

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MALAYSIAN PSYCHOLOGY

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PATTERNS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST USAGE IN MALAYSIA

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RAHMATTULLAH KHAN**

Psychological assessment is a core feature of, and crucial to, the definition and practice of professional psychology. This study reviews the findings of a survey carried out in Malaysia to analyze the pattern of psychological test use. The results show that while a considerable number of psychologists are interested in this area, the field has not developed fully. The work in this area has largely remained limited to translations of English tests into Malay or Chinese; while original test development, and test adaptation have remained very restricted. Many tests are translated and used in a single study only. Lack of test-focused research, non-availability of training in specialized tests, poor documentation and absence of infrastructure are the major factors retarding the professional development of tests. Tests are widely used in the public sector but information regarding them is not available, for understandable reasons. The article makes some suggestions on how to improve coordination and communication, which may solve some of these problems.