Validity and Reliability of Health Promoting Lifestyle Profile II in the Iranian Elderly

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ABSTRACT

Background: With increasing age, the prevalence of chronic diseases increases. Since health-promoting behaviors (HPB) are considered a basic way of preventing diseases, especially chronic diseases, it is important to assess HPB. This study examines the validity and reliability of the Health Promoting Lifestyle Profile II (HPLP-II).

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study which is conducted on 502 elderly individuals aged 60 and over in Tehran, Iran. In order to determine the validity, content and construct validity were used. The content validity index (CVI) was used to assess the content validity and to assess construct validity, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), and item-total correlations were employed. For reliability, test-retest analysis was used, and the internal consistency of the HPLP-II was confirmed by Cronbach’s alpha. For data analysis, SPSS-18 and Amos-7 software was used.

Results: The mean age of the subjects was 66.3 ± 5.3 years. The CVI for the revised HPLP-II and all its subscales was higher than 0.82. The CFA confirmed a six-factor model aligned with the original HPLP-II. Pearson correlation coefficients between the revised HPLP-II and their items were in range of 0.27–0.65. Cronbach’s alpha of the revised HPLP-II was obtained as 0.78 and for their subscales were in the range of 0.67–0.84. Intraclass correlation coefficient was obtained 0.79 (95% confidence interval: 0.59–0.86, \( P < 0.001 \)).

Conclusions: The Iranian HPLP-II scale is an appropriate tool for assessing HPBs of the Iranian elderly.

Keywords: Health-promoting behavior, Health Promoting Lifestyle Profile-II, reliability, the elderly, validity

INTRODUCTION

The improvement of health conditions has enhanced longevity and consequently increased the population of...
the elderly in Iran. Iran’s population is also aging at a

dramatic speed. With increasing age, the prevalence of

certain diseases increases. The most common causes

death in all age groups above 50 years are cardiovascular
diseases, cancers, respiratory diseases, and accidents; all
these diseases can be prevented by health-promoting
behavior (HPB). Among the determinants of health, HPB
has been acknowledged as the basic way of
preventing disease, especially chronic disease, so HPB
and lifestyle should be considered the main strategy to
maintain and improve health. A healthy lifestyle is a
way of life that provides, maintains and improves the
health and wellbeing of a person. The most important
HPB include healthy eating, physical activities, stress
management, interpersonal communication, spiritual
growth, and health responsibility. The attitude indicating
it is too late to change or modify poor health behaviors
in older adults is totally wrong. Studies show that a
higher level of HPB among elderly people correlates with
a lower mortality rate. To increase the level of HPB, it
is necessary to evaluate these behaviors. Decision-makers
on health issues, prior to any intervention aimed at
promoting healthy behaviors, must first make an initial
assessment of the current situation. When considering
certain conditions and diseases of the elderly, the
evaluation of lifestyle, especially in relation to HPB
during this stage of life, is very important. Therefore,
the availability of effective tools is necessary. The Health
Promoting Lifestyle Profile II (HPLP-II) questionnaire
is the revised version of the HPLP questionnaire and
was first designed by Walker et al. This questionnaire
includes 52 items and the six-point subscale for HPB.
It has been translated into different languages including
Spanish, Japanese, Arabic, Chinese, and Turkish and its validity and reliability have been verified. In
order to assess the health behaviors of older people, a
comprehensive tool for measuring health behaviors is
required. Furthermore, it is essential to the evaluation of
the interventions effectiveness rat in research studies of
related to elder.

Since the population of Iran is aging fast and there
are no adequate tools to assess of health behaviors in
older population in Iran, it is necessary that the tool is
localized in order to measure the lifestyle of the elderly
and evaluate HPB, so that it can be used in planning the
health field. In this research, the validity and reliability
of the HPLP-II questionnaire for the Iranian elderly were
examined.

METHODS

The population of the study was the elderly of the city
of Tehran. Sampling was conducted by convenience
sampling method and elderly people visiting cultural
centers, parks, and health centers in two areas in the
north and south of Tehran were enrolled in the study.

Participants

To assess the validity and reliability, 10 samples are
recommended for each question. Therefore, 575
questionnaires were distributed, among which 502
questionnaires were completed. In order to determine the
reliability of the questionnaire, 10% of subjects (n = 52)
were chosen randomly to complete the questionnaire at
2 time intervals. Among them, five were unable to take
part in the study, so a retest was completed with the
participation of 47 subjects.

Inclusion criteria

- Minimum age of 60
- Informed consent
- Ability to read Persian texts
- Speech power, not suffering from cognitive disorders.

Exclusion criteria

- Lack of consent
- Experiencing an unfortunate event during the past month
- Taking antipsychotic drugs during the past month
- Participation in other research studies.

To assess the absence of cognitive disorders, the elderly
people were assessed by the clock drawing test (CDT)
before entering the study. The tree persons excluded for
failing the CDT test. The CDT is valid and reliable for
the elderly of Iran; it is a valid instrument to identify
and screen for severe cognitive disorders, particularly
Alzheimer’s disease. Due to the easy implementation
of this test and since screening tests can be used to
measure inclusion criteria, the CDT was selected as an
inclusion criterion.

Instruments

In addition to the demographic variables questionnaire,
the main tool used in this research included a second
version of the health-promoting lifestyle profile (HPLP-II)
that was first designed by Walker et al. and which has
been made valid and reliable by Zaidi et al. for an
adult group (under 60 years) of Iranians. The original
version of this questionnaire consists of 52 items that
measure HPB in six subscales (nutrition, physical
activity, health responsibility, stress management
interpersonal relationships, and spiritual growth). Each
subscale includes of several items (nutrition: Nine items;
physical activity: Eight; health responsibility: Nine, stress
management: Eight, interpersonal relationships: Nine;
and spiritual growth: Nine). The options for the questions
are given on a four-point Likert scale (never, sometimes,
often, routinely). Overall, the score for health-promoting
lifestyle and behavioral aspects is calculated using
the mean of responses for all 52 items and for each
subscale (eight or nine items). The lowest and highest
total score is 52 and 208, respectively.

The Persian version of this questionnaire was made valid
and reliable by Zeidi et al. for the age group under 60 years.
Therefore, we avoid the repetition of the translating process, and we used it with the consent of the authors.

**Psychometric properties**

The Persian version of this questionnaire was given to 10 specialists (five experts in gerontology, five specialists in health promotion) to determine its content validity index (CVI).

To determine the CVI, the three criteria of “simplicity,” “relevance,” and “clarity” were evaluated for each item on a four-point Likert scale. In this way, the questions scoring <0.75 were removed. Then, as a pilot study to assess of face validity, questionnaires were given to 20 of the elderly people, and the final reforms were implemented. Then, to assess of face validity, questionnaires were given to 20 of the elderly people.

To determine the construct validity, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) and item-total correlations were used. CFA is part of the measurement model that examines relationships between variables and the observed factors. Cronbach's alpha values indicate good internal consistency of the questionnaire. Cronbach’s alpha for Cronbach’s alpha coefficient and ICC 0.7 are more considered.

Next, to determine the internal consistency, Cronbach’s alpha coefficient was used, and to verify the time reliability, the test-retest method was used. Correlation between the scores obtained from the two investigations in 2 weeks interval was assessed by calculating the class correlation coefficient (ICC). Factor analysis is desirable when the Chi-square to degrees of freedom ratio is <3, the GFI and AGFI are >0.9, and the RMSE is <0.05. To assess the sufficient number of samples for use in factor analysis, the KMO was used.

Item-total correlations were calculated to assess how the items of a scale differentiated the elders with regard to their HPB.

For descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation coefficient, independent t-tests and ANOVA to detect any significant differences between the two or more groups. For descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation coefficient, Cronbach’s alpha, ICC, and KMO SPSS-18 software was used, and to verify the CFA, Amos-7 software was used.

Assurances were given to all elderly that their information would be kept completely confidential.

In the current study, assured to subjects that their information will remain confidential.

### RESULTS

A total of 502 questionnaires were completed by the elderly subjects. The mean age of the subjects was 66.3 ± 5.3 years. About 48% (241 subjects) of them were men, and 52% (261 subjects) were female. Other demographic information details of the subjects are shown in Table 1.

In order to have a sufficient number of samples for use in factor analysis, the KMO value was obtained as 0.943. The approved number of samples and also the significance obtained by the Bartlett’s test was <0.05, which indicates that factor analysis is appropriate.

The CFA revealed a six-factor model whose results, along with fit indices for the revised HIPLP-II version, are given in the table (Table 2).

The CVI for the construct on interpersonal relationships was 0.86; for healthy eating, 0.84; for taking health responsibility, 0.84; for physical activity, 0.82; for stress management, 0.82; for spiritual growth, 0.83; and for total questions, it was 0.84. In investigating the face validity, the questionnaire was given to 20 elderly people as a pilot, and at this stage, some modifications were made. For example, in Questions 3, 15, and 39, the term “health team” was replaced by “health staff.” Question 9 (“I follow programs related to health through watching TV or reading”) was modified to “I follow programs related to health through watching TV or reading Teletext.”

Cronbach’s alpha values indicate good internal consistency of the questionnaire. Cronbach’s alpha for

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age (year)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean±SD</td>
<td>66.3±5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>60-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>261 (51.99)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>241 (48.01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital status</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>353 (70.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>132 (26.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>17 (3.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment status</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>302 (60.16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>147 (29.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>53 (10.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level of education</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-6*</td>
<td>193 (38.45)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12**</td>
<td>207 (41.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 and more***</td>
<td>102 (20.32)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Primary school, **Guidance school and high school, ***College education.

SD=Standard deviation
The factors obtained from the present study are similar original version. All these factors had direct and significant correlation with the revised HPLP-II version (0.51 < r < 0.71) and item-total correlations calculated as 0.27–0.65 [Table 3].

All subscales within HPLP-II had a direct and significant correlation with others (0.64 < r > 0.40). In other hand, these subscales had direct and significant correlation with the revised HPLP-II version (0.51 < r < 0.71) and item-total correlations calculated as 0.27–0.65 [Table 3].

To confirm the reliability of the HPLP-II questionnaire, ICC = 0.79 was achieved (95% confidence interval: 0.59–0.86, P < 0.001) and its domain for all factors was calculated as 0.76–0.88.

**DISCUSSION**

This study was conducted with the aim of investigating the HPLP-II psychometric questionnaire in the Iranian elderly population.

Using factor analysis, six main factors were approved. Other studies have also reached six factors in their factor analysis,23 The manner of factors’ loading was very similar to that seen in studies in other countries.27,28 The factors obtained from the present study are similar original version. All these factors had direct and significant correlation with the revised HPLP-II version (0.51 < r < 0.71), which represents the internal cohesion of the questionnaire. The relationship between factors and each other varied from r = 0.36 to r = 0.63.

In respect of the relationship between HPLP-II and demographic data, the results showed that marital status and level of education have a direct and significant correlation with the acquired score on HPLP-II. These findings are consistent with other studies.29,30

The married elderly had better self-care practices, and this is definitely related to the family’s role in emotional, ethical, and informational support.31 On the other hand, increasing education correlates with increasing awareness,
health responsibility, self-efficacy, and ability to judge and decide. When knowledge and awareness are present, better performance is expected.\textsuperscript{[32]}

The present study showed the good reliability of the HPLP-II questionnaire. The ICC of 0.79 indicates that the reliability of the questionnaire is appropriate. Hulme et al. reported the reliability of test-retest of the original version as 0.91, which is little higher than that of the present study.\textsuperscript{[33]} Cronbach’s alpha coefficient for the HPLP-II in the present study was obtained as 0.78, which is indicative of good internal consistency. Furthermore, Cronbach’s alpha coefficients for its subscales were suitable too, as in other studies.\textsuperscript{[33,34]}

The results of the present study showed a high correlation between the subscale of spiritual growth and interpersonal relationships ($r = 0.63$); this correlation has been demonstrated in the study by Pinar et al. too.\textsuperscript{[34]} In addition, in this study, the correlation between the subscales of stress management and spiritual growth was also high ($r = 0.62$), as also seen in the study by Stochert.\textsuperscript{[35]} On the other hand, relatively high correlation was observed between stress management and interpersonal relationships ($r = 0.58$). Generally, the three subscales of spiritual growth, interpersonal relationships and stress management were highly correlated with each other. This is consistent with other studies.\textsuperscript{[33,35]} An average correlation is seen between other subscales, indicating the independency of subscales and the distinguishing power of subscales in the assessment of a variety of HPB.

Items 10 (exercise vigorously), 30 (long-term goals), and 52 (exposure to new experiences and challenges) had Pearson correlation coefficients under 0.3 that indicate these items have less correlation with HPB in Iranian elderly population. The Iranian HPLPII-II scale is an appropriate tool for assessing HPB of the Iranian elderly.

The first limitation of this study was that the sampling method was convenience sampling; random sampling was not possible in this study. Another limitation of this study was that the illiterate elderly were not investigated. Given that the population of illiterate elderly in Iran is high, psychometric examination of tools for the illiterate elderly is recommended.

Regarding the large number of questions in the questionnaire, the possibility of elderly people is unable to answer all the questions. Hence, recommended that in future studies, a shortened version of this tool is subject to psychometric investigation. Moreover, given that in the present study, it was not possible to go to subjects’ homes and that they were instead selected from people who went to cultural centers, health centers, parks, etc., it is recommended that the generalizability of this study be examined in relation to the disabled elderly who lack the ability to engage in physical or social activities.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Overall, the findings of the validity index, construct validity, factor analysis, Cronbach’s alpha coefficients and ICC indications show that the HPLPII-48 is a suitable tool to assess HPB in elderly Iranians who can, at least, read and write.

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Nil.

**Conflicts of interest**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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