Abstrac :

Background : Touch deprivation, as a reduction or lack of desired physical contact in old age, can be associated with psychological and social consequences such as loneliness, anxiety, and depression.
Methods: This methodological and cross-sectional study was conducted in Khorramabad, and 420 older adults aged 60 and above were investigated using multi-stage cluster sampling. Following translation and cultural adaptation, content validity, qualitative and quantitative face validity (impact score), construct validity (exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis), reliability (Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability), and concurrent criterion validity using De Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale, Geriatric Anxiety Inventory (GAI), and Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) were assessed. It is noteworthy that two items from the original questionnaire, despite having a lower content validity ratio (CVR), were not removed and were entered into the exploratory factor analysis to further examine their structural performance.

Results: The mean age of the participants was 67.70 ± 7.46 years, and 57.9% were male. In content validity, the content validity ratio for 12 items was higher than 0.49. Content validity indices for the final items ranged from 0.90 to 1.00, and the impact score of all

items was reported to be above 1.5. In exploratory factor analysis with adequate sample adequacy and a significant Bartlett's test, the touch deprivation instrument was analyzed in three stages, ultimately extracting three factors that accounted for a total of 54.75% of the variance, with factor loadings ranging from 0.58 to 0.82 (and the aforementioned two items were removed during these stages). Confirmatory factor analysis also showed a favorable fit for the three factor model. ($\chi 2$/df=1.771 ,CFI=0.975 ,TLI=0.968 ,RMSEA=0.053). Concurrent criterion validity was favorable, and the total touch deprivation score had a positive and significant correlation with loneliness (r = 0.309), anxiety (r = 0.517), and depression (r = 0.349) (P <0.001). Appropriate internal consistency reliability was obtained (total alpha = 0.895; subscale alphas = 0.778 to 0.867; CR = 0.777 to 0.867)

Conclusion : The 12-item Persian version of the Touch Deprivation Scale has favorable validity and reliability and can be used in research and clinical evaluations in the field of aging to assess touch deprivation within the cultural context of Iran.

Keywords : Touch Deprivation, Aged, Psychometrics, Cross-Cultural Adaptation, Factor Analysis, Validity and Reliabilit