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Reliability of Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory on sports persons of Delhi

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Abstract
The Objective of the study was to establish reliability of Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI) developed by David E. Conroy, 2002 on Indian samples. For the purpose of the study, a total of three hundred (N=300) sports persons belonging to different sports were selected. The subjects selected were those who have participated at least at intercollegiate or state level competition.

The questionnaire contains 25 statements. Responses were made on a five-point scale ranging from do not believe at all (–2) to believe 100% of the time (+2). The zero point of the scale was labeled Believe 50% of the Time.

To establish the internal consistency of the questionnaire, Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of reliability method was employed. Descriptive Statistics, Item Analysis with 25 items in the questionnaire and Index of reliability for overall PFAI was also computed. It was concluded that the PFAI could very well be administered on Sportspersons of Delhi (India) since a very good Cronbach's Alfa coefficient of reliability (0.798) and index of reliability (0.893) values were obtained.

Keywords: Fear of failure, sports persons, psychometrics

Introduction
Successful performers often describe fear of failure (FF) as a factor that can motivate them to reach a high level of performance or prevent them from actualizing their potential. The FF construct possesses rare intuitive appeal and meaning, to social and behavioural scientists and lay person alike, which is paralleled by few psychological constructs. Recent progress on a multidimensional model based on the cognitive-motivational-relational theory of emotion has reduced conceptual and methodological problems associated with FF. We hope to add to this progress by refining a multidimensional measure of cognitive-motivational-relational appraisals associated with FF. The consequences of FF can be severe, as this construct has been associated with problems in achievement, mental health, moral development, and physical health (Conroy, 2001) [4]. Although often assumed to be one-dimensional, several multidimensional models of FF have been proposed. (Birney, Burdick, & Teevan, 1969; Conroy *et al.*, 2001; Schmalt, 1982) [1, 4]. From an applied standpoint, these multidimensional models are useful because they attempt to reveal what individuals fear about failure. From a cognitive-motivational-relational perspective (Lazarus, 1991) [8], FF will be associated with appraisals of threats to an individual's ability to accomplish one or more personally meaningful goals when one fails in a performance. Thus, Conroy *et al.* (2004) [3] extrapolated the consequences of failure and success identified by elite performers to infer the content of cognitive motivational-relational appraisals associated with FF (i.e., the aversive consequences of failing or not succeeding).

Objective
The objective of the study was to establish reliability of Performance Failure Appraisal Questionnaire on sports persons of Delhi.

Methodology
For the purpose of the present study 300 sports persons were randomly selected from Delhi, India. The age of the subjects ranged between 17 to 28 years and who had a minimum of state level of participation in sports.

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Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory (PFAI) developed by David E. Conroy, 2002 [4]. The PFAI was designed to be a clinically useful device for assessing why an individual fears failure. Lazarus (1991) [8] asserted that an individual's appraisal of a (real or imagined) perceived change in their relationship to the environment results in an emotion. In the case of fear and anxiety, appraisals centre emphasize threatening or aversive consequences associated with failure. The PFAI assesses respondents' beliefs in five threatening or aversive consequences of failure, including experiencing shame and embarrassment, devaluing their self-estimate, having an uncertain future, having important others lose interest, and upsetting important others. These five appraisals are moderately to strongly inter-correlate and the relationships between them can be summarized effectively with a single higher-order score representing a general FF (the belief that failure is associated with threatening or aversive consequences).

Findings
To establish the internal consistency of the questionnaire, Cronbach's Alfa coefficient of establishing reliability method was employed. Descriptive Statistics of Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory was calculated and the results are presented in Table-1. Index of reliability for overall Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory and the results are depicted in Table-2. Item Analysis with 25 items in the Scale was computed and the results are depicted in Table-3.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
PFAI	300	-8.25	7.64	.23	2.43	-.479	.109	.730	.218
Valid N (list wise)	300								

A detailed descriptive statistics was computed and is presented in the above table. It is evident from above table that the mean and standard deviation score obtained was .23 and 2.43 respectively. The range between maximum and minimum score was found to be 125 and minimum and maximum obtained score on body shape was found to be -8.25 and 7.64 respectively. Table -1 also reveals the value of skewness of body shape score which was found to be -.479 and the value of kurtosis was found to be .730 which are less than the cut-off point 3 for skewness and 7 for kurtosis (West, Finch, & Curran, 1995 cited in Zervas, Stavrou, & Psychountaki, 2007). Therefore, it may be concluded that scores were normally distributed.

The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of reliability and the Index of reliability for overall Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory were calculated. The results are depicted in Table-2.

Table 2: Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of reliability and the Index of reliability for overall Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory

Table 2 Reliability Statistics		Index of Reliability of Body Shape Questionnaire	
Cronbach's Alpha	No. of Items	No. of cases	Index of Reliability
0.798	25	300	0.893

It is evident from Table-2 that a value of 0.798 was obtained for Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of reliability which could be categorizes as an excellent value whereas, the value of index of reliability was found to be 0.893.

Item Analysis with initial 25 items in the Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory was computed. The results are depicted in Table- 3.

Table 3: Item Analysis with initial 25 items in the Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory

	Scale Mean Item If Deleted	Scale Variance If Item Deleted	Corrected Item Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha If Item Deleted
Q1.	-.0507	185.614	.225	.797
Q2.	-.2872	183.073	.319	.792
Q3.	-.8986	183.671	.381	.790
Q4.	-.4764	182.223	.296	.794
Q5.	-.5270	185.321	.232	.796
Q6.	-.6182	181.423	.385	.789
Q7.	-.1047	181.145	.358	.790
Q8.	-.5372	185.036	.258	.795
Q9.	-.2061	182.930	.282	.794
Q10.	-1.2331	172.112	.560	.779
Q11.	-.2601	185.034	.241	.796
Q12.	-.5980	193.163	.016	.807
Q13.	-.2500	185.198	.257	.795
Q14.	-.8209	187.476	.171	.799
Q15.	-1.1014	173.935	.494	.783
Q16.	-.3986	188.973	.142	.800
Q17.	-.2838	181.811	.342	.791
Q18.	-1.1318	172.888	.527	.781
Q19.	-.7838	189.723	.126	.801
Q20.	-1.1115	174.201	.481	.784
Q21.	-.2331	185.142	.257	.795
Q22.	-1.2128	174.161	.528	.782

Q23.	-.4426	185.210	.222	.797
Q24.	-1.2331	173.257	.508	.782
Q25.	-1.1723	171.106	.572	.779

Table- 3 presents the value that Cronbach's alpha would be if a particular item was deleted from the scale. From the above table it could be noticed that there are 4 items which has a corrected item total correlation of less than 0.2 score and hence we should delete these items at this stage. All remaining items of these coefficients turned out to be satisfactory and above the value of 0.2. No overall improvement was possible by eliminating any particular item hereafter. Moreover, the reliability of the scales turned out to be excellent, given the small number of items after deleting the items having corrected item total correlation value of less than 0.2. Thus, the internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha) for the entire scale of PFAI was alpha= 0.798 (N= 300) with 25 items in the scale.

Conclusions
Following conclusions have been drawn:
It was concluded that the Performance Failure Appraisal Inventory could very well be administered on Sports Persons of Delhi (India) since an excellent Cronbach's Alfa coefficient of reliability (0.798) and Index of reliability (0.893) values were obtained.
Only 21 coefficients of 25 items turned out to be satisfactory since the corrected item total correlation was found to be above the value of 0.2 and therefore, four of the items can be deleted for better internal consistency.

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