



EFFECT OF RIDING THERAPY ON BEHAVIORAL AND FUNCTIONAL PERFORMANCE IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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ABSTRACT

Abuse against women causes great suffering to victims and is a major health problem among women. To date, there are some screening instruments for abuse of women in Brazil, but they only assess some of the components of abuse. This study aimed to cross-culturally adapt into Portuguese the Haj-Yahia's questionnaire of violence against women, which assesses all the components of violence against women. This instrument consists of 32 items, divided into 4 (four) factors of violence: psychological, physical, sexual and economic. The content validity process includes calculating the Content Validity Coefficient (CVC) and Fleiss's Kappa, translating from the source language into the target language, synthesizing the translated versions, evaluating the synthesis by three (3) expert judges, evaluating the instrument by the target audience and reverse translation. The results show that the items adapted into Brazilian Portuguese present evidence of content validity, with Coefficients above 0.80: 0.95 for clarity of language, 0.92 for practical relevance and 0.93 for theoretical relevance. With regard to the degree of agreement, Fleiss's Kappa was 91.67%, indicating excellent agreement between the judges. All the desired equivalences were achieved - conceptual, semantic, idiomatic and cultural - in Haj-Yahia's questionnaire of violence against women. The instrument has evidence of content and can be an important ally in assessing violence against women, covering all its aspects.

Keywords: psychometrics, Haj-Yahia's questionnaire, violence against women, woman.

1 INTRODUCTION

Family violence is violence committed in a private environment by a family member who lives with the victim or has an emotional bond with them. It can encompass different forms of mistreatment, such as psychological abuse, physical aggression, financial and sexual violence, as well as neglect and helplessness (Costa *et al*, 2011). According to the report "Elas Vivem: dados que não se calam"



(They Live: data that won't be silenced), events recorded in 2022 indicate that every four hours a woman was raped in Brazil (Ramos *et al*, 2023).

Psychological abuse means any action or omission that damages the victim's self-esteem or growth. As stated by the Ministry of Health (Brazil, 2006), this is the most difficult type of sexual abuse to detect and is characterized by humiliation, coercion, threats, discrimination, criticism of sexual performance and deprivation of autonomy. It can result in social isolation, estrangement from friends and family, or preventing the victim from having access to their own money. Its consequences are serious and can lead to health problems and, in more extreme situations, suicide (Brasil, 2006).

Physical aggression is the most common and consists of harm, through the use of bodily force or an object (weapon, instrument), which results in visible injuries (bruises, cuts, wounds) or internal injuries (hemorrhages, fractures) (Cortez *et al*, 2005).

Furthermore, sexual violence is characterized as an attack in which the aggressor forces the victim to perform sexual acts through coercion or intimidation, without their consent. The circumstances may involve rape, forced sexual exploitation and coercion into pornography, among others (Rovinski, 2004 apud Gadoni-Costa; et al 2011).

These forms of violence are interlinked in a complex web of association, which can include the consumption of alcohol and/or other substances, low schooling and a history of violence in the family of origin, among others (Cortez *et al* 2005). However, it is crucial to emphasize that none of these elements, in isolation, is the cause of violence against women.

Another little-publicized form of violence is property violence, which involves withholding or destroying a woman's personal documents, property, work tools and financial resources. Moral or economic violence, in turn, consists of any behavior that constitutes slander, defamation or insult, damaging a woman's reputation (BRASIL, 2006).

2 THE HAJ-YAHIA'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Haj-Yahia's questionnaire of violence against women is a scale that measures violence against women according to four types of violence: psychological, physical,

sexual and economic. This scale was developed by Muhammad M Haj-Yahia for a study entitled *“Wife Abuse and Its Psychological Consequences as Revealed by the First Palestinian National Survey on Violence Against Women”*, which researched Palestinian women who live in different contexts of victimization and have to deal with the most diverse consequences, which are the result of the most diverse types of abuse, such as economic, physical, psychological and sexual.

To be developed, this instrument went through several stages, including evaluation by expert judges. This process of validating instruments must go through stages in order to find good validity coefficients for a scale to be considered for use. First, we searched for different phrases and items for different types of abuse in different types of scales and instruments that measured the variable of violence against women. A total of 58 items were found, which were presented to the judges and divided into psychological, physical, sexual and economic abuse. At the end of this stage, 32 items were found: 16 items were chosen to measure psychological violence, 11 for physical violence, 3 for sexual violence and 2 for economic violence. Finally, the instrument was applied in a pilot study of 27 randomly selected married women, seeking feedback on the newly formulated scale (Haj-yahia, 1999). It is worth noting that the Cronbach’s alpha, which assesses the level of reliability, achieved by the scale was 0.92 for psychological abuse, 0.93 for physical violence, 0.86 for sexual violence and 0.71 for economic abuse.

2.1 TRANSLATIONS OF HAJ-YAHIA’S AROUND THE WORLD

Other translations of the instrument have already been carried out, such as the one by Ghorbani *et al* (2022). The aim of this study was to investigate the psychometric properties and factor structure of the Haj-Yahia Questionnaire in a sample of married women living in Tehran. According to the authors, the scale with all its items was considered acceptable, with good alpha coefficients, estimated at 0.90, 0.93, 0.79 and 0.78, with a final alpha of 0.95, emphasizing that the scale has good reliability and construct validity.

Thus, through a cross-cultural adaptation process, the Haj-Yahia Questionnaire factorial research instrument was applied to a sample of married women in Tehran, of whom 471 participants were chosen through convenient sampling. The psychometric

characteristics of the questionnaire were analyzed using appearance validity, content validity, construct validity, internal reliability and stability.

3 MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research sought to cross-culturally adapt into Brazilian Portuguese the scale, *Haj-Yahia's questionnaire of violence against women*, which was created in 1999 and measures the four types of violence against women: psychological, physical, sexual and economic violence. In this way, the dimensions of violence against women were taken into account, in an attempt to make the scale reliable for acting to prevent mistreatment and promote psychosocial interventions.

Thus, according to Alexandre and Coluci (2011), a cross-cultural translation that aims for content validity must go through expert evaluation, quantitative measures, a content validity instrument and the Kappa coefficient. Using this approach, this translation sought a process of content validity, which is divided into several stages.

3.1 FIRST STAGE

In the first stage, the instrument was translated from the source language into the target language by foreign language teachers. Once translated, the translations were synthesized to find a translation that was more reliable and adapted to Brazilian Portuguese, with the primary scale.

3.2 SECOND STAGE

This synthesis was then sent to three *expert judges* to evaluate the translations in terms of Clarity of Language, Practical Relevance and Theoretical Relevance. In this context, only 3 of the 32 items in the scale required revision.

3.3 THIRD STAGE

Then, in order to verify content validity, the Content Validity Coefficient and Fleiss's Kappa were calculated. Finally, the instrument was evaluated by women who

were the instrument's target audience and a reverse translation into the original language was carried out.

4 RESULTS

The results were developed using a descriptive method in which, after translating the items from the source language into Brazilian Portuguese, the information was sent to expert judges who assessed the validity of the translation.

Evidence of Content Validity:

The Content Validity Coefficient (CVC) was calculated to assess agreement between the judges. According to Oliveira, Souza and Maia (2017), the calculation of the CVC is essential to identify items that are not faithful to the original scale, seeking to assess the level of agreement of the three judges who participated in this study. Thus, the CVC sought to evaluate the 32 items using the criteria of clarity of language, practical relevance and theoretical relevance.

As a result, item 1 and item 13 had to be changed as they did not pass the CVC calculation. After being adapted, we had: "Did you make a decision alone on a matter that concerned both of you?" (item 1) and "He accused you of being a failure as a wife and mother" (item 13). In the end, with the CVC of all the items, the scale proved to be effective, being above the 0.80 average considered acceptable, with 0.95 in clarity, 0.92 in pertinence and 0.93 in relevance. The best rated items were those that sought to assess physical violence, with values of 0.93 in all the criteria evaluated.

Table 1 - Results of the Content Validity Coefficient (CVC)

CVC Total Clarity	CVC Total Relevance	CVC Total Relevance
0.95	0.92	0.93

Source: Authors, based on the data collected.

As this is a categorical variable, we also used Fleiss' Kappa coefficient, an indicator of agreement on content validity, which ranges from 1 to 0. The closer the coefficient is to 1, the better the level of agreement between the judges (Martins, 2006). According to Martins (2006), there are varying levels of interpretation: < 0.00 = bad; 0.00 to 0.20 = weak; 0.21 to 0.40 = poor; 0.41 to 0.60 = fair; 0.61 to 0.80 = good;

0.81 to 0.99 = excellent; 1.00 = perfect. According to this coefficient, the adapted scale is suitable for use, with an overall agreement percentage of 91.67%, i.e. its reliability is considered excellent.

After this, the scale was shown to 15 women, who evaluated their agreement with and understanding of the scale, as well as being evaluated by 5 professors with master's degrees in psychology. Therefore, the final items were found to meet the content validity criteria listed in the attached table.

5 CONCLUSION

Violence against women is a problem that affects women all over the world, and Brazil is no different. The rates of aggression against women in the country are high and manifest themselves as an adversity to public health and the rights of all individuals. It is necessary to emphasize that, even though it is present in the reality of every society, the evidence of violence still does not show its total number, because the aggression is masked by women's fear and embarrassment in reporting the abuse.

In addition, there are few instruments that effectively and excellently measure violence against women. Given the importance of this issue, the cross-cultural translation of Haj-Yahia's scale into Brazilian Portuguese is essential, in order to identify abuse and identify ways of intervening in these acts of violence against women.

According to this study, the scale in question meets the criteria for reliability and validity, with good results in the CVC and Kappa coefficients. Thus, the scale is excellent for analyzing aspects of abuse against women and can be used as a suitable tool for research aimed at evaluating or investigating the impact of violence against women and possible interventions in this problem. It's worth noting that there is still a need for studies that use this scale to show the incidence of violence against women in Brazil.

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