudes and beliefs surrounding sexual beliefs in the Hindi-speaking context, promoting more accurate and comprehensive understanding of this important social issue.

 These results have important implications for research and interventions addressing attitudes and beliefs related to sexual beliefs in Hindi-speaking communities. The availability of reliable measures in the local language enhances the accuracy and comparability of data, enabling researchers to gather valuable insights and develop culturally appropriate interventions.

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