Psychometric properties of the parenting stress index with parents of children with Autistic disorder

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Abstract

**Background:** The Parenting Stress Index-Short Form (PSI-SF) has been used in many publications that targeted parents of children with autistic disorder. However, psychometric work on this measure has been conducted primarily with samples of healthy children. To date, only one study examined the psychometric properties of the PSI-SF in samples of parents of children with autistic disorder. Further, no investigations were made in the Arab world yet. The purpose of this study was to examine the psychometric properties and the theoretical structure of the PSI-SF with Jordanian parents of children with autistic disorder.

**Methods:** The convenience sample of the study was composed of 184 Jordanian parents of children with autistic disorder. The factor structure for the Parenting Stress Index was examined using confirmatory and exploratory factor analyses.

**Results:** We found that the modified three-factor model (30-items) did fit the data significantly better than the 36-items model. The results showed that the 12 items of the parental distress subscale support the original scale structure. However, items in the parent–child dysfunctional interaction and difficult child subscales did not show stability in their structure. The results in this study showed that the PSI in its 30-item has endorsed the necessary validity of the scale with parents of children with autistic disorder. This study provides information on the effects of Arab culture on the validity of PSI-SF. It is recommended to use the new factors structure of the PSI-SF when studying stress among parents with children with autistic disorder in the Arab world.

**Biography**

Latefa Dardas has completed her Masters at the age of 25 years from the University of Jordan. She was “number one” among colleagues in her bachelor and master degrees. She was also the first student at the university who could publish four papers out of her master thesis in ISI journals. She is specialized in psychiatric mental health nursing and has her research interests in mental health of parents of children with chronic disabilities. She is now working as teaching assistant at the University of Jordan and is preparing for her PhD scholarship at the USA.