Reviewers report

Title: Psychiatric Rating Scales In Urdu: A Systematic Review

Version: 1  Date: 5 September 2007

Reviewer: David B Mumford

Reviewers report:

General

This review is a useful and thorough piece of work, which will certainly provide a good point of reference for anyone undertaking psychiatric research in Pakistan in the future. The authors are to be commended for their comprehensive search methodology, including both published studies and unpublished theses and dissertations where such material may well be found.

As the principal author of several of the studies under review, I can vouch for the accuracy and thoroughness of the analysis presented here.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None recommended

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The tables are not easy to follow, and would benefit from being in landscape format. I doubt if PsycINFO goes back to 1806! (p 6)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

I should like to have seen a more wide-ranging Discussion, particularly about the data on the psychometric properties of the instruments. Is there evidence that translated questionnaires yield better results in an educated/literate/urban population than a rural/illiterate sample? Questionnaires derived de novo, based on how the local population thinks and feels, ought to obtain better results in more traditional areas - but is this hypothesis borne out in practice?

Like the authors, I am gratified by the range of validated modern instruments now available in Urdu, but I do not especially regret the absence of some older instruments (HRSD, MADRS, BDI). However the focus in Pakistani research is clearly on common mental disorders rather than schizophrenia and other psychoses.
What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.

Professor David B Mumford