

Research Paper

Cultural Adaptation of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) for Bangladeshi People

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to adapt a cultural appropriate Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) for the Bangladeshi people. The study consisted of 320 participants, all of whom were students at the University of Rajshahi taken through purposive sampling technique. At first, written permission was taken from the original developer of the NPI-16 scale prior to translation and use within the Bangladeshi culture. The NPI-16 scale was adapted through a rigorous five stages team translation (TT) procedure. During the first adaptation stage, consultation with the supervisor, the researcher translated the original item of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) into Bengali language to check and modify the translation as needed. The team of expert panel consisted of one English language, one Bengali language, one social work professional and three Psychology departments systematically revised and judged to ensure the accuracy of translation, language and relevance of each item which provides a second synthesized version. In the third stage, adjudication processes conducted ensure the third synthesized version. To adjudicate, decide whether the translation is ready for detailed pretesting. In the four stages, pretesting of the synthesized versions was carried out. In this stage, translated items were administered within 30 students. In the final phase, the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) scale was documented. To determine the psychometric properties of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) factor analysis, Cronbach's Alpha was computed in this study. Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) indicated Cronbach's Alpha of .852, and five distinct factors were extracted from the Sixteen-item questionnaires.

Keywords: *Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16), Adaptation, Team Translation (TT), Factor Analysis*

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Narcissistic are skilled at both initiating relationships and using relationships to look popular, succession and high in status in the short term. They do not focus on interpersonal intimacy, warmth or other long term relationship outcomes. They are using relationships as an opportunity for self enhancement. Narcissists brag and show off perform well when there is an opportunity of public glory. Narcissists are linked positively with relationship formation; narcissism is associated with:

- a) Linked in initial interaction [1]
- b) Perceived as a leader [2]
- c) Perceived as exciting [3]
- d) Social confident [2]
- e) Entertaining [4]
- f) Able to obtain sexual partners [3]

Narcissists have a lower level of commitment, they are eager to talk about themselves, gain esteem from public glory, and enjoy looking at themselves on videos in the mirror. Hamilton first introduces the word narcissism in 1942, it is one type of personality which is taken from Greek mythology, where the young Narcissus fell in love with his handsomeness by seeing own image which is reflected in a pool of water. He was ignoring anybody who was into him and kept looking at his reflection until his death [5]. Narcissism is an important concept in psychoanalytic theory, which was popularly introduced in Sigmund Freud's essay On Narcissism (1914) [6]. Now it is a common word and used everywhere. The meaning of narcissism has changed over time. Today narcissism "refers to an interest in or concern with the self along a broad continuum, from healthy to pathological including such concepts as self-esteem, self-system, and self-representation, and true or false self". The term of narcissism can be described as "one's capacity to maintain a relatively positive self-image through a variety of self-affect, and field regulatory processes, and it underline individuals' need for validation and affirmation as well as the motivation to overtly and covertly seek out self-enhancement experiences from the social environment" [7]. In terms of clinical practice, pathological narcissism is characterized in the DSM-IV-TR by a list of features including grandiose sense of self-importance together with an excessive need for the admiration of others, arrogance, a sense of uniqueness and entitlement, a lack of empathy, envy, and a tendency to exploit others [8]. Narcissism is the pursuit of gratification from vanity or egotistic admiration of one's idealized self-image and attributes. This includes self-flattery, perfectionism, and arrogance. The term originated from Greek mythology, where the young Narcissus fell in love with his own image reflected in a pool of water. Narcissism is a concept in psychoanalytic theory, which was popularly introduced in Sigmund Freud's essay On Narcissism (1914) [6]. Narcissistic personality disorder is one of several types of personality disorders and is a mental condition in which people have inflated senses of their own importance, a deep need for excessive attention and admiration, troubled relationships, and a lack of empathy for others. But behind this mask of extreme confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that's vulnerable to the slightest criticism. A narcissistic personality disorder causes problems in many areas of life, such as relationships, work, school or financial affairs. People with narcissistic personality disorder may be generally unhappy and disappointed when they're not given the special favors or admiration they believe they deserve. They may find their relationships unfulfilling, and others may not enjoy being around them.

Research has consistently demonstrated the existence of two types of forms of narcissism [9], which is described as "grandiose narcissism" and "vulnerable narcissism". Grandiose narcissism refers to the term of overt narcissism, whereas vulnerable narcissism corresponds

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to covert narcissism or hypersensitive narcissism [10]. The overt narcissism is characterized particularly by lack of empathy, lack of vicarious personal distress, keeping social affirmation; being control-oriented, detached, sufficient, intrusive, dominant, assertive, aggressive, self-centered [11], self-assured, rebellious, exhibitionist, having poor impulse control, strong power orientation [12], primary psychopathy, physical and verbal aggressiveness, and psychological distress [13]. On the other hand, the covert narcissism harboring anxiety, social anxiety, and loneliness is associated to high cognitive capacity for fantasy [11]; being socially detached, distrustful, socially inhibited, and reliant on others [10]. However, it is related with interpersonal sensitivity and depression [12]. Another study showed that, the secondary psychopathic, anger, hostility, lack of self-confidence is being overtly inhibited, introverted and hypersensitive [13]. Finally, individuals with vulnerable narcissism express their sensitivity to evaluations by other people via covert behaviors; vulnerable narcissism is associated with the affective and cognitive features of aggression rather than being a verbal type of it. Oakada R. [10] found that due to their hypersensitiveness to others' evaluations, vulnerable narcissistic people have a greater tendency to be aggressive in a rejection condition as compared to those with low levels of vulnerable narcissism. Finally, Miller J. D. [13] and his associate suggested that they differ according to associated outcomes: while grandiose narcissism might result in some externalizing symptoms, vulnerable narcissism might carry out internalizing ones. Some researchers have suggested that the advancement of knowledge about narcissism has been obstructed by the reliance on a single, potentially inappropriate measure of narcissism.

The Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was developed by Raskin et al, [14]. The Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) successfully evaluates narcissism in a manner that is consistent with its applicator as a personality disorder. However, some criticism has been raised of NPI-16 due to overlap of it's with self-esteem and its inclusion of content tangential to narcissism (e.g., leadership). Moreover, its structural validity and dimensionality, its convergent validity with other measures of narcissism, and whether it measures a healthy or pathological variant of narcissism have all been questioned [15].

Objective

The objective of this study was:

- To adapt a cultural appropriate Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) for Bangladeshi people.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample

The sample in this study consisted of 320 respondents studying at University of Rajshahi. Among them 160 were male and 160 were female. Purposive sampling technique was used to select participants from different academic departments within the university.

Test Instrument

- 1. Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16):** The Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was developed in 1979 by Raskin and Hall, and since then, has become one of the most widely utilized personality measures for non-clinical levels of the trait narcissism. Since its initial development, the NPI-16 has evolved from 220 items to the more commonly developed NPI-40 (1988) by Robert Rankin and Howard Terry and NPI-16 (2006) by Daniel Ames based on NPI-40 [16] [17]. Each item of NPI-16 is a pair of statements, one considered narcissistic, and the other non-narcissistic. Coefficient alpha for the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16)

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scale was 0.84 [17]. There has been some research on its factor structure with different findings. Raskin and Tarry identify seven factors (i.e, authority, superiority, exhibitionism, entitlement, vanity, exploitativeness and self-sufficiency) whereas in 1984, Emmons was found four factor solutions (i.e, leadership/authority, superiority/arrogance, self-absorption/self-admiration and exploitativeness/entitlement). Reliability was leadership/authority .58, superiority/arrogance .59, self-absorption/self-admiration .65 and exploitativeness/entitlement .77. To develop a Bengali version of the NPI-16, Team translation (TT) was used in this present study. Translation of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was completed following the TRAPD (Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting and Documentation) model of Team Translation (TT) [18].

Procedure

The study was conducted in two different phases. In the first phase, permission was taken from the developers of this scale via email to adapt the NPI-16 for Bangladeshi people. Then, prior to the study, ethical approval was taken from the ethics committee of the University of Rajshahi. In phase two, English version scale NPI-16 was translated into Bengali, and the language of Bengali version was reviewed conducting through the various panels of experts. Following TRAPD (Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting and Documentation) model translation of NPI-16 into Bengali language was completed.

Translating NPI-16 into Bengali

At first, written permission was taken from the developers of the NPI-16 scale to translate and use for Bangladeshi people. Then the English version NPI-16 was translated into Bengali, and the language of Bengali version was reviewed by the penal experts. Team translation (TT) model is presented through the following stages:

Stage 1: Translation

The researcher and supervisor collaboratively translated the NPI-16 to check and modify the translations. As a result, an initial draft of the Bengali version (NPI-16) scale translation was prepared.

Stage 2: Review

Six reviewers (One expert from English, one expert from Bengali, one expert from social work and three experts from Psychology) independently reviewed the translation of the NPI-16 scale and corrected or refined the translation of some of the items. All experts had comprehensive linguistic competence in English and Bengali. They judged the accuracy of translation or language and the relevancy of each item of Narcissistic Personality. Each expert independently rated the translation or language using-2 points scale (0= Not correct, 1=correct) and the relevancy of each item using another 2 points scale (0= not relevant, 1=relevant).

Stage 3: Adjudication

At this stage, two adjudicators (The researcher and supervisor) decided whether the translation is ready for detailed pretesting. According to the reviewer's evaluation in stage 2, accuracy of translation of language was examined by calculating for each item: the accuracy index (AI- Number of rating 1/ Number of experts). The item yielding an Accuracy Index AI of .83 (5/6) was considered a reliable version of translation (rating 1= correct answer, rating 0 or <1= incorrect answer).

Table 1 Results of the Accuracy Index (AI) of all the questions of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16)

Scale	Total number of items		Number of items having score AI =1	Number of items having score AI < 1
Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16)	16	A	13	3
		B	11	5

The experts penal suggested some corrections to the clarity, wording and organization of these items. The adjudicators ensured the accuracy of translation by reviewing those (AI< 1) in the light of their comments. They also examined the relevance/suitability of the items of NPI-16 for Bangladeshi culture by calculating for each item the Relevance Index (RI= Number of rating at 1/number of experts). They considered an item yielding Relevance Index (RI) of 1 or .83 (RI=6/ 6 or RI = 5/6) to be relevant or suitable [19]. The results of the accuracy index (Table 1) and relevance index (Table 2) is presented below.

Table 2 Results of the Relevance Index (RI) of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16)

Scale	Total number of items		Relevant items having score RI=1 or .83	Irrelevant items having score RI<.83
Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16)	16	A	16	0
		B	16	0

The adjudicators of this present study modified and refined as these items had AI values < 1 of 16 pairs of NPI-16 items. At stage two, the expert penal suggested some corrections of word and clarity. Their comment also examined the relevance/suitability of the 16 pairs of items for the Bangladeshi people and culture by calculating for each NPI-16 item the Relevance Index (RI = Number of rating at 1/Number of experts, they considered an item finding an RI of 1 or .83 (RI = 6/6 or RI = 5/6) to be relevant or suitable [19]. The relevant results of the study are presented below (Table 2). After completing the adjuration, the second draft of Bangla version Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) were ready to explore for pilot study on a small number of the participants.

Stage 4: Pretesting/ Pilot study

Translated items were administered on 30 students. It was conducted following appropriate test materials, and procedure.

Stage 5: Documentation

Finally, in the fifth phase, the factor analysis was done (shown in Table 3 to Table 4). According to the result, Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was documented.

RESULTS

Table 3 Item loadings for the confirmatory 5-factor inter-correlated robust structure of NPI-16

Item number	Items	Factor loading				
		F1	F2	F3	F4	F5
		Authority	superiority	Vanity	self-admiration	entitlement
Item 2	I am no better or no worse than most people / I think I am a special person	.833				
Item 3	Everybody likes to hear my stories / Sometimes I tell good stories	.712				
Item 6	I am going to be a great person / I hope I am going to be successful.	.739				
Item 13	Being an authority doesn't mean that much to me / People always seem to recognize my authority	.857				
Item 14	I know that I am good because everybody keeps telling me so /When people compliment me I sometimes get embarrassed.	.740				
Item 16	I am more capable than other people / There is a lot that I can learn from other people	.668				
Item 10	I am much like everybody else / I am an extraordinary person.		.583			
Item 11	I always know what I am doing/Sometimes I am not sure of what I am doing.		.656			
Item 12	I don't like it when I find myself manipulating people / I find it easy to manipulate people.		.509			
Item 8	I expect a great deal from other people / I like to do things for other people		.546			
Item 4	I usually get the respect that I deserve / I insist upon getting the respect that is due me		.478			.669
Item 1	really like to be the center of attention /It makes me uncomfortable to be the center of attention	.49		.61		
Item 9	I like to be the center of			.61		

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Item number	Items	Factor loading				
		F1	F2	F3	F4	F5
		Authority	superiority	Vanity	self-admiration	entitlement
	attention/I prefer to blend in with the crowd					
Item 15	I try not to be a show off /I am apt to show off if I get the chance		.580	.65		
Item 5	I don't mind following orders /I like having authority over people.				.426	
Item 7	People sometimes believe what I tell them /I can make anybody believe anything I want them to				.775	
Eigenvalue		5.770	2.884	1.537	1.2	1.1
Variance explained %		36.063	18.026	9.607	7.728	6.93
Cumulative %		36.06	54.08	63.96	71.42	78.33

Note. n = 320. $p < .05$

Loadings Factor < .30 was suppressed.

Table 3 displays the items loading for the five-factor structure of the NPI-16 estimate with the ML robust method. All items had loading well above .30 and thus, were removed from this model. Variables with loadings higher than .71 can be considered excellent measures of the factor, .63 very good, .55 good, .45 fair and .32 poor [20][21].

Table 4 Reliability Statistics

Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
16	.852

Cronbach's alpha for the Bengali version of NPI-16 (16 items) was 0.852 which indicated good internal consistency.

DISCUSSION

Narcissism is a well-recognized personality trait in Bangladeshi culture. This present study was explored to adapt Narcissism personality inventory (NPI-16) for Bangladeshi people. To adapt the process, translation procedures play a crucial role. There are several processes of translation. Two most widely utilized methods are: Back Translation (BT) and Team Translation (TT). The present study was adopted through the Team Translation (TT) method. Because it is much better in practical and theoretical terms and focuses attention on first producing the best possible translation and directly evaluating the translation produced in the target language rather than indirectly of Back translation (BT). Comparison of an original source text and a back translated (BT) source text provide only limited and potentially misleading insight into the quality of the target language text and audience [22]; [23]; [18]. Sometimes Back Translation (BT) has contradictory results with the original translation. As a result, it falls short identifying the adequacy of the questions for the independent population [24]. Because of the shortcomings of the Back Translation (BT) approach, the Team Translation (TT) approach is used in this study to translate the scale of English to Bengali. Translation of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was completed following the TRAPD (Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting and

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Documentation) model. In this study, to determine the psychometric properties of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) factor analysis, Cronbach's Alpha was computed, and a culturally appropriate Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was adapted. Cronbach's Alpha for Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was .852 (Table 4). Through principal component analysis there are 5 components extracted by factor analysis.

Overall, based on the factor analysis, the reliability and validity of sixteen items of the Bengali version of NPI-16 scale were adequate and supported the adaptation of NPI-16 for Bangladeshi culture. Now this scale can be helpful and ready to use for the measure of narcissistic personality among Bangladeshi people and culture.

Implications

The cultural adaptation of the NPI-16 for the Bangladeshi population holds significant implications for psychological assessment, clinical practice, and research within the region. By ensuring the instrument's linguistic and cultural relevance, this study provides a valid and reliable Bengali version scale for measuring narcissistic traits among Bangladeshi people. This advancement enhances the precision of personality assessment in both clinical and non-clinical settings, facilitating early identification and appropriate interventions for narcissistic traits tendencies. Moreover, the Bengali adapted NPI-16 allows for cross-cultural comparisons in narcissism research, contributing to a more global understanding of personality structures. It also opens avenues for future studies on the cultural nuances of narcissism in Bangladeshi, and South Asian contexts, thereby enriching the psychological literature with more representative data from under-researched populations.

Limitation and Future Research

While the TRAPD (Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting, and Documentation) method ensured a rigorous and culturally sensitive adaptation of the NPI-16 for the Bangladeshi context, several limitations should be acknowledged. First, the sample used for validation may not fully represent the diverse socio-economic, linguistic, and educational backgrounds of the broader Bangladeshi population, potentially limiting the generalizability of the findings. Second, the self-report nature of the NPI-16 may be influenced by social desirability bias, particularly in cultures where modesty is highly valued and narcissistic traits may be underreported. Additionally, while the TRAPD method enhances translation accuracy, some culturally embedded concepts of narcissism may still be inadequately captured due to inherent differences in how personality traits are perceived across cultures.

Future research should aim to validate the adapted instrument across more diverse subpopulations, including rural communities and various age groups, to enhance its applicability. Longitudinal studies could also explore the stability of narcissistic traits over time within the Bangladeshi context. Moreover, incorporating qualitative methods alongside quantitative measures may offer deeper insights into culturally specific expressions of narcissism. Finally, cross-cultural comparative studies using the adapted NPI-16 could contribute to a broader understanding of how narcissism manifests differently across societies.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to adapt a cultural appropriate Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) for the Bangladeshi people, with data collected from 320 participants at the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh. The adaptation process followed the TRAPD approach

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(Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting, and Documentation), grounded in Harkness's Team Translation (TT) method, to ensure linguistic accuracy and cultural relevance. Overall, based on the factor analysis, five factors extracted from sixteen items of the Bengali version of NPI-16 scale and Cronbach's Alpha for Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI-16) was .852 (Table 4). Now this scale can be helpful and ready to use for the measure of narcissistic personality among Bangladeshi people and culture.

This culturally sensitive tool not only enhances the accuracy of personality assessment in local research and clinical settings but also enables meaningful cross-cultural comparisons. Further validation across diverse populations within Bangladesh and continued research on culturally specific expressions of narcissism will strengthen its applicability and contribute to the broader field of personality psychology.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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