

Standardization of closed ended Questionnaire - Pediatric Functional Independence Measures/Wee-FIM in Arabic version in the context of Qatar

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Introduction: Pediatric functional independence measures (Wee-FIM) is a standardized outcome measures for children with disabilities, which quantifies the amount of functional independence in the domains of self-care, mobility and cognition. This assessment tool was developed by Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation.

Since the assessment has been used in accordance to western standards for many years, the same standard of measurement influencing the intervention outcomes in terms of cross-cultural variations and the difficulty level faced during parents interview by entry level non-Arabic professionals. By considering these factors, construction of closed ended Questionnaire and standardization in Arabic language was initiated.

Methods: Harmonization procedures were incorporated to standardize the original version of English to Arabic language. The procedure was divided into 2 phases after consenting from 36 parents of children with disabilities. Phase 1 deals with Cognitive debriefing method for Questionnaire items followed by content validity and test re-test reliability testing. Phase 2 deals with Inter-Observer reliability testing for 12 children by 2 independent raters.

Results: Content validity ratio (CVR) for 36 parents is 0.7 to 0.8 from Subject Matter Experts (SME) using Lawshe's method. 2. Retesting the parents' response for the Questionnaire after cognitive debriefing procedure ranges between 85 - 92% and 3.Cohen's Kappa was used to analyze Inter-observer agreement. The results are greater than 0.9($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The Arabic version of Pediatric/Wee-FIM questionnaire reflected its usefulness by the weightage of psychometric properties applicable for Arab nationalities and reduces the difficulty level of interviewing in Arabic language for entry level non-Arabic professionals.