ADAPTATION OF SELF REPORTED AND INFORMANT REPORTED DELINQUENCY SCALE ON THE FEMALES ADOLESCENTS OF SLUM AREAS

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE
To adapt Self-Reported Delinquency Scale (SRDS) and the Informant Reported Delinquency Scale (IRDS) for female adolescents of slum areas.

STUDY DESIGN
Exploratory research design

PLACE OF STUDY
The study was conducted in Islamabad during 2013-2014.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS
The sample consisted of 100 adolescent girls with the age range of 13-17 years from the slum areas of Islamabad. The sample also included 88 informants of adolescent girls with age range between 28-60 years. The Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F) helped in measuring the delinquent behaviour from individuals while Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F) measured the delinquent behaviour from the observant point of view.

RESULTS
Alpha reliability of the both scales SRDS-F and IRDS-F were highly significant. The item total correlation of 28 items of the SRDS-F and IRDS-F were satisfactory on each items. The present study result also showed positive correlation between two scales.

CONCLUSION
This new scale was named as Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F) and Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female version (IRDS-F). It has strong psychometric properties. Thus, these both instruments are reliable and valid to use in any future study concerning female delinquency.

KEY WORDS
Delinquency, Slum Areas, Self Reported and Informant Delinquency Scale-Female Version

INTRODUCTION

Delinquency is a diverse concept in many perspectives, including different types of behaviours that are deviant to social norms like theft, damage to property, robbery, drug abuse, and involvement in heterosexual and homosexual activities[1]. During last year major crimes reported in different provinces of Pakistan estimated 296 cases in Islamabad, 22945 in Punjab, 3680 in Sindh, 8971 in KPK and 376 cases in Baluchistan. The major categories of crime included in these areas were theft and fraud crimes, crimes involving physical harm, crimes pertaining to property, crimes against women and many other[2].

Female Juvenile delinquency is a serious problem that has surrounded almost every country of the world. Females who involve in delinquent acts are observed to be poor and unskilful with the need of education. Many of these females come from indigent environment particularly from urban slums, reared in single parent family structure. An outline of at-risk adolescent female determines that victimization history, broken family structure, poor family environment, social isolation, low self efficacy, school drop-out or increased truancy, drug abuse issues and unstable mental health are the underlying causes behind the female delinquency[3]. In Pakistan, due to insufficient resources no liable record has been maintained for female delinquents. In the light of above mentioned facts it deems necessary to investigate this neglected area and highlight the patterns of delinquency among female adolescents of slums. In this regard, measuring delinquency among girls was a big issue as there was no proper instrument available. Previously, few researchers aimed at the development of delinquency measures in Pakistan but they were confined only for male population[4,5].

Therefore, present study aimed at the adaptation of SRDS Self-Reported Delinquency Scale (SRDS) and the Informant Reported Delinquency Scale (IRDS)[6] for female population. it is a self report measure with good psychometric properties. The scales with strong psychometric properties are preferred for modification and researchers should carefully examine the scale's dimensionality, reliability, and validity[7]. Researchers show that self-report measures of delinquency have the benefit of permitting the more illustrated picture of an event and the transmission of delinquent behaviour[8,9].

Objective of the study was to adapt the Self Reported Delinquency Scale (SRDS) and Informant Reported Scale (IRDS) for female adolescents. To determine the psychometric properties of the adapted scale for the female population.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Participants

The sample was comprised of 100 female adolescents and 88 informants (in some cases informants provide information about more than one adolescent therefore the number of informants is less than adolescents). The participant's age range was between 13-17 years and they were working as a servant at different work places. The age range of informants was between 28-60 years. For the present study data was collected from the slum areas including F-7 sector (n= 21), Fauji Colony (n= 37), and railway track near H-10 sector (n= 42) and they were approached with the help of convenient sampling technique. Only those girls were taken whose informants were available. The criterion of informants was the person (not having blood relation with participant) who spent at least five hours a day with the participant and is at least 10 years older than the concerned person.

Instruments

To adapt the scale following step were taken; focus group discussions, committee approach, subject matter experts and psychometric properties of the scale through reliability and validity (item total correlation).

1. Focus Group Discussions

As a first step three focus group discussions were conducted by the researcher. First focus group was consisted of two students of MS and two PhD scholars of Psychology. The second focus group was consisted of five females of 9th and 10th grade students. The third group included the seven female adolescents of deprived areas. The fourth focus group incorporated five informants. The criterion of informants was the person who spent at least five hours a day with the adolescents and is at least 10 years older than the concerned person. During the focus group discussions it was considered carefully that every person have the chance to share her views. The important notes were taken by the researcher during the discussions. As a result of these focus group discussions researcher found female aggression as an underline construct towards female delinquency and generated few questions related to this dimension of females. Afterwards, a draft of a questionnaire (with 33 statements) was made by researcher.

2. Committee Approach

Committee consisted of five PhD professors, were approached by the researcher to carefully analyze each statement of the questionnaire. The committee experts individually gave their opinions. Following to their recommendations changes were made in the questionnaire. After that another committee consisted of the supervisor of the study; one senior faculty member of psychology department and the researcher herself further finalize the items and name the instrument as Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female version (SRDS-F) and Informant reported delinquency Scale-Female version (IRDS-F).

3. Subject Matter Experts (SME)

In third step subject matter experts of delinquency were consulted.

These experts analyzed and rated the items in terms of their ability to measure the construct of female delinquency. Expert in this phase were senior faculty members having in-depth experience and extensive research work in the area of delinquency. On the consensus of subject matter experts total 28 items were finalized with measuring dimensions of theft, drug abuse, lying, non-compliance to adults, police encounter, aggression and violence related delinquency, sex related delinquency and cheating. The dimension of gambling of the original scale was excluded for this new female version scale. In the new scale item no: 19, 25 and 28 were rephrased. On the dimension of theft new item 22 was added and on the dimension of aggression five new items were generated i.e. item no: 4, 9, 14, 17 and 23.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INSTRUMENT

Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F) and Informant reported Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F):
Each scale consists of 28 item and items are same in both scales. All items of the scale are positively stated. All these items are arranged on a 5-point Likert type scale. There are following response categories of the scales:

Response category	Score
Never	0
One time	1
2-5 times	2
5-10 times	3
10 or more times	4

The possible score range on these scales is from 0–112. Higher the score on both the scales mean higher the delinquency among female adolescents. The under lying patterns or dimensions of delinquency on both SRDS-F and IRDS-F are:

1. Theft measured by the item no 1, 6, 12, 22 and 28
2. Drug abuse measured by item no.3, 11, and 21
3. Lying measured by item no 13
4. Non compliance to adults by item no 20
5. Police encounter measured by item no 24
6. Aggression and Violence related delinquency by item no 2, 4, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18, 23, and 27
7. Cheating by item no 7, 16, and 25,
8. Sex related delinquency by item no 5, 10, 15, 19 and 26.

Procedure

The participants of slum areas were selected from the F-7 sector, Fauji colony and railway track near H-10 sector of Islamabad. After taking the inform consent Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F) for females was administered individually on a sample of 100 participants. For collecting the data from informants, Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F) was administered. Researcher gave instructions about the questionnaires and explained each statement to the participants and the informants and written the information carefully. The participants were assured that their identity will not be disclosed and this information will be used only for the research purpose.

RESULTS

Cornbach's Reliability Coefficient was calculated for the 28 items comprising each scale for the determination of reliability of Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F) and Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F). The result in the table 1 indicates that these two measures have significant Cornbach's Reliability Coefficient. The reliability for SRDS-F is .82 and for IRDS-F is .93.

Table 1
Reliability of Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F), Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F), N=100.

Scales	No. of Items	Cornbach's Reliability Coefficient
SRDS-F	28	.82
IRDS-F	28	.93

Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F), Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F)

For the evaluation of validity of Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F) and Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F), item total correlation was calculated. Table 2 shows item-total correlation for 28 items of SRDS-F. It is clear from the result that all of the items for SRDS-F correlate very well with the scale and overall showing internal consistency of the scale which indicates validity of adapted Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F).

Results in table 3 shows item correlation of all items on IRDS-F. Alpha Coefficient indicates the internal consistency of the entire scale which also depicts the validity of the adapted Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F).

It is observed from the table 4 that there exists strong correlation between SRDS-F and IRDS-F ($r = 0.8$, $p < .01$). It also indicates that both measures have positive correlation with each other. These findings suggest that if both scales are used together, they may better assess delinquent behaviour of an individual.

Table 2
Item total correlation of the Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (SRDS-F), N=100.

No. of Items	r	No. of Items	r
1	.65	15	.61
2	.40	16	.43
3	.32	17	.32
4	.30	18	.46
5	.30	19	.39
6	.37	20	.48
7	.32	21	.35
8	.43	22	.37
9	.42	23	.43
10	.41	24	.39
11	.68	25	.47
12	.35	26	.61
13	.48	27	.35
14	.32	28	.30

Table 3
Item total correlation of the Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version (IRDS-F), N=100

No. of Items	r	No. of Items	r
1	.67	15	.65
2	.61	16	.73
3	.51	17	.30
4	.34	18	.50
5	.58	19	.85
6	.84	20	.79
7	.74	21	.42
8	.73	22	.35
9	.81	23	.86
10	.52	24	.41
11	.71	25	.49
12	.86	26	.61
13	.79	27	.35
14	.77	28	.33

Table 4
Correlation Matrix of SRDS-F (Self Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version), and IRDS-F (Informant Reported Delinquency Scale-Female Version), N=100.

Scales	SRDS	IRDS
SRDS	-	0.8**
IRDS		-

** $p < .01$ (Self Reported Delinquency Scale Female Version (SRDS-F), Informant Reported Delinquency Scale Female Version (IRDS-F).

DISCUSSION

The present study was aimed to adapt the Self-Reported Delinquency Scale (SRDS) and the Informant Reported Delinquency Scale (IRDS) for female adolescents of slum areas. Previously, social scientists have ignored females from their researches of delinquency apparently believing that there is no far difference between the intensity of delinquency rather they considered female delinquency as a minor subset of male delinquency[10,11].

The young girls coming from deprived areas are commonly identified of having tendency of delinquency. Their social background is more often similar to that of male delinquents like they are uneducated and belong from low socioeconomic status and minority groups. It is plausible to argue that greater freedom in public places like work settings, shopping, banking, driving etc has increased female participation in petty crimes like shoplifting, frauds, stealing, cheating. Researchers also argue that these petty crimes are usually committed by those females who are economically deprived and facing intensive financial constraints due to increase divorce rates and single parenthood burdened them with enlarged responsibility of nurturing children[12,13].

Self reported measures are most preferable by scholars to in-depth analyze delinquent behaviour and the involvement of gang in different crimes. So self-report scales are also valid source of measuring delinquent behaviour among offenders[14,15].

In the original Self Reported Delinquency Scale (SRDS) and Informant

Reported Delinquency Scale (IRDS) there were some items that were not suitable for the present sample. So, it was deemed necessary to adapt the scale separately for female adolescents. Following the standard procedure followed during the adaptation of Mak's self-reported delinquency scale for Western Australian adolescents16. In line with this context, some of the items were discarded and few were modified accordingly. Moreover, new dimension of 'female aggression' was added and few items were generated for covering this facet. To control faking and natural reluctance on the behalf of respondents the researchers also adapted the informant reported scale. Researchers have highlighted the significance of taking information on the subject of delinquency from different resources including teachers, peers and parents etc[8,9].

The result analysis revealed significant reliability of the adapted instruments. Therefore, SRDS and IRDS both measures are reliable to use in any future study Likewise, item-total correlation showed that all items correlate very well with the scale and overall showing internal consistency of the scale which also indicates that the both adapted scales SRDS-F and IRDS-f have high validity. Researchers mentioned that strong correlations between the items of same construct indicate high validity of the instrument[17,18]. It was hypothesized that the adapted Self-reported delinquency and Informant-reported delinquency female version will have positive correlation. The result analysis confirms this hypothesis. The result findings showed that both scales have significant positive correlation with each other. These findings are in line with the prior literature in which informant reported delinquency was found as a reliable verification source over the self-reported delinquency[8,19].

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that adapted Self-reported delinquency scale and Informant-reported delinquency scale (Female Version) has strong psychometric properties. Thus, these both instruments are reliable and valid to use in any future study concerning female delinquency.

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