

Abstract

The current research was conducted to explore the phenomenon of underachievement and its types in Pakistani schools. The study was aimed to construct a valid and reliable scale on types of underachievement. A mixed method approach was used to construct the scale. Study was conducted using stratified random sampling of 700 students with the distribution of 350 boys and 350 girls from grade 6 to 10 from both government and private schools of Lahore. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was run to explore the factor structure of the Multidimensional Scale for Types of Underachievement (MSTU) with 68 items. A Varimax rotation method was employed which yielded 5 factors namely; Wheeler-dealer underachievers, Procrastinators, Defiant underachievers, Anxious underachievers and Depressed underachievers. MSTU Cronbach's alpha value came out to be satisfactory ($r=.94$). Results revealed significant gender differences on MSTU and its subscales. The results indicated that boys underachieve more than girls and government schools have high ratio of underachievement as compared to private schools. The development of this reliable and valid scale contributes in the area of psychological assessment and educational settings.

Keywords: Underachievers, Types of underachievement, School children