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Construction of Self-Report Indigenous Measure: The Pedophilic Interest Scale for Child Sexual Abuse Perpetrators in Pakistan

Rukhsana Kausar¹ & Rabia Iftikhar²

Abstract

Most sexual offences elicit social opprobrium, but child sexual abuse is typically considered to be the most reprehensible. The pedophile is regarded as a social pariah, the extreme embodiment of deviant sexuality. Pedophilia is threatening for all over the world but preying on children in third word countries is more rampant and devastating. Considering the sensitivity of the issue, medical professionals need to comprehend pedophilia, its prevalence, and the traits of pedophiles. Current study was carried out to construct an indigenous tool to assess the pedophilic interest in child sex offenders. Sample comprised of 210 male sex offenders of age 18 years above. Purposive sampling was used to collect data from different district jails of Punjab. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was performed by using orthogonal rotation (varimax) on 22 item through SPSS as factor extraction technique. Convergent and discriminant validity was examined among 50 participants, using Pearson product-moment correlations of raw scores from the Quality of life scale (QoL) and Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI) for the valid examinees. The SSPI scale positively correlated with PIS (r= .40, p < .01). The QoL scale correlated negatively with PIS (r = .52, p < .01). Furthermore, Cronbach Alpha (α) reliability coefficient of the 16 item Pedophilic Interest Scale (PSI) had an excellent internal consistency (16 items; $\alpha = .94$). Thus, current indigenous scale can be used in with other assessment measures for assessing pedophilic interest in the forensic population. This scale will provide vital resources for future academics and practitioners working in the field of mental health.

Keywords: Pedophilia, Child Sexual Abuse, Paraphilic disorder.

Introduction

Since the 1980s, people have become much more aware of the problems that come with sexually abusing children. Professionals and the general public have begun to recognize it as a significant societal concern, despite its previous neglect (Taylor & Quayle, 2003).

Researchers have had trouble figuring out how common child sexual abuse is. According to a survey done by Mboza (2023) around the globe 1 in 5

¹ PhD Scholar, Govt. College University Lahore- Pakistan. rukhsana.kausar@gcu.edu.pk

² Assistant professor, Govt. College Women University Lahore- Pakistan. <u>rubail1983@gmail.com</u>

girls and 1 in 13 boys have been sexually abused or exploited before reaching the age of 18. As a result, sexual abuse of children is seen as a common, global problem. Even though the subject was important, it hadn't been studied much until the last few decades.

The DSM-5-TR (APA, 2022) introduces a de-pathologization of pedophilia by making a distinction between the sexual attraction to prepubescent children (referred to as pedophilia) and the presence of additional criteria that indicate a disorder. These characteristics encompass the presence of distress and dysfunction resulting from desires and impulses, as well as engaging in behavioral manifestations such as viewing child pornography or doing child sexual assault offenses. The projected prevalence of pedophilia raises inquiries regarding the diagnostic accuracy and reliability of categorizing pedophilia. As per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR), it is imperative to distinguish between pedophilic sexual preference and the pedophilic disorder. The primary diagnostic concern for doctors faced with a potential pedophile is the potential risk the individual may provide to children.

Child sex abuse (CSA) is unfortunately very common in Pakistan. It hides behind religion, but it is statistic is shocking in Pakistani culture. Sahil, an NGO that works to protect children and stop child abuse, said in a study that the number of cases of CSA rose from 9 per day in 2017 to 12 per day in 2018. Moreover, the numbers shows that 56% of the victims were girls and 44% were boys. Because of the serious effects of CSA on children, it is very important to find these kinds of patterns in abusers who are weak. People who have been found guilty of sexually abusing a child are required by law to see a psychologist in many countries (Chudzik & Aschieri, 2013; Farooq & Ashraf, 2022). In some countries, people with pedophilia who have not necessarily harmed a child can also get help through counseling (Cantor, 2015). In a nation like ours, which has limited resources and a scarcity of mental health services, there is an urgent need to concentrate on this serious issue in order to reform the laws and develop solutions.

Studies show that the exact causation of pedophilia remains unknown (Bradford, 2000; Nurcombe, 2000), however a variety of factors are likely to have a role in its development (Howitt, 1995). As a result, there are numerous theories as to why pedophilia arises, such as that it stems from a mental disorder (Bagley, Wood & Young, 1994), a mental defect (Blanchard et al., 1999), an aberration in development (Lee et al., 2002), or the "Cycle of Abuse" (Bagley et al, 1994; Howitt, 1995). Determining the elements that contribute to the emergence of pedophilic

inclination is crucial for the creation of main preventive strategies. The literature is full of studies and theories that look at those who abuse children. Recently presented theories suggest that a multitude of factors, including biological, psychological, and interpersonal relationships, may contribute to the development of a pedophilic inclination. Though this topic is the subject of many theories and investigations, there is currently insufficient scientific data on which risk variables are more significant or how these factors interact (Bulut & Cankaya, 2020).

Many times, pedophilic abuse goes unreported for a variety of reasons, such as guilt, emotional needs (the child connects with the pedophile), or fear (e.g., scared about not being believed, will be physically injured if child reports abuse) (feels responsible for what happened). According to Bagley et al (2006) study 's the explanation given by those who had been molested once for not reporting the abuse was most frequently that they could "manage the abuse" and it "didn't affect" them (50.7 percent), followed by their fear of the reaction of others (40 percent). When children were mistreated repeatedly, the most prevalent answer was that they felt somewhat guilty (57.7%) or that they didn't want the abuser to face legal consequences for some reason.

Seto and Lalumière (2001) develop the very first Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI), to identify pedophilic tendencies by focusing on characteristics such as a male victim, multiple victims, young age, and lack of connection between victim and perpetrator. In addition to the SSPI, the phallometric method emerges as a controlled laboratory-based approach, measuring changes in penile blood volume in response to specific sexual stimuli (Cantor & McPhail, 2015; McPhail et al., 2017). For forensic assessments, the Screening Scale of Pedophilic Crime Scene Behavior (Lehmann, 2022) plays a crucial role in evaluating the behavioral aspects of sex offenders within crime scenes. Meanwhile, the Static-99R, developed by Hanson and Morton-Bourgon (2009), stands as a widely researched actuarial risk assessment tool, predicting sexual recidivism in adult male sex offenders. Further nuances in understanding attitudes toward sex offenders are explored through the Attitudes to Sex Offenders Scale (ATS-21; Hogue & Harper, 2019), establishing a baseline for individuals' perspectives on those convicted of sexual offenses.

Despite the scarcity of existing assessment tools, a noteworthy gap also exists in the Pakistani context as well, where there is currently no indigenous instrument to evaluate pedophilic interest among offenders. This research

endeavors to address this void by developing a culturally sensitive tool tailored to the unique dynamics of the local community. The resulting indigenous assessment tool aims not only to contribute to the understanding of pedophilic traits among Pakistani offenders but also to provide valuable resources for future researchers and mental health professionals, facilitating a more informed and contextually relevant approach to the assessment of pedophilic interests in the region.

Methods

Item Construction

Extensive literature review was done for constructing items that particularly targeted the desired information of the current study. Semi-Structure Interviews were Conducted for the Items' Generation of the Pedophilic Interest Scale. Participants for Conduct Sami-Structured Interviews were 12 convicted pedophiles, 2 investigating officers who dealt with the cases of pedophiles come under the article of 376 and 377, 2 Forensic Psychologists who have experience of dealing with pedophiles and 2 psychiatrists whose area of interest is pedophilia

Based on the existing literature and semi-structure interviews, the researcher devised a tool which consisted of 40 items in Urdu language for assessing the pedophilic interest among child sex offenders. All constructed items were reviewed through CVR method (Lawshe, 1975) by five professional experts. The judges were asked to evaluate each item by identifying the vague, unsuitable and double barrel items of the scale and providing critical feedback to establish construct validity, clarity, and extensiveness. 22 items were retained after CVR method, and data collection proceeded for factor analysis. All items were rated on likert scale i.e. from 1-5. No item was reversed scored.

Scoring

The tool give one composite score by adding up the sum scores. Scores in this scale were interpreted as higher the score was the reflection of high interest in pedophilia and low score report low pedophilic interest. Scores ranges from 22 - 80 having an acceptable excellent consistency ($\alpha = .94$). Tool values were divided in three cut off categories i.e. mild pedophilic interest (score ranges below 33), moderate pedophilic interest (score ranges from 34-46) and high pedophilic interest (score ranges above 47)

Measures

Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI)

In present study 5 item SSPI (Seto et al., 2017) was used as a scale to measure convergent validity of PIS. This scale is used widely to screen individuals having pedophilic interest. Scale was translated by the researcher in Urdu. Each

item ask question regarding individual sexual offense history. the item were coded dichotomously as 0=absent or 1=present. Thus, possible total SSPI scores ranged from 0 to 5.

Quality of Life Scale (QoL)

The 26 item Urdu translated version of WHOQOL-BREF (WHO,1996) by Khalid and Kausar (2006) was applied to investigate discriminant validity in the study. Item are self-reported and scored in 5 point linker scale and composite score shows the global QoL.

Procedure

Firstly, formal approval was sought from the Office of Research Innovation & Commercialization Government College University, Lahore. Then researchers approached well-experienced authorities and sought formal permission to employ participants of research from district and regional jails. Researchers devised Informative sheet in Urdu language which included detailed information about research conducted, including participants characteristic, study aim, the contact information of researchers and affiliated institute, and request to participate to join the current study. initial stage of the research involves the pilot study to access the psychometric properties of the item In the scale. Before commencing the main study, a pilot study was conducted. 20 child child sex offenders were approved to assess conceptual clarity of tools items, and time taken to complete. The analysis was conducted by following the guidelines Field (2009). During piloting, no major changes were found.. The study proceeded after piloting.

Objectives

- To develop an indigenous tool pedophilic interest scale to assess pedophilic interest in convicted pedophiles.
- To establish reliability and validity of the scale

Results

Table (1) shows the demographic information of the participants. Average age of the child sex offenders was 30.04 (SD=12.19). The majority of them were unmarried (n=87), illiterate (n=55) and were unemployed (n=134). On average, the age of the victims was 9 years and were girls by gender (n=96).

For the purpose of investigating the factor structure of the scale, an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was carried out. In the beginning, the Kaiser-Meyer Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (BTS) were utilized in order to evaluate the appropriateness of the sampling and the acceptability of the data set for the purpose of carrying out factor analysis. In Table 2, the results of the investigation into KMO and BTS are demonstrated.

Comparisons were made between the correlation coefficients and the partial correlation coefficients. It is generally accepted that KMO values that fall within the range of 0.60 to 0.70 are acceptable (Buyukozturk et al., 2012; Field, 2009). Result found that the KMO value is more than 50, specifically 87.6% (.876), and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity, was also highly significant (χ 2 (df = 231, n= 140) = 1904.51, p< .001. Consequently, based on the findings from KMO and BTS, it was determined that the data set was appropriate for carrying out EFA measurements.

The present investigation employed exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to conduct principal component analysis (PCA). The extraction method utilized for the PCA was orthogonal rotation (varimax). Varimax rotation increases the dispersion of loadings within factors to its maximum extent. This rotation was opted after verifying all assumptions and criteria given by Field (2009) as well as Tabachnick and Fiddell (2007).

Table 3 shows the component matrix based on a principal components analysis on 22 items of PIS. Item showing loading less than .4 were deleted from the scale (Kline, 1994; Pett 2003), resultant 16 item final version of the indigenous tool was retained. In order to decide final factors for the tool, in the current study rotated component matrix was considered in tool development procedure which indicated that each item is only and only heavily loaded on one factor (Garson, 2004, p.19). During factor analysis screen plot depiction was also used to retain factors in current study. Scree plot is shown in figure 1.

Convergent and Divergent Validity

Convergent and discriminant validity were examined among 50 participants of mean age 31.96 (SD=14.41), using Pearson product-moment correlations of raw scores from the Quality of life scale (QoL) and Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI) for the valid examinees (table 4).

Significant correlations are presented in Table 5. According to Field (2005) Pearson's correlations below .3 are considered weak, between .3 and .5 is moderate, and above .5 is considered strong. The SSPI scale positively correlated with PIS (r= .40, p < .01). The QoL scale correlated negatively with PIS (r = .52, p < .01).

Table 6 indicates correlation matrix of all items of the scale. There aren't any clear rules in the literature for how to tell the difference between items that discriminate and items that cause problems. However, Nunnally and Bernstein (1994) say that corrected item total correlations above r=.30 show good discrimination, even if that cut-off is chosen at random. Item total correlations did not identify disengagement items.

Table 7 reflect that was data distribution with skewness of -2.08 and kurtosis of 5.71 which revealed that scores were piled up on the right side and distribution has heviour tail and a sharper peak in comparison to normal distribution. Reliability analysis was also conducted to assess scale reliability $(\alpha=.94)$

Discussion

In a society that hates sodomy and rape, taking away a child's honor and respect against their will is the worst crime that can happen. Even though this is wrong, pedophilia happens all the time, and sometimes it's done in the name of custom. Pedophilia is a significant concern for public health. Even though it's bad for society, not much research has been done on how idiographic differences affect the growth and maintenance of pedophilia (Swaminath & Hatwan, 2023). Researchers have found that groups of people who molested children exhibited disproportionately strong reactions to children compared to non-molester groups (Nunes et al., 2013; Popovic et al., 2023; Seto et al., 1999; Turner et al., 2014). For the sake of risk assessment and treatment planning, it has been suggested that adult child molesters should be routinely evaluated using this technology, as there is a significant amount of empirical evidence supporting the validity of phallometric techniques. Nevertheless, in developing countries such as Pakistan, a significant number of practitioners do not possess the resources necessary to run phallometric laboratories. In situations where there is a lack of phallometric data resources, it is possible to draw conclusions based on other facts, such as the

sexual crime history of the person who molests children. To reach such conclusions, it is not entirely obvious how the factors should be weighted or how the information should be compiled. For child molesters who have not undergone phallometric testing previously, a concise and user-friendly scale that identifies individuals highly probable to have sexual interest in children could assist in risk management and individual categorization.

Prior studies have established a strong association between pedophilic sexual interests and the presence of a considerable number of child victims, who are predominantly male (Freund & Blanchard, 1989; Seto & Lalumiére, 2001; Seto et al., 1999). Furthermore, Sullivan et al. (2011) discovered that CSA offenders exhibited a greater degree of affective over-identification with children and a greater propensity for victim-blaming attitudes. Meta-analyses have shown that paraphilic interest is the most important risk factor in groups of sexual offenders (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2005; Mann et al., 2010). One clear problem with most of these studies was the lack of quick, easy, and reliable ways to find out if the offenders were interested in pedophilia. Therefore, the current study aims to devise an indigenous tool to find out whether these offenders had paraphilic interests.

Psychological tests like the Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests (SSPI) and phallometric testing have helped identify pedophilic interest, with research linking it to child sexual abuse. Pedophilic interest is a significant predictor of sexual recidivism among adult male sex offenders, according to actuarial risk assessment tools like the Static-99R (Hanson & Morton-Bourgon, 2009). Crosscultural studies show that while cultural factors may affect pedophilic inclinations, commonalities persist, showing that pedophilic interest contributes to child sexual abuse (Barth et al., 2013). Clinical and forensic observations, together with formal examinations, frequently show pedophilic interest in child sexual abusers, revealing the intricacy of this relationship. The Attitudes to Sex Offenders Scale (ATS-21) also shows how societal attitudes toward pedophilic interests may affect behavior, with negative opinions functioning as a protective factor (Hogue & Harper, 2019).

Result indicate that Cronbach's Alpha (α) reliability coefficient of the Pedophilic Interest Scale (PSI) had an excellent internal consistency. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), a principal component analysis (PCA) was performed by using orthogonal rotation (varimax) on 22 item and the final tool comprised of 16 item measuring pedophilic interest in child sex offenders.

Results of the present study found good psychometric properties of the Pedophilic Interest scale. It is a more informed and culturally relevant approach to assessing pedophilic interests in Pakistan. Thus, current indigenous scale can be used in with other assessment measures for assessing pedophilic interest in forensic population. This scale will provide vital resources for future academics and practitioners working in the field of mental health.

List of abbreviation

SSPI	Screening Scale for Pedophilic		
	Interests		
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse		
CVR	Content Validity Ratio		
EFA	Exploratory Factor Analysis		
KMO	Kaiser-Meyer Olkin		
BTS	Bartlett's Test of Sphericity		
PCA	Principal Component Analysis		

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate ethical approval was obtained from the department research authority and participant signed consent was obtained from each participant.

Consent for publication

Consent to use participant data for academic publication was obtained.

Availability of data and material

The study is a part of an ongoing PhD program; hence data will be available on request.

Competing interests

There is no conflict of interest among authors.

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Authors' contributions

RK devised, analyzed, interpreted, and wrote the original manuscript. RI provided the supervisory role and edited the final draft. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Figure Legends

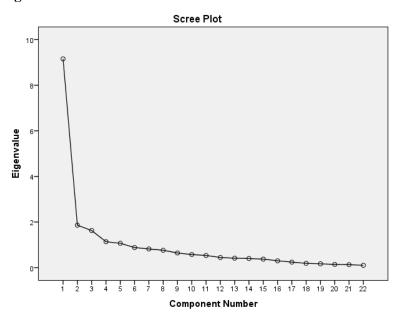


Figure 1 Scree Plot

Table 1Frequency and Percentages of Basic Demographic Information of Participants for $EFA\ (N=140)$

Demographic	f	%
Religion	•	70
Muslim	138	98.6
Non-Muslim	2	1.4
Area		
Rural	61	43.6
Urban	79	56.4
Education		
Illiterate	55	39.3
Primary	27	19.3
Secondary	19	13.6
Matric	33	23.6
Inter	4	2.9
Bachelor	2	1.4
Occupation before imprisonment		

560 Rukhsana Kausar & Rabia Iftikhar

Working	134	95.7
Non-Working	6	4.3
Marital status		
Married	53	37.9
Single	87	62.1
Gender of victims		
Boy	44	31.4
Girl	96	68.6

Table 2 KMO and Bartlett's Test Values

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequa	су	.876
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Approx. Chi-Square		
	df	231
	Sig.	.000

Table 3Component Matrix Based on a Principal Components Analysis on 22 Items of Pedophilic Interest Scale (PIS) (N = 250)

Pedophil	Pedophilic Interest Scale (PIS)				
Sr No.	Items	Compone			
		nt			
1.	PIS-1	.577			
2.	PIS-2	.622			
3.	PIS-3	.513			
4.	PIS-4	.437			
5.	PIS-5	.468			
6.	PIS-6	.353			
7.	PIS-7	.301			
8.	PIS-8	.524			
9.	PIS-9	.394			
10.	PIS-10	.400			
11.	PIS-11	.365			
12.	PIS-12	.396			
13.	PIS-13	.369			
14.	PIS-14	.342			
15.	PIS-15	.322			
16	PIS-16	.477			

17	PIS-3	.414
18	PIS-7	.398
19	PIS-10	.376
20	PIS-15	.375
21	PIS-20	.314
22	PIS-27	.522
	Eigenvalues	2.977
	% of Variance	13.532
	Total Variance	13.532

Table 4Showing Correlation Matrix for 16 Pedophilic Interest Scale Items

	J	
Sr No.		r
1.	PIS-1	.50**
2.	PIS-2	.50**
3.	PIS-3	.33**
4.	PIS-4	.34**
5.	PIS-5	.55**
6.	PIS-6	.38**
7.	PIS-7	.34**
8.	PIS-8	.40**
9.	PIS-9	.37**
10	PIS-10	.40**
11.	PIS-11	.37**
12.	PIS-12	.48**
13.	PIS-13	.44**
14.	PIS-14	.37**
15.	PIS-15	.36**
16.	PIS-16	.31*

Note. *p<0.05, **p<0.001

Table 5Frequency and Percentages of Basic Demographic Information of Participants for Validity (N=50)

Validity $(N=50)$		0./		
Demographic	f	%		
Religion				
Muslim	49	98.0		
Non-Muslim	1	2.0		
Area				
Rural	23	46.0		
Urban	27	54.0		
Education				
Illiterate	26	52.0		
Primary	7	14.0		
Secondary	8	16.0		
Matric	7	14.0		
Inter	2	4.0		
Occupation before imprisonment				
Working	48	96		
Non-Working	2	4		
Marital status				
Married				
Single	21	42		
Gender of victims	29	58		
Boy				
Girl	17	34		

Table 6Pearson Correlation Measuring Convergent And Divergent Validity With SSPIAnd Qol

Scale	N	M	SD	1	2	3
1. SSPI	50	2.30	1.18	-		

Pakistan Journal of Criminology 563

2. QoL	50	61.14	5.81	63**	-	
3. PIS	50	37.96	6.71	.40**	52**	-

Note: QoL=Quality of Life Scale, SSPI= Screening Scale for Pedophilic Interests, PSI= Pedophilic Interest Scale

* $p \le 0.05$; ** $p \le 0.01$;

Table 7Showing Descriptive Statistics for PIS (N=250)

No. of Items	M (SD)	Skewness	Kurtosis	α
17	42.27 (6.13)	31	1.32	.64

Note. M = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation