

Psychometric Properties of the Bangla Version Operational Police Stress Questionnaire

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The Operational Police Stress Questionnaire (PSQ-Op) was developed by McCreary & Thompson. This study aimed to translate the instrument into Bangla and validate it according to Bangladeshi Culture. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) of the data from 160 participants (who provided complete responses) identified four factor structures for PSQ-Op with 19 items. The four factors for PSQ-Op namely 'Excessive workload and risk', 'Social affairs and image', 'Feelings of all time work and social blame' and 'Physical and interpersonal problems' together explained 56.94% of the total variance. This study was novel in the sense that previous study has not identified any factor structure for this instrument. The PSQ-Op showed good internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .89$ for PSQ-Op; $.71 - .85$ for its factors), strong translation and convergent validity. Thus, the Bangla version PSQ-Op appears to be a valid and reliable instrument for using it for research purpose in the country.

Keywords: Psychometric properties, Bangla version, Operational police stress

Police is a service organization having the highest responsibility to maintain order and peace in any country by reducing criminal activities in the society. In addition, they are responsible to control the traffic system of some countries.

Policing is considered as one of the most stressful occupations, exposing staff to occupational, organizational, and personal stressors (Anshel, 2000). Work-place stress has received a great deal of attention in psycho-social research (Cooper, Dewe, & O'Driscoll, 2001). Significant research findings have documented that prolonged stress has negative effects on individual health (Mohren et al., 2003; Ursin & Eriksen, 2004) as well as on employees' attitudes towards the organization (Cropanzano, Rupp, & Byrne, 2003). Gershon (2000) concurred that working under continuously stressful conditions leads to the dissatisfaction and exhaustion of police officers.

One of the most highly stressful jobs in Bangladesh is policing. However, research on police stress is rarely done in the country but a number of studies in other cultures have

explored the types of stressors associated with policing. For example, Symonds (1970) postulated two major sources of police stress: the nature of police work (i.e., duty-related stressors) and the nature of police organizations (i.e., organizational stressors).

A stress can be said operational in the sense that the stressors are associated with doing the job (McCreary & Thompson, 2006; Symonds, 1970). Operational stress is broadly defined as arising from the inherent aspects of police work. Operational stressors are faced daily by law enforcement officers as part of the job. Exposure to traumatic events; murder, assaults, shootings (Violanti & Paton, 1999); dealing with crime victims and perpetrators, and also the criminal justice system; and requirement of shift work are cited as operational stressors inherent in policing (Ellison, 2004).

Operational stressors, or inherent stressors, in police is a broad concept which also includes boredom, the continual exposure to citizens and their complaints, the use of force, and the sense of working under the strong possibility of violence, dangerous events, and death. These