

INTER SCORER RELIABILITY OF HAND TEST IN PAKISTAN

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Hand Test is a projective test which has been used in west in several studies to assess various aspects of personality and behaviour. A major criticism on projective tests is that their scoring depends a good deal on subjective judgement of scorer. Two studies (Maloney & Wagner 1979; Oswald & Loftus, 1967) have ascertained scorer reliability of Hand Test. In the first study the examinees were enrolled in a state University (mean age 20.06, SD 1.79). Two judges, a well trained graduate student and author of the test, were involved as scorers. The over all agreement was 89.34%. Spearman Correlation for quantitative sub-categories and combined categories ranged from 0.71 to 1.00. The median correlation was .91. Second study was carried out in South Australia on 114 normal population of boys between 13-18 years of age. Two judges, one working in child guidance clinic and the other in social welfare department scored the protocols independently. The percentage agreement was 73%. The present study was carried out in Pakistan to see agreement between three scorers on scoring the responses on Hand Test.

METHOD

Subjects

Twenty subjects were randomly drawn from the sample of a larger study of 113 male high school students (mean age = 14.87, SD 1.21). Mean age of the subjects involved in this study was 15.05 years (SD = 1.10).

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Procedure

The subjects were administered the test individually by the researcher according to instructions given in the manual (Wagner, 1983). The responses on each protocol were independently scored by three scorers. Three scorers included the researcher (Scorer 1), a Ph.D. student with clinical background who was trained to use the test (Scorer 2), and a clinical psychologist with wide experience of using the test (Scorer 3). Definitions and examples listed in the test manual were used as a guide for scoring. Interscorer agreement was defined as perfect agreement between any two raters on each of the 15 quantitative subcategories for all the subjects. Both omissions and mismatches were counted as errors. The final percentage represented the total number of agreement divided by the total number of responses scored (multiplied by 100).

Results and Discussion

Results (see table 1) show an average agreement of 73 percent between three scorers. Agreement between scorers 1 and 2 was 79.5%, between scorers 1 and 3 it was 70.5% and between scorers 2 and 3 it was 68%. Overall agreement of three scorers is lower than that reported by Maloney and Wagner (1979) which was 89.34 percent, and equal to the one reported by Oswald and Loftus (1967), which was 73 percent.

It was observed that in 50% of the cases, the discrepancy was within the four combined (INT, ENV, MAL, WITH) categories and in rest of the cases it was between the combined categories. This is contrary to the claims of the author of the test who reported that discrepancies mostly occur within the combined category. In the present study there was consistent difficulty faced in making distinction between Direction (DIR) or Active (ACT) or Communication (COM). For example, on Card III the response "pointed" or "pointing toward something" was scored COM by scorers 1 and 2 but was consistently scored ACT by scorer 3. This has resulted in very low agreement on this card. Had it not been the case the overall agreement percentage would have been higher. Oswald and Loftus (1967) pointed out the same problem. Difficulty was also encountered in differentiation of Acquisition (ACQ) and Activity ACT responses.

Table No. 1

Percentage agreement between scorers on various cards of Hand Test

	Scorers 1 & 2			Scorers 1 & 3			Scorers 2 & 3		
	A	D	% of A	A	D	% of A	A	D	% of A
Card I	15	5	75	17	3*	85	17	3*	85
Card II	14	6	70	16	4	80	16	4	80
Card III	19	1	95	3	17	15	3	17	15
Card IV	15	5	75	16	4	80	13	7	65
Card V	16	4	80	11	9	55	11	9	55
Card VI	12	8	60	14	6	70	15	5	75
Card V	16	4	80	11	9	55	11	9	55
Card VI	12	8	60	14	6	70	15	5	75
Card VII	14	6	70	16	4	80	16	4	80
Card VIII	18	2	90	17	3	85	15	5	75
Card IX	19	1	95	14	6	70	15	5	75
Card X	17	3	85	17	3	85	15	5	75
Total	159	41	79.5	141	59	70.5	136	64	68

A = Agreement D = Disagreement * Includes 1 Omission

The present study was restricted to a limited sample of 20 male subjects. Further research on larger and diversified sample should be taken up to examine interscorer reliabilities.

Fairly high interscorer agreement indicates that Hand Test scoring categories are relatively clear and easy to learn which otherwise is a difficult proposition in scoring of projective tests.

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