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Translation and validation of Attitude towards Peace and War Scale (APWS)

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to translate and validate Attitude towards War and Peace Scale in Urdu language, and to examine the factor validity of the scale and the intercorrelations among study variables in Pakistan. In the first phase of the study, Brislin's guidelines for translation of the APWS were applied to obtain an Urdu version of the scale, 50 students from KP, Pakistan were selected for pilot testing. In sample of pilot study 31 were males and 19 were females with the age mean 26.36 years (SD=9.62). In the second phase, cross-sectional validity of our Urdu-translated scale was conducted with 487 respondents, 298 of them being male (61.2%) and 189 female (38.8%) with mean age of 24.80 years (SD=6.75). The reliability of the translated APWS was found to be acceptable with Cronbach's alpha of 0.71 and 0.59 for subscale peace and war. Model fit indices improved significantly through iterative adjustments, resulting in a final model with RMSEA=0.05, IFI=0.96, CFI=0.96, and TLI=0.94. Correlation analysis revealed that age positively correlated with income (r=0.45, p<.01), education (r=0.50, p<.01), and attitude towards peace (r=0.30, p<.01). Gender differences were significant (p<.00), with females exhibiting higher attitudes towards peace (M=49.42, SD=8.54) compared to males (M=45.65, SD=11.16). These results affirm the scale's reliability and validity, making it a valuable tool for future research and interventions in peacebuilding and conflict resolution within Pakistan.

Keywords: Attitude Towards Peace and War Scale (APWS), Confirmatory factor analysis, forward translation, and backward translation.

Introduction

The analysis of the developments in the perceptions of the war and peace remains one of the significant areas of research in the sphere of psychology, sociology, and philosophy. Knowledge of these attitudes can yield much in the way of understanding of the relationships between conflict and cooperation. Those beliefs may significantly affect policies and decisions, social actions and public pressure, providing valuable insights into the trends in people's perceptions of the war and into the potential approaches to alter these perceptions and enhance the likelihood of peace (Christie & Montiel, 2013; Staub, 2003). Hence, culture is 'constitutive' of war and peace, as well as of international relations strategies and conflict transformation activities (Ross, 1993; Galtung, 1996). Therefore, the imperative need to construct more peaceful societies pose the need for effective and specifically tailor-made instruments for measuring these aspect (Christie, Wagner & Winter, 2001).

Among the commonly used instruments, the most recent one that seeks to capture the attitudes towards war and peace is known as the 'Attitude towards Peace and War Scale (APWS)'. The APWS measures respondent's stances on statements related to war and peace attitudes in various dimensions; the justifiability of war, the desirability of peace and the perceived efficiency of non-violent conflict resolution (Cohrs et al., 2005). The scale has been translated into French and has been proven to be reliable and valid in cross cultural research (Van der Linden et al., 2017). According to the numerous previous research, validity of the translated versions is supported because it has shown to retain the required psychometric properties which makes it possible to make comparisons across cultures (Chen & Boore, 2009; Van de Vijver & Leung, 2021). Translating a scale for use in the other country while maintaining the accuracy of the scale may be a real feat; therefore, the process entails forward translations, back translations, and final reconciliations, to reach a point where comparability and conceptual similarity with the original scale can be approximated, such as the use of Brislin's (1970) method or Beaton et al. 's (2000) method.

War originates in people's cognitions, where attitudes toward specific objects translate into behaviors (Cairns & Darby, 1998). Research indicates that attitudes predict future behaviors,

especially when one has direct experience with the attitude object (Glasman & Albarracín, 2006). Since its inception, Pakistan has experienced both direct violence, such as wars, and structural violence, including psychological and hybrid warfare (Galtung, 1969). Immediately after the Indo-Pak separation from British colonization, Pakistan faced full-fledged wars waged by its neighboring rival, India (Javaid & Sahrai, 2020; Nadeem et al., 2021). Pakistan's involvement in the Soviet-Afghan War, with U.S. backing, and its subsequent frontline role in the 'Global War on Terror (GWOT)' further complicated its peace and war dynamics (Ali, 2013; Nizami et al., 2014). Sandwiched between the threat from India at its eastern border and the Taliban in Afghanistan at its western border, Pakistan has oscillated between peace and war, adversely affecting its populace and making the state vulnerable to enemies' malicious intentions (Ali, 2013; Nizami et al., 2014; Rabbi, 2012).

Despite military operations restoring peace in some regions, like Swat and Dir, areas such as Waziristan continue to struggle with maintaining peace, where terrorists, supported by local residents, hide and recruit for their agendas (Mirza & Babar, 2020; Nadeem et al., 2021). This ongoing terrorism, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, manifests as psychological warfare, affecting those directly impacted by U.S.-led GWOT in Afghanistan and subsequent insurgency (Schmid, 2005). To comprehend war and peace, it is crucial to consider underlying attitudes, as these predict future behaviors (Glasman & Albarracín, 2006). Literature suggests a positive correlation between attitudes towards peace and peace-related behaviors, and similarly, a positive attitude towards war correlates with war-related behaviors (Bizumic et al., 2013).

However, attitudes toward peace and war are not mutually exclusive (Van der Linden et al., 2017), and peace is not merely the absence of war (Bizumic et al., 2013; Okumuşoğlu, 2017). The United Nations acknowledges that peace entails more than the absence of war, authorizing necessary military measures for its maintenance (United Nations, 1945). Post-9/11, the GWOT exemplified attempts to achieve peace through war, as noted by President Bush (2002). Galtung (1969) differentiated between direct violence and structural violence, emphasizing the importance of positive peace, which includes harmony and social justice, over merely negative peace, or the absence of direct violence. Psychologists' contributions have evolved from focusing on war preparation to peaceful conflict resolution and systemic changes in social arrangements

for sustainable peace (Christie & Montiel, 2013). The shift was influenced by recognizing that structural violence, depriving people of resources and wellbeing, is as deadly as direct violence (Christie, 2006).

Attitudes and behaviors regarding war and peace are the major subject of this study and the following theories are adopted to provide a theoretical background of the research. This entails the following, the analysis of Galtung's (1969) structural and direct violence that consists of direct violence as encompassing war and other intentional acts while structural violence fixing harms that are not direct but are planned within a society. Galtung's differentiation distinguishes between positive peace which entails justice and social order, not just the lack of conflict as represented by negative peace. Also, the Attitudes Towards Peace and War Scale (APWS) that was developed by Bizumic et al. (2013) proves that attitudes toward peace and war are the two factors which are initiated by the different psychological and ideological factors. Positive attitudes towards peace are associated with the increase in the democratic and empathetic aspects of a person. On the other hand, negative perception toward peace which is often congruent with authoritarianism and nationalism has a positive perception towards war. Additionally, the impact of psychological warfare is also taken into account in the present study, this entails the use of psychological and psychological warfare techniques that are employed with regard to the intent of altering people's behavior through attacking their minds and psyche with greater focus on paying attention to or repelling these attacks (Orinx & Swielande, 2022). Owing to the above theoretical framework, further research has to be conducted focusing the antecedents of peace and war attitudes specifically in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which is the region in Pakistan that was/is involved in wars/violence, directly and structurally.

Bizumic et al. who aimed to develop an instrument that could be used to assess attitudes towards peace and war, developed the Attitudes Toward Peace and War Scale (APWS). To support these primary propositions and provide an account for the rationale of the APWS development, Bizumic et al claimed that attitudes toward peace are positively related to the attitudes toward equality, as well as toward tolerance toward diverse people, whereas the attitudes toward war are positively related to the tolerance toward direct aggression. While an individual process might contain both the cognitions of supporting a peace and those of supporting a war, these cognitions are negative related (Bizumic et al., 2013; Okumuşoğlu, 2017;

Van der Linden et al., 2017). As for the attitudes to these values, gender differences are observed as well, according to which women are tend to give higher estimations to the value of peace in contrast to men. However, some researchers have pointed out that the gender differences are actually negligible (Brooks & Valentino, 2011; Okumuşoğlu, 2017; Van der Linden et al., 2017). With all these considerations, the present research intends to translate and validate the APWS in the context of Pakistan with special reference to the KP province, to unveil the origin of the propound attitudes towards war/peace. This study will investigate factors, relating to psychosocial acceptance of peace and war in chosen KP regions: regions with active and post-operation and regions without operations. In this regard, the research seeks to explore these attitudes of peace/war in the context of Pakistan and their long-term antecedents.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

- The core objective of phase-I was to translate and validate APWS.
- To assess psychometric properties of translated version of APWS
- To examine the direction of relationship amongst study variables

Methodology

This study was conducted in two phases; Phase-I was to translated and validate the attitude towards war and peace scale, while phase-II was carried out to assess the psychometric properties of translated version of attitude towards war and peace.

Phase I: Instruments Translation and Validation

Urdu is Pakistan's national language and it is widely understood throughout the country. However, due to the lack of an Urdu translation for the APWS, the phase-1 of the study focused on translating and validating this scale with a Pakistani sample. The translation process followed the guidelines of Brislin (1980).

Steps of translation

This method was followed in 5-recommended steps:

Step 1: Permission Requisition

The copyrighted author was approached via email to grant permission of this scale, who granted explicit permission for the translation.

Step 2: Forward Translation

In this step, this scale was translated from English to Urdu, ensuring that the content of the items remained consistent while being appropriately conveyed in the target language. Three bilingual professional language experts, proficient in both languages, translated the scale. They were instructed to maintain the core meaning of the items and consider the cultural context of Pakistan. This process resulted in three independent forward translations.

Step 3: First Committee Approach

A committee was formed, which consist of three bilingual psychologists including one PhD scholar, one Assistant Professor, and one Associate Professor, who reviewed all the items in the three forms of the translated scale along with the original scale. The most suitable translation for each item were picked, formulated a final forward translation after comparing meaning and content of the items, cultural relevance, structure of the meantime, choice of words and understandability.

Step 4: Back Translation

At this stage a final forward translated draft was prepared, which was then administered to 3-bilingual English experts for backward translation. These translators, who were proficient in both Urdu and English, were given the same instructions as those in the forward translation step. This process resulted in three independent back translations.

Step 5: Second Committee Approach

The initial committee reviewed the three back-translated versions, comparing them with the original scale. Through comprehensive comparison and evaluation, they finalized the items that conveyed the same meaning as the original APWS version.

The finalized version was pilot tested on 50 individuals, who reported no issues with the APWS items. Subsequently, data was collected from a sample of 487 individuals over the age of 18 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, who could comprehend Urdu with at least a primary level of education. Individuals under 18, those with mental illnesses, or those unable to comprehend Urdu were excluded. Informed consent was obtained from participants, who were informed about the study's objectives, their right to withdraw, and the confidentiality of their responses and identities. Participants' responses were recorded on a demographic sheet and the APWS.

Sample

The actual translation process being a complex one was eventually followed by a pilot study (phase I) that involved 50 respondents. Purposive sampling was employed to gather data from three distinct regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan: active operation area such as Waziristan, sensitive post operation area such as Swat, Buner, Dir etc. and non-operation area such as Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera etc. The age of the participants was from 18 to 75 years with a mean of 26.36 years. Males in the sample were 31, while females were 19.

Phase II sample consisted of 487 participants; people 18 to 75 years old, mean age was 24.80 years. In this sample, 298 were males (61. 2%) while 189 were females (38. 8%). Thus, on average, participants were 24.80 years old with mean income 10,884 Pakistani Rupees. Among the total participants recorded in the study, 97. 9% belonged to the Sunni sect of Islam.

Instrument

Attitudes towards Peace and War Scale

APWS was devised by Bizumic et al. (2013), having 16-items with equal number of items for both subscales i.e., attitude towards war and attitude towards peace. The responses ranged from strongly disagree= -4 to strongly agree= +4 with nine-points scoring. The alpha Cronbach was .83 (Bizumic et al., 2013). The current study tended to translate and validate this scale because of its non-availability in Urdu language.

Procedure

Participants in both the pilot and main studies were recruited from three different regions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan, specifically from areas categorized as active operation, post-operation, and non-operation. All participants were 18 years or older and provided informed consent after they were thoroughly briefed on objectives of study, confidentiality measures, and their withdrawal right from study at any time. They were assured of the anonymity of their responses, intended solely for research purposes. Following adherence to necessary research protocols, participants completed the study questionnaires and were thanked for their voluntary participation. Data entered into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS-IBM, Version 21) was analyzed, with the results presented in the subsequent section.

Results

Table 1
Descriptive Characteristics of Study

		Pilot study (n=50)				***Main study (n=487)***			
Variables	**Categories**	***f***	***%***	***M***	***SD***	***f***	***%***	***M***	***SD***
Age				26.36	9.62			24.80	6.75
Education				14.48	1.75			14.57	1.68
Monthly Income				76.56	71.6			108.84	179.06
Gender	Female	19	38			189	38.8		
	Male	31	62			298	61.2		
Area	Active-operation	10	20			150	30.8		
	Non-operation	20	40			150	30.8		
	Post-operation	20	40			187	38.4		
Marital status	Single	39	78			400	82.1		
	Married	11	22			87	17.9		
Family system	Nuclear	19	38			176	36.1		
	Joint	31	62			311	63.9		
Profession	Government employee	4	8			96	19.7		
	Private employee	6	12			13	2.7		
	Self employed	1	2			5	1		
	Household	2	4			10	2.1		
	Unemployed	2	4			6	1.2		
	Student	35	70			357	73.3		
No. of siblings				6#	10#			5#	14#
No. of children				0#	9#			0#	9#
Physical illness	No	41	82			454	93.2		
	Yes	9	18			33	6.8		

Note. #: Mode/Range.

Table 1 showed the descriptive characteristics between the pilot study (n=50) and the main study (n=487). The average age of participants in the pilot study was 26.36 years (SD=9.62), slightly older than those in the main study with an average age of 24.80 years (SD=6.75). Education levels were similar, with means of 14.48 years (SD=1.75) and 14.57 years (SD=1.68) respectively. Monthly income varied more widely in the main study (M=108.84, SD=179.06) compared to the pilot (M=76.56, SD=71.6). Participants were distributed across three operational areas, with similar proportions in both studies: active-operation (20% vs. 30.8%), post-operation (40% vs. 38.4%), and non-operation (40% vs. 30.8%). Gender distribution was also consistent, with males comprising 62% in the pilot and 61.2% in the main study. Most participants were single (78% in the pilot, 82.1% in the main), and a majority

belonged to joint family systems (62% vs. 63.9%). Professionally, the main study had a higher proportion of government employees (19.7%). Both studies had higher number of students participants (70% in pilot and 73.3% in main study). The number of siblings and children were reported as modes/ranges, with the mode being 6 siblings and 0 children in both studies. Finally, a higher percentage of participants reported no physical illness in the main study (93.2%) compared to the pilot (82%).

Table 2

Psychometric Properties of APWS in Pilot Sample (n = 50)

Variable	items	*M*	*SD*	Range				*a*
				Potential	Actual	Skew	Kurt	
Attitude towards peace	8	52.52	9.86	8-72	35-70	-.14	-1.04	.61
Attitude towards war	8	38.12	12.00	8-72	9-68	-.46	.49	.77

Table 2 presents the psychometric properties of the APWS from the pilot study with 50 participants. The Cronbach's alpha of .61, indicating moderate internal consistency across 8 items for peace subscale, while Cronbach's alpha of .77 for war subscale, indicating good internal consistency across 8 items.

Phase-II results

Table 3

Psychometric Properties of APWS in Main Sample (N = 487)

Variable	items	*M*	*SD*	Range				*a*
				Potential	Actual	Skew	Kurt	
Attitude towards peace	7	47.12	10.37	7-63	7-63	-.59	.30	.71
Attitude towards war	6	32.16	8.35	6-54	6-54	-.35	.36	.59

Table 3 shows that the Cronbach’s alpha coefficient for the peace-subscale is 0.71 and for the war-subscale alpha is 0.59. These reliability values exceed the acceptable threshold of 0.50, indicating that the instruments are reliable. Additionally, the skewness and kurtosis values fall within the acceptable range of +2 (George & Mallery, 2019). Data distribution is within normal limits, meeting the assumptions necessary for conducting parametric tests.

Table 4

Fit indices for APWS (N = 487)

Model	RMSEA	IFI	TLI	CFI	χ^2 (df)	$\Delta\chi^2$ (df)
Model-1	.15	.53	.45	.53	1150.78 (103)	
Model-2	.13	.69	.62	.68	598.76 (64)	552.02 (39)
Model-3	.05	.96	.94	.96	105.19 (45)	493.57 (19)

Note. Model-1 = Default model of CFA; Model-2 = Model-1 after deletion of item 5 from peace subscale and item 7 and item 8 of war subscale; Model-3 = Model-2 after addition of error co-variances.

Table number 4 presents the fit indices for the APWS model. Model-1 exhibits poor fit, as indicated by χ^2 (df)=1150.78 (103), high RMSEA values, and low CFI, TLI, and IFI values. The initial model showed that three items had poor and negative loadings on their respective constructs: The stated items decreased the internal consistency and reliability on the peace subscale with item 5 with a loading of (λ=-0.14), while on the war subscale, items 7 (λ=-0. 12) and 8, (λ=-0.07). The aforementioned items were deleted with an intention of enhancing the model fitness, however albeit a slight enhancement was noted as seen in Model 2.

To improve the model fit some covariances between the items' errors were also estimated based on content similarity. After making these modifications, the fitness of the Model-3 was good, judging from the reduced RMSEA of (0.05) and the increased CFI (0.96), IFI (0.96), and TLI (0.94) values. Moreover, the calculated chi square value was also smaller from the model-1 χ^2 (df) = 1150.78 (103) to χ^2 (df) = 598.76 (64) in model-2 and improved further in final model i.e. χ^2 (df)=105.19 (45). These changes obtained from the first model to Model-3 indicate a significant improvement in model fit.

Figure 1

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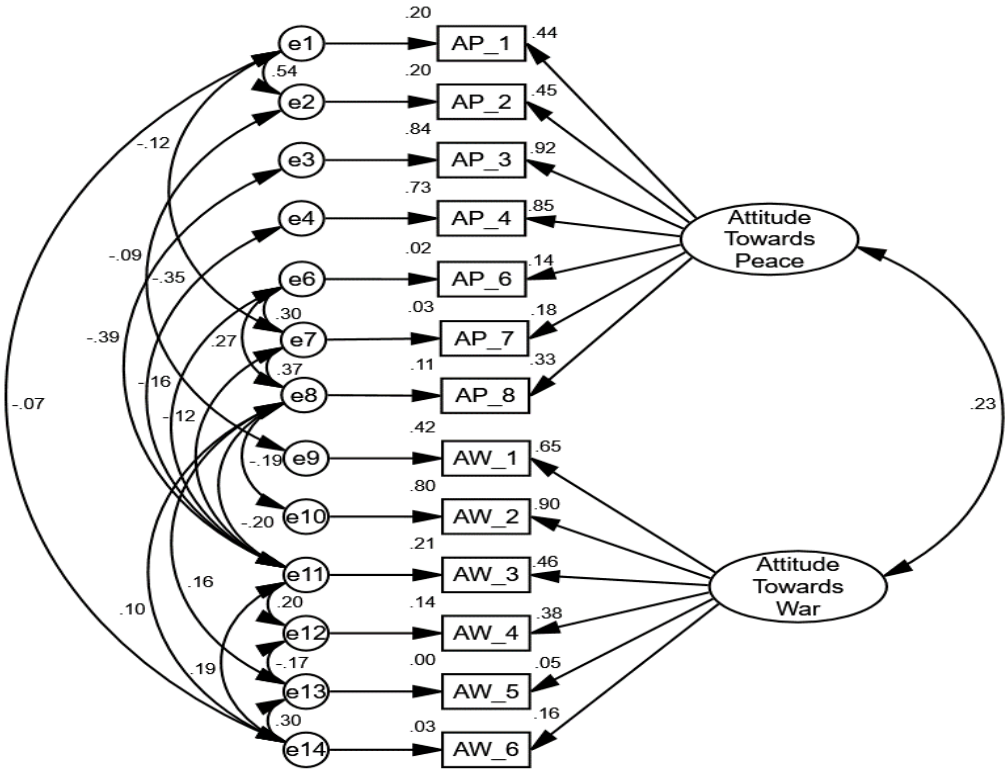
CFA Model for AWPS



The items loading on APWS subscales are also showed in Figure 1. The range of item loadings varied from λ=0.14 to λ=0.92, for peace subscale, and from λ=0.05 to λ=0.90 for war subscale. For most items, factor loadings were within acceptable range of 0.30 or greater (Field, 2009), except two items in peace subscale i.e., item-6 having λ=0.14 and item-7 having λ=0.18, and two items in war subscale i.e., item-5 having λ=0.05 and item-6 having λ=0.16. However, the aforementioned items were not deleted for showing lesser than desired loading. They were retained for their qualitative significance and owing to the large sample size of present study (Stevens, 2002).

Table 5

Correlation between Study and Demographic Variables (N =487)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gender	-						
Age	-.31**	-					
Income	-0.07	.18**	-				
Education	-.11*	.59**	0.08	-			
No. of siblings	.14**	0.04	-0.03	0.08	-		
Peace attitude	-.18**	.16**	0.0005	.09*	-.11*	-	
War attitude	-0.03	0.004	0.07	-0.05	-0.04	-0.02	-

Note. For gender 1 = Female, 2 = Male.
* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < .01$.

The correlation matrix shows significant relationships between seven variables: gender, age, income, education, number of siblings, peace attitude, and war attitude. Notably, age is positively correlated with education (r=.59**) and income (r=.18**), indicating that older individuals tend to be more educated and have higher incomes. Gender is negatively correlated with age (r=-.31**) and peace attitude (r=-.18**), suggesting that females are younger and more peace-oriented. Education is positively correlated with peace attitude (r=.09*) and negatively with gender (r=-.11*), showing that higher education is linked to pro-peace attitudes and that females tend to be more educated. The number of siblings is positively correlated with gender (r=.14**) and negatively with peace attitude (r=-.11*), indicating that females participants had more siblings and that having more siblings is associated with less favorable peace attitudes. War attitude shows no significant correlations with other variables.

Table 6

Gender-Based Mean differences on Study Variables (N = 487)

Variables	Males (*n*=298)		Females (*n*=189)		*t*(485)	*p*	95% *CI*		Cohen's *d*
	M	*SD*	*M*	*SD*			*LL*	*UL*	
Attitude towards war	31.97	8.18	32.46	8.64	0.63	0.53	-1.04	2.02	-0.06
Attitude towards peace	45.65	11.16	49.42	8.54	4.21	0.000	2.01	5.54	-0.37

Note. LL = Lower limit; UL = Upper limit; CI = Confidence interval;

Table 6 revealed no differences on attitude towards war, while compared to males, females showed higher level of attitude towards peace ($M = 49.42$, $p = .00$).

Discussion

Since the APWS wasn't originally available in Urdu, it had to be translated. To ensure an accurate translation, guidelines provided by Brislin (1980) were strictly followed. Prior to starting the translation, permission to use and translate the scale was sought and obtained from the original author, who holds the copyright. The translation process involved converting the scale from English to Urdu. Care was taken to maintain the original content while making sure the translation was appropriate for the target language. Three bilingual language experts translated the scale independently. Their versions were then reviewed by a committee of three bilingual psychologists who compared each translated item with the original version. This rigorous process ensured that the meaning, content, cultural context, sentence structure, wording, and comprehension were preserved. The final forward translation was a result of this thorough assessment.

Next, the finalized Urdu version was translated back into English by three different bilingual language experts. The committee reconvened to review these back-translations, comparing them with the original version to ensure accuracy. This meticulous comparison and evaluation led to a final version that conveyed the same meanings as the original scale. A pilot study was then conducted to validate the instrument. The pilot study involved 50 participants from the KP province of Pakistan, aged between 18 and 75 years, with an average age of 26.36 years. The sample included 31 males and 19 females. Internal consistency was assessed using Cronbach's alpha, yielding acceptable reliability coefficients of 0.61 for the attitude towards peace subscale and 0.77 for the attitude towards war subscale. These alpha statistics were expected to improve with a larger sample size (George & Mallery, 2019). The pilot study confirmed the instrument's reliability and sound psychometric properties.

Data was collected from 487 participants, aged 18 to 75 years, with a mean age of 24.80 years. The sample consisted of 298 males (61.2%) and 189 females (38.8%), with an average of 14.57 years of formal education and a mean income of 10,884 Pakistani Rupees. Participants who consented to participate were given a questionnaire booklet and a demographic sheet. The collected data was entered into SPSS (Version 21) for analysis. Initial screening showed normal distribution (kurtosis and skewness) and met normality assumptions, making it suitable for further analyses. Analyses were performed using SPSS and AMOS, with results reported. To test the construct validity of the APWS and confirm its factors within the Pakistani population,

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was applied. Hence, two domains were measured by this multifactor scale i.e., attitude towards war and attitude towards peace. The initial model revealed that some items did not meet the recommended factor loading range of 0.30 or greater. Specifically, item 5 ($\lambda = -0.14$) on the peace subscale and items 7 ($\lambda = -0.12$) and 8 ($\lambda = -0.07$) on the war subscale loaded poorly and negatively were deleted to improve model fit, resulting in better indices values.

In a similar fashion, Blumberg (2017) and Van der Linden et al. (2017) identified variations in factor loadings when applying the scale in French and UK participants compared to the primary version by Bizumic et al. (2013). However, some items were negatively weighted or fell outside the expected range and some items were excluded in French version for improving the internal consistency (Van der Linden et al., 2017). Likewise, in the present Pakistani sample, some items that had been expected to have low alpha were removed while some; are retained for qualitative value. This CFA study supported the hypothesized two-factor structure of the scale by returning a satisfactory model fit.

Consequently, the newly translated APWS was proven to have a reliability coefficient of 0. 71 for the peace subscale, which was almost equal to that of the original English version (used in Pakistani sample), showing 0.73 reliability (Shaukat et al., 2021). The war subscale for this study gave a reliability coefficient of 0.59, which is very near to 0.60 nonetheless below criteria set by Loewenthal (2001). This statistic however exceeds the acceptable threshold of 0.50, indicating reliability of this subscale. Future researches including samples other than KP province might yield better reliabilities as the KP residents comprehend Urdu language but speak various dialect of Pashto as a first language. Overall the two subscales were found reliable and translated version of APWS is sound for usage in future researches in Pakistan.

An Independent samples t-test was conducted for the study variables since research has shown that gender considerably affects the different psychological constructs, health and behavior (Helgeson 2020; Rudman & Glick 2021). Findings showed that females assumed comparatively high attitude towards peace than males which can be expounded culturally using the ‘women and peace hypothesis’ (Maoz, 2011). This prior literature aligns with these findings as Ho et al. (2015) explained that males have larger orientation towards social dominance construct than females because of social arrangements of male supremacy across societies

(Rudman & Glick, 2021). This may explain the elevated inclination of women towards peace attitude compared to men. The implications returned by this study thus align with culture and with the moderation between gender and norms. The aforementioned conclusions conform to the outcomes observed in the other Asian cultures.

Implications

The validated Urdu version of the APWS provides a culturally relevant tool for researchers and practitioners in Pakistan to assess and understand attitudes towards peace and war. This can aid in designing targeted interventions and policies to foster peacebuilding and conflict resolution in affected regions. The findings also highlight the importance of considering gender differences and the impact of socio-economic factors in peace-related attitudes.

Limitations

The study's limitations include the use of purposive sampling, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. Additionally, the cross-sectional design does not allow for causal inferences. The sample was predominantly Sunni Muslim, which may not represent the diversity of religious beliefs in Pakistan. The sample of our research was from KP province whose first language is Pashto. Future researches including samples other than KP province might yield better reliabilities as the KP residents comprehend Urdu language but speak various dialect of Pashto as a first language. Urdu speaking sample might yield different results. Lastly KP residents have been residing in hotspot for war and violence which could have made certain statements less applicable from APWS. We recommend future usage of Urdu-version on other areas of Pakistan to better comprehend the applicability of APWS in Pakistan. Future studies should also consider longitudinal designs and more religiously diverse sampling to enhance the robustness and applicability of the findings.

Conclusion

The results of the present study indicate that, the translated form of two-factor APWS has satisfactory level of internal consistency/reliability, as well as stands to construct validity for measuring attitude towards war and peace for the Pakistani sample. Females were found to be more positive towards the concept of peace and the other demographics were also found to be related to attitude. The translated scale can be considered as a potential source of information and future investigation and assistance in the diffusion of peace in the conflict-regarding areas.

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