

# Evaluation of Initial Psychometric Properties of Economic Exploitation Scale on Pakistani Sample

Abida Kareem<sup>1</sup>, Hira Aish<sup>2</sup>, Samavia Hussain<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer, Department of Applied Psychology, Government College University, Faisalabad.

<sup>2</sup>MS Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Government College University, Faisalabad.

<sup>3</sup>PhD Scholar, Department of Applied Psychology, Government College University, Faisalabad.

Correspondence: [abidakareem@gcuf.edu.pk](mailto:abidakareem@gcuf.edu.pk)

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** The Economic Exploitation Scale (EES) is a self-rating instrument designed to evaluate economic maltreatment. The existence of an EES in Urdu will increase the use of this scale in Pakistan.

**Aim:** The current investigation aims to translate the EES into Urdu language and determine its initial psychometric properties on the Pakistani population.

**Material and Method:** This study was carried out in Faisalabad Pakistan. The EES, the sub-scale of the Scale of Economic abuse was translated into the Urdu language by following standardized translation procedures. A sample of 50 working women was subjected to Cross-language concordance while test re-test reliability was computed on another sample of 50 working ladies. To assess the internal consistency of the measure, 360 working women from the general population of Faisalabad were given the EES Urdu version. Their ages varied from 23 to 59 ( $M = 37.99$ ,  $SD = 9.15$ ).

**Statistical Analysis:** Mean and standard deviation was computed for continuous parameters, while frequency and percentages were analyzed for categorical variables. Cross-language concordance, test-retest reliability, and internal consistency all were evaluated for the translated Urdu- version of EES.

**Results:** Findings indicated that the English and Urdu versions of EES had strong cross-language similarity at the level of each item varied from 0.63 to 0.95 ( $p < 0.001$ ). Test-retest evaluation of the Urdu form of EES was also found to be positively correlated with each item varied from 0.69 to 0.95 ( $p < 0.001$ ). Translated version showed excellent internal consistency (0.90).

**Conclusion:** Based on good bilingual similarity, test-retest reliability, and internal consistency, it can be concluded that the Urdu version of EES is a sound instrument to evaluate economic maltreatment in the Pakistani cultural context.

**Keywords:** Economic Exploitation, Urdu Version, Psychometric Validation, Pakistan.

## Article History

Received:  
March 12, 2023

Revised:  
June 20, 2023

Accepted:  
June 22, 2023

Published:  
June 25, 2023

## Introduction

Millions of women around the world are victims of assault each year, which is a widespread social problem (Adams et al., 2008). Assaulting is a sequence of actions, usually taken by men towards women, that gives the offender an advantage over the victim in terms of power and control (Adams et al., 2015). Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse as well as economic exploitation also falls under this category (Moe & Bell, 2004). Economic exploitation is the practice of limiting a woman's access to, utilization of, and upkeep of finances while putting her financial security and autonomy at risk. (Chatha & Ahmad, 2020). Abusive men frequently make it difficult for women to find and keep jobs, which has a considerable impact on their ability to accumulate prosperity. According to research, abusive men intentionally ban, deter, and discourage spouses from earning outside the home (Brewster, 2003; VonDeLinde, 2002). Goodkind et al. (2004), discussed how abusive males undermine their partners' job-seeking efforts by causing apparent harm (for instance, deactivating the alarm, and refusing to arrange child care to keep their partners away from job fairs and interviews). Abusive men additionally make it difficult for their partners to keep jobs by turning around at their places of employment, calling them during the day, and tormenting fellow employees (Riger et al., 2001). Such work-related disturbance can have serious consequences, such as lost workdays, fewer hours worked, and job loss (Tolman & Wang, 2005). Stopping women from employing the financial resources they have already acquired is another kind of financial mistreatment. In particular, influencing how money is allocated and monitoring its utilization is one way that violent males exercise authority (Anderson et al., 2008; Brewster, 2003). Women who experience maltreatment frequently claim that their spouses severely restrict their access to home resources. Furthermore, women indicate that they are refused the right to money to purchase basic needs like meals, whereas other women stated that they were given a set amount of money that can only be used for basic home needs (Coker et al., 2000). Additionally, research demonstrates that controlling men cover up their spouses' access to joint bank accounts, conceal jointly earned money, fabricate assets, and conceal financial details. (Brewster, 2003; Coker et al., 2000).

## Literature Review

Married women have a higher risk of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse from an intimate partner due to a variety of financial circumstances (Yau et al., 2021). This risk persists even into old age (Nosheen, 2011). An early study conducted by Orava et al. (1996) demonstrated that abused women experienced a lesser degree of power, were noticeably unhappy, and exhibited worse self-esteem than nonabused women. A growing corpus of studies has revealed how controlling males utilize a range of strategies to obstruct their partners' capacity to maintain employment. For instance, women interviewed by Riger et al. (2001) stated that their spouses had hampered their attempts to commute to work by taking their money and keys to their vehicles, destroying their automobiles and beating them, not showing up to take responsibility for their kids, and failing to provide them with a ride to their jobs. These strategies as well as others, like depriving women of their medications, keeping them awake at night, cutting their hair, hiding their clothing, and causing injuries, have been documented worldwide (Brandwein & Filiano, 2000; Brewster, 2003; Moe & Bell, 2004). Anderson et al (2003) examined the incidence of stealing by husbands in a sample of four hundred and eighty-five women who received assistance from a program for domestic violence prevention. The results showed that thirty-eight percent of the female respondents said that their spouses had taken money from them. Furthermore, Anderson et al. (2003) concluded that abusive males interfere with their partners' attempts to engage in self-improvement activities intended to improve their marketability in employment and increase their chances of getting a decent job. Despite Pakistan having strong laws protecting women's rights, a study by Pakeeza (2015) showed that men still dominate women in traditional and cultural contexts as well as in the social, and economic spheres.

It is also documented that victims' emotional and psychological health suffers as a result of economic exploitation. According to Kanougiya et al. (2021), there is a strong positive association between economic abuse, depressive and anxiety symptoms, as well as poor quality of life. Gibbs et al. (2018) studied South African women who had experienced economic abuse in the previous 12 months as well as

depressive and suicidal thoughts in the previous 4 weeks. The results showed that 46.5 and 31.2 percent of women, respectively, had clinical symptoms of depression and suicidal thoughts. When Johnson et al. (2022) analyzed research that looked at how economic abuse affected victims, the findings showed a positive association between economic abuse and negative mental health outcomes, such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, and suicidal thoughts. The consequence of economic abuse in the form of mental health that was most commonly studied was depression. Other psychological components of mental health such as low self-esteem, and poor quality of life were also found positively correlated with economic abuse. The prevalence and effects of physical, psychological, and sexual abuse have been the subject of much research; nevertheless, scientific research has paid far less consideration to economic abuse. Our study aims to translate the scale of economic exploitation into Urdu to make it understandable for the Pakistani population.

### ***Objectives of the Study***

- To translate the EES from English into the Urdu language.
- To determine the bilingual concordance, test retest reliability and internal consistency of EES.

### ***Hypotheses of the Study***

H 1: It was hypothesized that English and Urdu versions of the Economic Exploitation Scale will significantly positively correlated with each other.

H 2: Test-retest assessments of the Urdu version of EES will significantly positively correlate with the level of each item.

H 3: The Urdu version of EES will show good internal consistency.

### ***Materials and Methods***

The present study was conducted at Government College University Faisalabad after approval of the Ethical Review Board of the Institute. The translation of EES into Urdu was part of a larger investigation of “Economic abuse, life satisfaction, self-esteem, and psychopathology among Pakistani married women”.

### ***Measure***

**Economic Exploitation Scale (Adams et al., 2008):** The Economic Exploitation Scale is a sub-scale of the Economic Abuse Scale. The Economic Abuse Scale comprises two subscales, Economic Control, and Economic Exploitation, with seventeen and eleven items, respectively. Items are scored using a 7-point Likert scale. The scale goes from 1 for never to 9 for preferring not to respond. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to evaluate the SEA's (original form) internal consistency. The reliability coefficient for the complete SEA was .93 while the alpha coefficients for the Economic Control and Economic Exploitation subscales, were 0.91 and 0.89, respectively.

### ***The Translation Process of EES into the Urdu Language***

Before translating the EES into the Urdu language, permission was obtained from concerning authors (Adams et al., 2008). We followed the standard guidelines proposed by the MAPI Research procedure to translate the scale (Acquadro et al., 2012). Two mental health professionals having sufficient formal knowledge of translation and familiar with culture as well as experts in English and Urdu language translated the eleven items of the EES from English to the Urdu language. Two members having experience in translation of instruments other than translators reviewed the translated version of the measure. After discussions and suggestions from reviewers, the best version of Urdu translation was reached considering the ease by which it could be understood by the general population. Following all the modifications, the members selected a translation draught. Two additional multilingual mental health practitioners who were unfamiliar with the English version of measure were then given the draught to

back-translation. The members of the panel compared the back-translated versions to the English version of the EES. After lengthy contemplation, a new draft of the Urdu translation was created to ensure that there are no ambiguities regarding the intended purpose of any term or expression. Twenty working women were chosen for the debriefing by convenient sampling technique. Those who were fluent in the Urdu language were included. They were questioned about any understanding issues they may have had as well as their understanding of the items under discussion. The panel agreed on a final translated version after taking into account all the ideas that seemed to be the most appropriate for the targeted population.

### ***Participants and Procedure***

The final Urdu-translated version of the EES was assessed for Cronbach's alpha, cross-language concordance, and test retest reliability. A total of 350 working women with ages ranging from 23 to 59 years ( $M=37.99$ ,  $SD=9.15$ ) were chosen from the general community by purposive sampling technique. Written consent was obtained from all participants to ensure their willingness to participate in the study. For the assessment of cross-language equivalence, fifty working ladies familiar with English, as well as Urdu language, were selected. The sample included twenty-five Secondary school teachers and twenty-five lady health workers. We employed a crossover design, where half of the randomly chosen individuals received either the English or Urdu versions initially. The alternate version was then delivered to the same individuals two weeks later. The Urdu version was administered twice, one week apart, to an additional group of forty working ladies to examine test-retest reliability. The final translated Urdu version's scores were compared using the Pearson correlation coefficient and intra-class correlation coefficient for the test-retest reliability at baseline.

### ***Statistical Analysis***

We analyzed the data using SPSS version 23. Mean and standard deviation was calculated for continuous variables, while percentages and frequencies were calculated for categorical variables. The cross-language concordance between the item scores of the English and translated Urdu versions were examined, as well as the test-retest reliability of the measure, using both the Pearson correlation coefficient and intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC). Cronbach's alpha was used to compute the internal consistency of Urdu version of the scale.

### ***Results***

The participant's age range was 23 to 59 years ( $M=37.99$ ,  $SD=9.15$ ) while the mean of education years was 16.87 ( $SD = 1.18$ ).

#### ***Cross-Language Concordance***

Results indicated that the English as well as Urdu versions of EES has good internal consistency which was .85 and .82 respectively. At the item level, there was a statistically significant positive correlation between the English and Urdu versions of the measure ( $p < 0.001$ ). For each item, the intra-class correlation score, which ranged from 0.63 to 0.95, was significant (Table 2).

#### ***Test-Retest Reliability***

Each item between the two assessments of the Urdu version was determined to be significantly associated, according to test-retest reliability ( $p < 0.001$ ) with an intra-class correlation value that was significant for each item and varied from 0.69 to 0.95 (Table 3).

#### ***Internal Consistency***

We used the data of three hundred and sixty participants to determine the internal consistency of the Urdu version of the measure. Cronbach's alpha was 0.90 which falls in the "Excellent" category.

Table 1: *Demographics of the Sample (N = 360)*

Variables	Groups	<i>F</i>	%
Gender	Women	360	100
	Total	360	100
Residence	Urban	327	90.8
	Rural	33	8.9
	Total	360	100
Family System	Joint	242	67.2
	Nuclear	118	32.8
	Total	360	100

The sample's gender, place of residence, and family system demographics are shown in Table 1.

Table 2: *Descriptive Statistics of the Demographic Features of the study (N = 360)*

Variables	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Age	37.99	9.15
Education	16.87	1.18
Monthly Income	72727.7	94253.57

Table 2 displays descriptive statistics for the sample's continuous demographic characteristics, including age, education, and monthly income.

Table 3: *Cross Language Concordance between the 11 Items of English and Urdu versions of EES (N =50).*

Items	Eng. <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	Urdu <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	<i>R</i>	<i>ICC</i>
EES 1	1.55(0.55)	1.65(0.76)	.82***	.87***
EES 2	2.62(1.84)	2.20(1.06)	.18***	.88***
EES 3	1.73(0.90)	1.75(0.92)	.68***	.81***
EES 4	.272(1.01)	2.35(1.22)	.71***	.80***
EES 5	1.82(0.74)	1.82(0.71)	.85***	.92***
EES 6	2.15(0.92)	1.90(0.77)	.66***	.77***
EES 7	2.05(0.90)	1.95(0.93)	.85***	.92***
EES 8	2.39(1.01)	2.02(0.99)	.69***	.80***
EES 9	1.75(0.63)	1.67(0.61)	.84***	.91***
EES 10	1.65(0.86)	1.50(0.75)	.70***	.81***
EES 11	1.57(0.71)	1.37(0.66)	.77***	.85***

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , EES (Economic Exploitation Scale)

Cross-language analysis of the Urdu Form of EES on fifty participants with the interval of 2 weeks is shown in table 3.

Table 4: *Test re-test reliability of Urdu versions of the of EES (N =40)*

Items	Urdu 1 <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	Urdu 2 <i>M</i> ( <i>SD</i> )	<i>R</i>	<i>ICC</i>
EES 1	1.69 (0.94)	1.67 (0.84)	.74***	.85***
EES 2	1.58 (1.44)	1.54 (1.05)	.87***	.85***
EES 3	1.12 (0.60)	1.42 (0.61)	.70***	.77***
EES 4	1.23 (0.91)	1.29 (0.91)	.78***	.87***
EES 5	1.31 (0.63)	1.15 (0.69)	.69***	.75***
EES 6	1.34 (0.83)	1.32 (0.86)	.71***	.81***
EES 7	1.29 (0.61)	1.09 (0.62)	.72***	.83***
EES 8	1.74 (0.12)	1.71 (1.03)	.80***	.91***

EES 9	1.22 (0.36)	1.21 (0.42)	.78***	.87***
EES 10	1.10 (0.41)	1.06 (0.46)	.73***	.84***
EES 11	1.10 (0.58)	1.12 (0.61)	.77***	.85***

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , EES (Economic Exploitation Scale)

Table 5: *Item Total Statistics for EES (N = 360)*

Item No.	Item-Total Correlation	$\alpha$ if Item Deleted
SEA1	.616	.733
SEA 2	.344	.761
SEA 3	.595	.741
SEA 4	.544	.732
SEA 5	.611	.746
SEA 6	.572	.732
SEA 7	.402	.746
SEA 8	.489	.745
SEA 9	.536	.743
SEA 10	.731	.803
SEA 11	.612	.730

Table 5 demonstrates how the alpha values can change from .73 to .80 by leaving out a single item.

## Discussion

The goal of the current study was to translate the Economic Exploitation Scale, (a subscale of economic abuse), into Urdu language for the Pakistani population and establish cross-cultural concordance with it. As far as we are aware, Pakistan lacks an Urdu version of any tool that may measure economic abuse against women. The authors hope to offer a tool that is ethnically suitable for the indigenous population by translating the Economic Exploitation Scale into Urdu. The results of the current study revealed, that the Scale of Economic Exploitation in Urdu (Adams et al., 2008) is a psychometrically sound measure since it has high internal consistency, test re-test reliability, and cross-language compatibility. To produce the EES Urdu version we followed the forward translation and back translation guidelines proposed by the MAPI organization. According to translation rules, the primary focus was placed on the words or phrases analogous and comprehensible connotations instead of just their literal translation. People from the population where the measure is intended for usage were included in the translation process to ensure that the language is easy to understand and clear with fewer words.

A statistically significant Pearson correlation coefficient and cross-language coherence for each of the 11 items imply that the Economic Exploitation Scale's Urdu and English versions evaluate the same ideas. Each item's test-retest reliability was determined to be very good. Significant intra-class correlation coefficients and Pearson correlation coefficients across all the items showed that the degree of translation was suitable for usage among Urdu-speaking populations. The scale's internal consistency was estimated using a Cronbach's alpha that was 0.90 which is comparable with the measure's original form (Adams et al., 2008).

To sum up, the current research demonstrates that the Urdu version of the Economic Exploitation scale has good cross-language similarity, internal consistency, and test-retest reliability. The English version's internal consistency was similarly determined to be excellent. The Urdu-translated version of the measure can be applied in the future to evaluate women's economic abuse by self- or informant ratings. According to the current study, the translated form of economic exploitation into Urdu is a reliable tool.



## Conclusion

The EES has been translated from English to Urdu using a standard process, and the final Urdu version was assessed for its initial psychometrics in terms of bilingual concordance, test re-test reliability, and internal consistency. The Urdu and English versions of EES had good cross-language concordance. The Urdu version of EES has good test re-test reliability and internal consistency which falls in the “excellent” category. Based on the aforementioned findings, it can be said that the EES in Urdu is a sound measure of economic maltreatment in the context of Pakistani culture.

## Limitations and Suggestions

The present study evaluated the initial psychometric properties of the economic Exploitation Scale, however, the EES will be validated in a subsequent study utilizing confirmatory factor analysis. The study's restricted sample, which was limited to Faisalabad's urban and rural areas, is another drawback. This limits the instrument's potential to be broadly applied and ignores the cultural uniqueness of different provinces of Pakistan. Finally, while the study we have here was done on a general population, it is recommended that future research be done on a clinical group.

## Acknowledgments

None.


## Conflict of Interest


Authors declared no conflict of interest.


## Funding Source

The authors received no funding to conduct this study.

## ORCID iDs

Abida Kareem <sup>1</sup>  <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-1818-643X>

Hira Aish <sup>2</sup>  <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-4806-9734>

Samavia Hussain <sup>3</sup>  <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-9890-5809>

## References

- Acquadro, C., Patrick, D. L., Eremenco, S., Martin, M. L., Kuliš, D., Correia, H., & Conway, K. (2018). Emerging good practices for translatability assessment (TA) of patient-reported outcome (PRO) measures. *Journal of Patient-reported Outcomes*, 2, 1-11.
- Adams AE, Sullivan CM, Bybee D, Greeson MR. (2008) Development of the scale of economic abuse. *Violence against Women*. 14(5), 563–588.
- Adams, A. E., Beeble, M. L., & Gregory, K. A. (2015). Evidence of the construct validity of the scale of economic abuse. *Violence and Victims*, 30(3), 363-376.
- Anderson, M. A., Gillig, P. M., Sitaker, M., McCloskey, K., Malloy, K., & Grigsby, N. (2003). “Why doesn’t she just leave?”: A descriptive study of victim reported impediments to her safety. *Journal of Family Violence*, 18, 151-155.
- Brandwein, R. A., & Filiano, D. M. (2000). Toward Real Welfare reform: The voices of battered women. *Affilia*, 15(2), 224-243.

- Brewster, M. P. (2003). Power and control dynamics in pre-stalking and stalking situations. *Journal of Family Violence*, 18, 207-217.
- Chatha, S. A., & Ahmad, D. K. (2020). Socio-economic status and domestic violence: a study on married women in urban Lahore, Pakistan. *South Asian Studies*, 29(1), 229-237.
- Coker, A. L., Smith, P. H., McKeown, R. E., & King, M. J. (2000). Frequency and correlates of intimate partner violence by type: physical, sexual, and psychological battering. *American Journal of Public Health*, 90(4), 553-559.
- Gibbs, A., Dunkle, K., & Jewkes, R. (2018). Emotional and economic intimate partner violence as key drivers of depression and suicidal ideation: A cross-sectional study among young women in informal settlements in South Africa. *PloS one*, 13(4), e0194885.
- Goodkind, J. R., Sullivan, C. M., & Bybee, D. I. (2004). A contextual analysis of battered women's safety planning. *Violence against Women*, 10(5), 514-533.
- Johnson, L., Chen, Y., Stylianou, A., & Arnold, A. (2022). Examining the impact of economic abuse on survivors of intimate partner violence: a scoping review. *BMC Public Health*, 22(1), 1-19.
- Kanougiya, S., Daruwalla, N., Gram, L., Gupta, A. D., Sivakami, M., & Osrin, D. (2021). Economic abuse and its associations with symptoms of common mental disorders among women in a cross-sectional survey in informal settlements in Mumbai, India. *BMC Public Health*, 21(1), 1-14.
- Moe, A. M., & Bell, M. P. (2004). Abject economics: The effects of battering and violence on women's work and employability. *Violence against Women*, 10(1), 29-55.
- Nosheen, H. (2011). Violence against Women. *Dialogue*, 6(3).
- Orava, T. A., McLeod, P. J., & Sharpe, D. (1996). Perceptions of control, depressive symptomatology and self-esteem of women in transition from abusive relations. *Journal of Family Violence*, 11, 167-186.
- Pakeeza, S. (2015). Domestic violence laws and practices in Pakistan. *VFAST Transactions on Education and Social Sciences*, 6(1), 46-49.
- Riger, S., Ahrens, C., & Blickenstaff, A. (2001). Measuring interference with employment and education reported by women with abusive partners: Preliminary data. In K. D. O'Leary & R. D. Maiuro (Eds.), *Psychological abuse in violent domestic relations* (pp. 119-133). New York: Springer.
- Tolman, R. M., & Wang, H. (2005). Domestic violence and women's employment: Fixed effects models of three waves of women's employment study data. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 36, 147-158.
- VonDeLinde, K. M. C. (2002). How are domestic violence programs meeting the economic needs of battered women in Iowa? An assessment and recommendations. *Building Comprehensive Solutions to Domestic Violence Publication*, 16.
- Yau, J. H. Y., Wong, J. Y. H., & Fong, D. Y. T. (2021). Economic abuse as a form of intimate partner violence: a literature review of the instruments and mental well-being outcomes. *Violence and Victims*, 36(4), 479-492.