

# Relation between Kuder Preference Record and a non-verbal interest inventory modelled after it to suit Indian condition

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## **Introduction**

The Kuder Preference Record is a standard interest inventory for measuring the interest of school population in the West. This inventory has been standardised under a cultural set up which is quite different from that of ours, and it is known that even within the same cultural group as ways of life and social patterns undergo certain changes, the significance of corresponding behavioral pattern also changes. As a result it becomes necessary to make adjustments in the norms etc. of the test or inventories developed within the earlier social set up. Hence it was quite reasonable to assume that certain modifications will be necessary before we could use the KPR here in India.

## **Development of the new inventory**

Taking Kuder Preference Record as a model an interest inventory was developed for use under Indian condition with non-verbal medium for expressing different activities as it was felt that if the inventory were developed in a regional language the multi-linguistiality of the Indian sub-continent would severely limit the usefulness of such inventory. The fields covered by this new inventory were scientific, literary, fine arts, mechanical, outdoor and sports, agricultural, medical and crafts. This inventory was used on different groups of persons of different parts of India. After a series of modifications based on the analysis of the data collected it was found that the reliabilities of the different scales were considerably high.

As this new interest inventory was modelled after the Kuder Preference Record it was but natural to compare the scores obtained on these two inventions. It should be mentioned here that the fields measured by the new inventories were not identical to those measured by the Kuder Preference Record as changes had been made to suit educational guidance needs in India. Hence comparison could be made only between the similar scales of these two inventories. The comparable fields were mechanical, scientific, fine arts, outdoor sports and musical.

## **Collection of data**

The CPR 1158 and the KPR were administered on a random group of 33 students of first year Arts and Science classes of B. K. College of Calcutta

on two consecutive days. On the first day the Kuder Preference Record Vocational, was administered and on the second day during the same hour, the CPR 1158 was administered.

### Results

All the 33 pairs of answer sheet were scored and the results of the comparable scales were correlated. Except for the mechanical scale where the correlation was  $+0.73$  all the others between seemingly comparable scales were not very high. The correlations between the CPR Fine Arts and the KPR Fine Arts and Musical scales were  $+0.21$  and  $+0.32$  respectively. This relation between the two corresponding scientific interest scales was  $+0.26$ . The relation between the CPR outdoor and sports scale and the KPR sports scale was only  $.11$ . The correlation between the CPR crafts and the KPR mechanical was  $+0.13$  only.

### Interpretation of the results

It might be true that the behaviors which are indicators of a particular type of interest under an American cultural set up may not function in the same way here in India. With respect to mechanical field of the CPR and the KPR it could be seen that both deal with handling mechanical objects etc. and hence it is to be expected that the correlation between these two scales would be high. On similar grounds the relation between the two scientific scales and those between the CPR Fine Arts scale and the KPR Fine Arts and Musical scales were expected to be high. In fact these correlations come next in magnitude after that for the mechanical scales. The correlation between the CPR Fine Arts scale on the one hand and the combined score on the KPR Musical and Fine Arts scale was found to be  $+0.32$ . Surprisingly enough the correlation between the KPR and the CPR Literary scales was only  $+0.15$ . The low correlation between the two outdoor scales might be interpreted as indicating that they were not measuring the same thing. The CPR outdoor and sports scale contain items indicating liking for extrovert type of activities whereas the KPR scale covers naturalistic and agricultural interest. It might be due to the fact that the representation of such behavior as "write article about birds" or about writing on somebody or living with certain types of persons is not possible to depict through the non-verbal medium. The literary activities which could be expressed through the non-verbal medium are in terms of reading and teaching. It might be that this factor is responsible for lack of similarity between these two scales. Similar might be the reason with respect to the CPR scientific and fine arts scales, whereas in the case of the mechanical scale no such problem was there and the correlation too was high. In short it might be sufficient to say that mainly there are two factors operating in determining the observed relationships between the CPR and the KPR.

- (1) The diagnostic significance and hence the resulting cluster of the KPR items might be different here in India.

- (2) Difficulty of expressing several types of behaviors as expressed through the KPR items through the non-verbal medium. This means that the two inventories are not touching upon the identical segments of the field concerned.

By the way it might be mentioned here that most of the correlations reported by Triggs (1) on the basis of data on 166 men between SVIB and KPR scores lie below  $+.55$ . The maximum reported correlation is  $+.73$  between the chemist and scientific scales.

#### REFERENCE

- (1) Triggs, F.O. etc. : A comparison of interest measurement by the KPR and the SVIB for men and women; *Educ. Psychol. Measurement*, 3, 1943, pp. 239-257.