

## **Cultural Perspective on Social Competence in Children: Development and Validation of an Indigenous Scale for Children in Pakistan**

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An indigenous measure namely Social Competence Scale for Children (SCSC) was developed for children with age range of 9-13 years. Specific constructs of social competence were identified with relation to the Pakistani cultural context while using both theoretical and empirical methods. Initially, a pool of 103 items was generated with the help of preexisting literature, experts, university students, parents, teachers and children. Two hundred children; 100 boys and 100 girls were taken from 8 private and government schools in Lahore and Sargodha. Principle component factor analysis provided six factors comprising of 40 items; selection criterion was factor loadings of .35 and above. Factors were listed as Self-control, Empathy and Helping Behavior, Social Skills and Obedience, Anti-social behavior, Assertiveness and Communication. Item analysis and Cronbach's alpha revealed significantly high internal consistency for SCSC and its 6 subscales. Final SCSC comprised of 40 items; 24 positive and 16 negative statements encompassing social competence. Scoring procedure was devised by analyzing percentile scores, three categories were identified in terms of low, moderate and high social competence to differentiate among groups. The results are discussed in particular to Pakistani socio-cultural context.

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