

REPORT ON COGNITIVE TESTING OF THE FORMATS OF WASHINGTON GROUP FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Title of the project:

Cognitive testing of the formats of Washington group for persons with disabilities

Funding Agency:

Under contract OBMO 103920

Budget:Rs 56,000/-

Date of Commencement: May 2006

Purpose of the Project:

The main purpose of the study was to undertake cognitive validation of the formats of Washington Group for persons with disabilities so as to determine how the questions are understood by the respondents.

Objective of the Project:

1. To obtain data on cognitive functioning for literate groups of persons with disabilities.
2. To obtain data on cognitive functioning for illiterate groups of persons with disabilities.
3. To check for Test-Retest Reliability.

Introduction:

Cognitive testing techniques are used in developing a wide variety of surveys by federal agencies and have come to be regarded as a standard in applying 'best practices' for questionnaire development. India is a country where the diversity are largely seen in terms of demographic variation, culture, language spoken and literacy also plays a key role. In order to ensure any tool reliable across the length of the country, it is important that the questions are understood and interpreted uniformly by the target population. In the context of persons with disabilities, it is extremely useful to pretest these on individuals who are representative of the population to be surveyed.

Methodology:

The project was carried out in the following stages:

1. Translation of questionnaire to Marathi:

The English questionnaire provided had to be translated into the regional language, Marathi, to facilitate data collection in Maharashtra.

The questionnaire was given to experts in the field of special education for translation into Marathi. Another expert rechecked the translated questionnaire.

Reverse translation (of the questionnaires) to English was carried out by yet another expert in the field of special education. The reverse translated questionnaire was compared with the original English questionnaire for accuracy. It was found to be almost similar. The finalized Marathi questionnaire was made in multiple copies for the purpose of data collection.

2. Selection of Enumerators:

Four enumerators were selected to carry out data collection. They fulfilled the following selection criteria:

- a. Bachelor's Degree in Special Education
- b. Ability to speak, read and write Marathi.

3. Training of Enumerators:

Guidelines were prepared for training the enumerators. A two-day intensive training was provided to the enumerators that included the following:

- Orientation to the concept of Cognitive Testing.
- Orientation to the rationale and objectives of Cognitive testing
- Explanation of key terms and the items in the questionnaire
- Highlighting the role of enumerators in administration of the questionnaire.

Mock interviews:

Mock interviews were arranged and video shooting was carried out. These was then played back to the enumerators and critically analyzed.

Inter tester Reliability:

Two experts in the field of special education were appointed as Judges to establish inter-tester reliability.

4. Selection of samples:

For the data collection, samples were selected to include persons with different disabilities. Data was collected on different categories of

persons including Hearing impaired, Visually impaired, Orthopaedically handicapped, Mentally Retarded and a few from the general population.

To enlist the cooperation of various rehabilitation organizations, letters were drafted mentioning the objectives of the project and requesting for respondents with various disabilities.

Sampling technique :

Purposive sampling on quota basis was employed.

Sample size and Characteristics:

Self: 112 (56 Literate, 56 Illiterates)

Proxy: 112 (56 Literate, 56 Illiterates)

Mumbai City / Literate

	M.R.		V.I.		H.I.		O.H.		General	
	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy
Total	11	11	14	14	9	9	10	10	12	12

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Badlapur village / Illiterate

	M.R.		V.I.		H.I.		O.H.		General	
	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy	Self	Proxy
Total	12	12	7	7	10	10	27	27	8	8

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5. Data collection:

The enumerators approached the identified organizations with their letters. They interviewed the disabled persons (Self) and carried out the interview of the Proxy either at the organization or at their residence after fixing appointments.

In order to sample the illiterate population, the enumerators were sent to interior villages near Badlapur to carry out the task on the specified categories of disabled persons.

In the last phase 5% of the two groups, literate and illiterate, were interviewed again for reliability checks.

6. Data entry and Analysis:

The data was then entered and processed using the formats provided.