Urdu Translation and Validation of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

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Abstract

The current study aims to translate and validate the adapted Self-report Altruism Scale in the Urdu language for Pakistani people. Self-report altruism scale adapted by Peter Witt and Chris Boileman (2009) is one of the well-cited measures of altruism. The translation of the scale is done by using MAPI guidelines (MAPI Research Trust, 2012). Appropriateness of translation is confirmed on a sample of 30 adults selected through a purposive sampling technique. The empirical equivalence of the Urdu and English versions of the scale is confirmed by finding the correlation between the original and translated version of the scale through the test-retest phase. It is carried out on a sample of 40 adults by categorizing them into four groups (10 participants in each group). Exploratory Factor Analysis reconfirms the factor structure of translated version on a sample of 320 adults. 14 items are subjected to principle component analysis and the resulting scree plot and Eigen values evidence of single factor solution which accounted for 29.67% of the total items variance. Furthermore, confirmatory factor analysis validates the factor structure on an independent sample of 400 adults through confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The results regarding internal consistency and construct validity yielded a self-report altruism scale as a promising indigenous measure of altruism. The findings indicated adequate equivalence between both versions. No discrepancies are found between both versions.

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1. Introduction

Pakistanis are giving people when it comes to charitable giving and volunteering. Pakistan donates more than one percent of its GDP to charitable causes, placing it on par with far richer nations like the United Kingdom and Canada, where a significant percentage of GDP goes to charitable causes and gives approximately twice as much as India does in relation to its GDP. World Giving Index (2017) reports that Pakistan has bagged the 14th spot on the giving index and according to the reports by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy, Pakistanis donate about 240 billion Pakistani rupees to charity each year, which is more than $2 billion. According to the same report, as stated by Shah (2018) around 98 percent of individuals in the country give in some way—In cash or if not with cash, then with other kinds of donations or by offering for charitable causes. The influence of religious emphasis (Islamic) on giving (in terms of religious charity), along with other moral and social, and societal factors and an intensely rooted sense of kindness and compassion toward other community members, are stimulating this culture of being generous (Amjad & Ali, 2018).

Auguste Comte coined the term altruism in 1851 by uniting the Latin word "alter," which means "to other," and it's adjective in Italian "Altru." Auguste Compte defined altruism...
as "benevolence or living for others" (Smith et al., 2006). Altruism is defined as any creature's behavior to endorse the benefit and welfare of others at their own expenditure, including putting their own life at risk. It is regarded as a generous act with no expectation of recompense. According to sociological theories, man is a social animal who cannot exist alone. To coexist, one must agree with one another and contribute mutually. A high level of cooperation may result in improved acceptance and positions, including leadership, in society. Altruism is one way to distinguish oneself from others (Simpson & Willer, 2015). For the reason that it's presumed relevance in explaining behaviors such as donation of blood, altruism has been demonstrated to be a very significant construct (Fox, Himawan, & France, 2018; Kiss et al., 2015). It is a deliberate, voluntary behaviour motivated by helping another rather than anticipating or avoiding punishment from outside sources or unpleasant stimuli (Chou, 1996). People can express their humanitarian concerns and put their strongly held principles into action by volunteering for a worthwhile cause; in this sense, volunteerism is altruistic (Unger, 1991). According to research, generosity appears to be a factor in all of the many reasons why people choose to volunteer. Furthermore, collaboration (Pessõa, Seidl-de-Moura, Mendes, de Carvalho, & Stobäus, 2015), sympathy (Cameron, Harris, & Payne, 2016), and behaviors and attitudes that involve equity, sharing, a sense of moral values, and even consideration (Büssing, Kerksieck, Günther, & Baumann, 2013) are linked with altruism.

Multiple scales have been designed to measure altruistic behaviors among people and study the levels of altruism across populations and in relation to other constructs for a better understanding of human psychology behind it.

The adapted Rushton self-report altruism scale was intended to be translated into Urdu. The original measure was created to evaluate previously reported explicit altruistic behaviors. The initial tool was built by (Rushton, Chrisjohn, & Fekken, 1981), while the modified version was made by Peter Witt and Chris Boleman (Rushton et al., 1981; Witt & Boleman, 2009). Peter Witt and Chris Boleman took notes on pertinent things as they shifted the focus away from individuals' past explicit altruistic acts or behaviors and toward their self-perceptions of how they would behave in the future. There was no indication of a time limit for how frequently participants thought they might carry out an altruistic act or behavior in the future, even though this shift was beneficial to the study. "Take into account the following month. The question "How often would you be willing to engage in these actions if given the opportunity?" was added before the behavior statements. This lowers the chance that individuals will understand the questions as asking how frequently they had engaged in these actions in the past and gives them a time limit to use as a frame of reference, making responses like "once" less outlandish. Rushton's study introducing the tool revealed a Cronbach's alpha of 0.89, indicating internal consistency, with coefficient alpha for five samples at 0.84, 0.83, 0.78, 0.87, and 0.86, respectively. The original study discovered that the tool could predict altruism scores with an r = +0.40 (Rushton et al., 1981). The Prosocialness Scale for Adults (Caprara, Steca, Zelli, & Capanna, 2005) and the SRA-scale with peer-rated SRA-scale altruism was shown to have substantial correlations, which allowed for the validity to be evaluated. The international literature has grown to be well-known on this scale. This scale was used by Robertello (2020) to conduct a study on how our judgments of our altruistic tendencies are influenced by the constant internal states of personality and the ephemeral stages of mood. Although the self-report altruism scale is gaining popularity around the world, few studies in Pakistan have used it. This invigorated the development of our study, and it was envisioned to translate and validate it in Urdu for a better understanding and its application to the Pakistani population in Pakistan, according to the Adviser (2021), literacy rate trends in the year 2020-21 shows 62.8 percent literacy rate, which is quite low, and thus Pakistani adults are not very proficient in understanding the English language. As a result, an Urdu version of the scale was required for use in the Pakistani adult population. So, with the importance of Altruism as a construct and its influence on the social and psychological lives of adults in mind, the current research study was designed to translate and validate the self-report altruism scale.

2. Method

The present research study consisted of two phases of the study. First deals with the translation of the scale. The second phase of the study comprised of the factorial structure of the scale with was reconfirmed in indigenous culture and this factor structure was validated through confirmatory factor analysis on an independent sample.
3. Study 1
3.1 Phase 1: Translation of Scale
Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale, (Witt & Boleman, 2009) was in fact adapted from the original scale of (Rushton et al., 1981) in the English language to assess intentions related to altruistic behaviors. Creating an Urdu translation of the English version of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009) that is equivalent to the original and can be better understood by Pakistani Adults for the assessment of altruistic behaviors and it was the aim of this translation of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009).

3.1.1 Conceptual Definitions
To better comprehend the original scale, the concepts of each item were assessed using the original questionnaire.

3.1.2 Recruitment and briefing
An expert in the target language was hired and briefed to act as the translation process’ supervisor. The research supervisor kept a close check on the entire study and translation process.

3.1.3 Forward translation
As part of the initial translation process, a language expert of both the source language and the target language translated the scales in the Urdu language in accordance with MAPI’s guidelines. As a result of this tenacity, the translation committee, which is made up of specialists having multilingual expertise and experience in both languages, having an understanding of both cultures, and knowledge of tool development, was contacted in this regard. The bilingual expert committee was made up of one expert from the department of English and one from the department of psychology. When translating the content, grammatical considerations, tenses in the language, question sizes, and suitable language abstraction were all observed and taken into account. The Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale procedures were followed, and Urdu translations were obtained (Witt & Boleman, 2009).

3.1.4 Reconciled version of the forward translation
The use of two distinct categories of scale translations, each is based on a different kind of theoretical approach to standardize the scale translation and yielded the best results in the targeted language. Two of the lecturers from the department of psychology who were both native language speakers were targeted and fluent in the source language served in the committee of forward translation. We had to go through this exercise to get to an agreement. The translation that best reflected each item’s intended meaning was chosen after careful examination by a panel of expert translators. The committee evaluated the translations thoroughly. Those who supported the proposal gave their thoughts on which translations of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale they felt were the best (Witt & Boleman, 2009). In the end, both members agreed that the forward translation method produced the best accurate translations. The final version of the scales’ Urdu translation emerged after several conversations, and it was subsequently chosen.

3.1.5 Backward translation
Forward translation is used by experts in the target language to analyze the translated version of scales in order to gauge and verify the quality of a translation. To confirm and authenticate the translations used in this study, re-translations into the original languages of previously translated versions were carried out. The translation was concentrated to establish conceptual and social equivalency for research objectives.

3.1.6 Review of forward and backward translations
This aspect of the method, which contrasted the two translations, served to validate the pragmatic verification of the scales in Urdu. To determine the original scale in the English language, differences between the two versions were examined and corrected as needed. The scale was arranged according to the original scale that was in the English language at the end of the translation procedure. This process resulted in the development of the Urdu version of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009). It was then proofread for further clarity.
3.2 Phase 2: Appropriateness of translation

Appropriateness of translation was confirmed on a sample of 30 adults selected through a purposive sampling technique. They were given instructions about filling out the questionnaire. There was no time limit and the participants didn’t show any ambiguity or grammatical error in the final Urdu version.

3.2.1 Testing out Items of the Questionnaire

After translating and evaluating the scales for the current research study, the suitability of the target population is evaluated. It is a possibility that certain questionnaire items on the specified measures were biased in terms of culture, and that some of the items were difficult to comprehend by the current study’s targeted population. A sample of 30 adults was chosen at random. Gauging participants’ reactions to the scales of the study and collecting their feedback were critical components of this process. Other difficult-to-understand words and phrases were also requested of participants. The following are the specifics of this section:

3.2.2 Participants

The cross-language validation sample included 30 adult participants recruited through purposive sampling.

3.2.3 Instrument

The psychometric properties of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009) are satisfactory. The following is a more detailed description of the instrument:

3.2.4 Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Peter Witt and Chris Boleman, 2009)

The Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009) was adapted from (Rushton et al., 1981) original scale in English to assess intentions related to altruistic behaviors. The original instrument has a reliability value of 0.84 for the questionnaire and is widely used with adults.

3.2.5 Procedure

Evaluation of the adult population was done as a part of the pilot study using the Urdu translation of scale.

3.2.6 Results

There was not anytime constraint for individuals to complete the questionnaire. The participants did not report any sort of difficulty in understanding the questionnaire.

3.3 Phase 3: Empirical Equivalence of Translated and Original Versions through test-retest Phases

The factorial structure of the scale was reconfirmed in indigenous culture and this factor structure was validated through confirmatory factor analysis on an independent sample. There were 40 adults in the sample who were divided into four groups having 10 adults in each group.

3.3.1 Pilot testing of the Translated Questionnaire

The psychometric properties of the questionnaire were assessed in the third stage of scale translation. It was phase 3, which was pilot testing of the scale.

3.3.2 Sample of the pilot study

The pilot study was designed based on a cross-sectional survey design. The sample of adults (N=40) was selected for the pilot study using the technique of purposive sampling.

3.3.3 Procedure

According to the procedure of the pilot study, various versions of scales were tested and tried out two times on different four groups of adults who knew both languages. It was done in order to find out the validity measures of each of the versions. The process was carried out in the following order: Urdu-Urdu, then in English-English, then in English Urdu, and then Urdu-English. The participants of the study were introduced to scales in two methods: two
groups received Urdu versions, while the other two received English versions. After one week, all participants were asked to give responses on scales again. As light change was made the second time to obtain the responses of the participants as the two groups were given the same earlier versions of the scale, but the other two groups were given opposite versions of the preceding activity. This was particularly done to assess the similarity and identify any differences in results between the two forms of similar scales. This activity of allocating opposing versions may aid in controlling the influence of learning in translation testing. The calculation of empirical equivalence was done by using the correlation of both the test and the retest after a week's gap. The inter-correlations and psychometric properties of the variables were also resolute in the pilot study of approximately forty (40) adult participants.

3.3.4 Results of Pilot Testing
The collected data after the pilot testing was then analyzed after entering it into the SPSS software. The following table shows the results of pilot testing:

| Scale                                      | R    |
|--------------------------------------------|------|
| Self-report Altruism Scale                  |      |
| Test – retest, English – English            | .81**|
| Test – retest, English – Urdu               | .88**|
| Test – retest, Urdu – English               | .89**|
| Test – retest, Urdu – Urdu                  | .95**|

**p < .01

Table 1 shows the relationship between all test-retest parts of the self-report altruism scale questionnaire. It stipulates that this scale's entire test retest levels are very much correlated. The Urdu version of the questionnaire corresponds to the English version, as shown in Table 1.

4. Study 2
The factorial structure of the scale was reconfirmed in indigenous culture, and this factor structure was validated on an independent sample using confirmatory factor analysis.

4.1 Linguistic Validation of the Self Report Altruism scale
The measure was validated in this step by ratifying its high levels of reliability and validity measures, which are two sorts of psychometric characteristics i.e. convergent and discriminant.

4.2 Sample
The validity of the survey will increase with the size of the sample. However, Tabachnick, Fidell, and Ullman (2007) claimed that a sample size of 300 was sufficient for factor analysis. As recommended by Tabachnick et al. (2007), a sample of 320 people from various cities in South Punjab, Pakistan, was chosen to determine the psychometric parameters (2007).

4.3 Instrument: Self-Report Altruism Scale
The translated Self-Report Altruism Scale questionnaire evaluating adult altruism had a satisfactory validity and reliability score of 0.89.

4.4 Procedure
The adult participants gave their initial, fully informed consent before the Urdu-translated Self-Report Altruism Scale was administered. Participants were made aware of the study's objectives. Participants were requested to give consent and assurances regarding the confidentiality of their responses prior to the questionnaire being administered. The majority of participants took 10 to 12 minutes to complete the questionnaire after being informed that there was no time limit. All participants were requested to complete the Self-Report Altruism Scale immediately, and any questions they had about the questionnaire were satisfactorily addressed. Each participant received respectful treatment in accordance with the APA's code of ethics.
4.5 Determining psychometric properties of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

The Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009) was validated in this step. Two steps were taken to complete this phase. The factor structure of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale, which was translated into Urdu, was confirmed in step I of phase II by confirmatory factor analysis (Witt & Boleman, 2009). Finding the scale's convergent and divergent validity was done in Step II.

4.6 Phase I: Determination of the Underlying Factor Structure through Exploratory Factor Analysis

EFA was carried out on the 14 items of altruism self-report scale with 5 points Likert scale to reconfirm the factor structure of the indigenous translated questionnaire. SPSS version 24.0 was used to explore the factor structure by carrying out EFA of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

4.6.1 Factor Solution for the Item Pool of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

KMO and Bartlett tests were used to determine sample size adequacy, and a KMO of .88 indicated very good sampling sufficiency (Kaiser, 1974). Furthermore, Bartlett’s test of sphericity was found to be significant, indicating that the data was factorable. The factor structure of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale was investigated using principal axis factoring and the varimax rotation method. The number of factors was determined by the Scree plot and Eigen values greater than one (Kim & Mueller, 1978). The factor structure and scree plot revealed that the developed scale had a one-factor solution. Based on a loading of .40, all 14 altruistic items were kept with no item being disqualified for low loadings. Four-factor solutions accounted for 29.67% of the total variance, with item loadings ranging from 0.43 to 0.66.

Table 2: Single Factor Solutions for the Items of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

| Items | Component |
|-------|-----------|
| AV.1  | 0.576     |
| AV.2  | 0.754     |
| AV.3  | 0.696     |
| AV.4  | 0.698     |
| AV.5  | 0.483     |
| AV.6  | 0.725     |
| AV.7  | 0.613     |
| AV.8  | 0.363     |
| AV.9  | 0.417     |
| AV.10 | 0.502     |
| AV.11 | 0.692     |
| AV.12 | 0.671     |
| AV.13 | 0.655     |
| AV.14 | 0.576     |
| Eigen Value | 5.63 |
| % of Variance | 29.67 |
| Cumulative % of Variance | 29.67 |
| Cronbach’s Alpha | 0.89 |

4.6.2 Scoring Technique

A greater score from the median reflected high altruism in a given factor, while a lower score from the median represented low altruism, which was used to establish the cut-off value.

4.6.3 Reliability Analysis

The internal consistency of the items for the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale was determined by using McDonald’s omega. The coefficient values were 0.89.
4.6.4 Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA)

The objective of step I (Phase II) was to confirm the factor structure of translated version of the adapted SRA scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009).

4.6.5 Confirmatory Factor Analysis of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

The Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt & Boleman, 2009) underwent confirmatory factor analysis, and the model fit indices of the tested model are displayed in the table.

Table 3: Fit Indices of Confirmatory Factor Analysis of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

| Model                  | χ²    | Df | χ²/df | GFI | CFI | RMSEA |
|------------------------|-------|----|-------|-----|-----|-------|
| Initial Model Fit Indices | 390.12 | 77 | 5.06  | .87 | .76 | .10   |
| Final Model Fit         | 200.42 | 74 | 2.71  | .94 | .91 | .06   |

Note: N = 400, All changes in chi-square values were calculated to model, Chi-square > .05, CFI = Comparative fit indices, GFI = Goodness of fit indices, RMSEA = Root Mean Square of approximation

Confirmatory factor analysis was performed on the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale, and fit indices are shown in table 3. The absolute fit value was χ² (390.12) = 5.06, p<.001. Chi-square was used as a fitness measure. On the other hand, the absolute fit of a method like a chi-square is sensitive to sample size, taking into account the number of estimations or parameters to be evaluated in a model and non-normality or atypical data spread. In order to assess how well the entire model fits the data, statisticians frequently use a number of relative fit indices. The literature was examined to determine the model fitness using CFI, GFI, and RMSEA.

According to experts, the χ²/df value should be between 0 and 3, the RMSEA value should be.08, and GFI and CFI values of.90 or higher are considered good. 90.80 is sometimes considered permissible (Hair, Anderson, Babin, & Black, 2010; Hu & Bentler, 1999). Since the initial model's RMSEA was.10 for tested models, the CFI and GFI values for the CFA model were.87 and.76, respectively. Values over the upper bound indicated that the model did not meet the requirements of the descriptive measures of fit. As a result, the process of model change to suit the data on the tested model was finished in a single step. The addition of indicator covariance between error terms followed the modification indices' instructions.

The factor's component was similar to the overall construct in terms of context and content (Kenny, 2012). According to (Tomas & Oliver, 1999), the covariance between error terms within the latent variables across the error terms of the indicators can be accurately derived in survey-based research. The error covariance benchmark for modification indices, according to Arbuckle (2012), should be at least 4.0; hence the covariance with a chi-square value change of 4.0 was used.

The absolute and relative model fit indices (CFI, TLI, GFI, and RMSEA) were analyzed and compared once more. The results of the final fit indices lead to the examination of confirmatory factor analysis for the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale after suggested modification, as shown in the table above. The absolute fit value was χ² (200.42) =2.71, p >.05. The RMSEA for the model fit was.06 after drawing the covariance, while the GFI and CFI values were.94 and.91, respectively. The fit indices were calculated using the given cut-off scores (Hair et al., 2010; Hu & Bentler, 1999).

These indices were therefore precise enough to fit the model as shown in the figure and adequate to generalize the model based on the tested data. The changed model, as indicated by the modification, as well as its indices, are shown in the table. The final model is shown in the figure 1.
Figure 1: Confirmatory Factor Analysis of Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale: Final Factor Loading of Self-report Altruism Scale (SRA)

Table 4: CFA for Self report Altruism Scale

| Items | Estimate | Items | Estimate |
|-------|----------|-------|----------|
| AV1   | .505     | AV2   | .448     |
| AV3   | .420     | AV4   | .444     |
| AV5   | .589     | AV6   | .559     |
| AV7   | .431     | AV8   | .399     |
| AV9   | .455     | AV10  | .605     |
| V11   | .534     | V12   | .661     |
| V13   | .563     | V14   | .517     |

4.7 Step II: Determination of Psychometric Properties of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

Study III's goal was to collect data to support the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale's reliability and validity. The Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale's concurrent and convergent validity was established for this reason.

4.7.1 Sample

An independent sample of 100 people was purposefully recruited. The sample's minimum educational requirement was matriculation.

4.7.2 Measures: 14-item Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale

The 14-item adapted self-report altruism scale (SRA) was used in this very study for collecting data on altruistic behaviors on a Likert Scale (where the response “never = 0” to the response “very often = 4”). On this 5-point Likert scale, the 14-item SRA (Witt & Boleman, 2009) was used to measure behavioral activation. There was nothing negative to report. The high SRA score indicated a high level of self-reported altruism. The two-week span of test-retest reliability of the SRA measure was 0.78, according to (Abbasi, Sarker, & Chiang, 2016).

4.7.3 Prosocialness Scale for Adults (G.V. Caprara et al., 2005), Results

Results of the Pearson correlation showed that the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale had a positive correlation with the Adult Prosocialness Scale, suggesting that it had convergent validity. (r = 0.59, p < 0.001).

5. Discussion

The Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale's translation and validation were the study's main objectives (Witt & Boleman, 2009). The following are the main conclusions of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale - Urdu Version preliminary analysis: It was found that Cronbach's alpha was.89, indicating a reasonable level of internal consistency. Furthermore, there is a statistically significant correlation between all of the items (i.e., r' values extending from.30 to.71, p less than.05) and between the total scores (r =.80, p less than.05) of the original English Version and the Urdu Version of the Adapted Self-Report Altruism Scale (Witt &
Boleman, 2009), indicating that the Urdu Version has stronger equivalence with the original scale. The total SRA scores had a strong, positive correlation with the prosocialness scale and other assessment scales. By determining the correlation between the original and translated versions of the scale through the test-retest phase, the empirical equivalence of the Urdu and English versions of the scale was proven. To confirm the factor structure of the translated version, exploratory factor analysis was conducted. When 14 items were subjected to PCA, the scree plot and Eigen values results showed a single factor solution that explained 29.67% of the variance of all the items. Additionally, confirmatory factor analysis was conducted to validate the component structure on an independent sample of 400 adults (CFA). Overall, the results showed that the scale is ready for usage in the Pakistani population and offered preliminary support for it.

The study made the assumption that the sample it used might be linguistically representative of the populace of the nation. However, the volunteers from other provinces could not be selected because the sample size from Punjab was small. Future research should be encouraged to include a sample proportionately from all provinces of Pakistan with a variety of demographic segments in order to ensure the generalizability of study findings to the Pakistani population. It would be easier for the local respondents to give responses on the translated scale. The current study has added to the existing literature on altruism in the Urdu-speaking and understanding population by translating a self-report measure of altruism into Urdu and establishing its psychometric properties, which can be used to operationalize altruism in Pakistan and India's Urdu-speaking cultures. Thus, the Urdu version of the Altruism Scale may open up new avenues for empirical research on altruism and its correlates in the Indian subcontinent's Urdu-speaking population.

6. Conclusion

The study was based on the translation of the scale SRA scale into the Urdu language. Good construct validity, convergent validity, discriminant validity, and Cronbach's alpha reliability levels were seen in the translation of the SRA into Urdu. This might open up new areas of research for investigations of self-report altruistic behaviors in the Pakistani community that are linguistically precise. The scale is more easily understandable for the local population for measuring their self-report altruism. It would be helpful in understanding altruistic behaviors in the Pakistani population. The scale would be beneficial not just for the study of altruistic behaviors in the field of psychology but it can be used across disciplines.

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