ABSTRACT

Background: Dementia affects over 55 million people worldwide, with approximately 8.8 million individuals in India aged over 60 living with the condition. Caregiver burden in dementia is a multidimensional phenomenon encompassing emotional, physical, financial, and social strain. The Revised Memory and Behaviour Problems Checklist (RMBPC), originally developed by Teri et al. (1992), is a validated 24-item instrument widely used to assess behavioural disturbances and caregiver reactions. An enhanced version — the RMBPC Enhanced Edition was subsequently developed, incorporating 10 additional components and 50 new items to address gaps identified in the original scale, including positive caregiving experiences, support system appraisal, structured clinical interpretation, and domain-specific intervention guidance. However, the content validity of these newly added components had not been formally evaluated.

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional design using a structured expert consensus approach was adopted, based on the Content Validity Index (CVI) framework proposed by Lynn (1986) and Polit and Beck (2006). A purposive sample of 20 qualified professionals with postgraduate qualifications and at least three years of clinical or research experience in dementia care, neuropsychology, physiotherapy (neurorehabilitation/geriatric specialisation), occupational therapy, psychiatry, or psychometric scale development was recruited. Each expert rated all 10 new components of the RMBPC Enhanced Edition using the RMBPC Components Assessment Scale (RECAS) on a 5-point Likert scale. Item-level Content Validity Index (I-CVI) and Scale-level Content Validity Index using the Average Method (S-CVI/Ave) were calculated.

Results: The overall S-CVI/Ave was 0.945, indicating excellent content validity. I-CVI scores across the 10 components ranged from 0.90 to 1.00. Components 7 and 8 achieved perfect I-CVI scores of 1.00. All components met or exceeded the accepted threshold of 0.78. Two experts (Aishwarya Rai: I-CVI = 0.70; Sonu Pd. Yadav: I-CVI = 0.50) identified areas for review, with their ratings flagged accordingly. The S-CVI/UA and Cohen's Kappa analyses further confirmed substantial inter-rater agreement.

Conclusion: The 10 new components of the RMBPC Enhanced Edition demonstrated excellent content validity as rated by a panel of 20 qualified experts. The findings support the alternate hypothesis (Ha) that the newly added components possess robust content validity, with a mean CVI score of ≥ 0.80. These results provide evidence-based justification for retaining all 10 components in their current form, pending further psychometric evaluation including test-retest reliability and confirmatory factor analysis.

Keywords: *Content Validity Index, RMBPC Enhanced Edition, Caregiver Burden, Dementia, Expert Panel Validation, Psychometric Assessment*

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