

Name of Measure: Perceived Support Scale (Krause & Markides, 1990)

Purpose of Measure: To measure the social support provided and received by elderly caregivers.

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Reference: Gupta, R. (in press). Support provided by the elderly in South Asian families. *Journal of Social Work Research and Evaluation*.

Description of measure: The Perceived Support Scale (Krause & Markides, 1990) is an 11-item scale. The scale has high internal consistency ( $\alpha = .87$ ). Responses are scored: 1=never, 2=once in a while; 3=fairly often; 4=very often. Items are summed to form a single global composite score (range 11-44) with higher scores indicating a greater number of support tasks performed by the elder. The scale has three sections:

- 1) Tangible support received by the caregiver: consists of 3 items. For example, "How often has the elderly pitched in to help you do something that needed to get done, like household chores or yard-work (voluntarily) \_\_\_\_\_".
- 2) Informational support received by caregiver: consists of 4 items. For example, "How often has the elderly given you information that made a difficult situation easier to understand \_\_\_\_\_".
- 3) Emotional support received by caregiver: consists of 4 items. For example, "Listened to you talk about private feelings".

In this study, the author conducted a confirmatory factor analysis based on the responses of a sample of South Asian immigrant caregivers. The findings indicated that the 4 items pertaining to tangible support (items 1, 2, 3, 11) should be dropped, resulting in a shortened 7 item instrument with 2 internally consistent factors. The tangible support items were:

The elder

- Provided transportation;
- Pitched in voluntarily with household chores
- Pitched in voluntarily with yard work
- Helped with shopping.

Language Availability: Hindi. The interview protocol was translated and back translated into Hindi and English by two bilingual, bicultural professors.

Translation Comments: Not described

Description of Asian Population: One hundred and fifty Indian/Pakistani caregivers residing in the Dallas –Worth area participated in the research. Their average age was 41 years, and the average age of the elderly care recipient was 71 years. Eighty-seven percent of the caregivers were married, 7.3% were never married, and 6.0 were divorced. Over half of the care recipients (54%) were widowed. Of the caregivers, 65.3% were women and 34.7% were men. Among the women, 24.7% were daughters, 38.7% were daughters-in-law, and the remaining 4.9% included other caregivers such as spouse or grandchild. Among male caregivers, 30% were sons and 2.7% were sons-in-law. Eighty-five percent of the elders lived with their adult child in a multigenerational

household. Almost 53% of the elderly care recipients were female. In terms of the educational attainment of caregivers, a large percentage had some undergraduate college education (44%), and 36% had 16-18 years of college. The sample represents four major religious groups of Indian/Pakistani immigrants in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area. Hindus comprised 60.7% of the sample; Muslims, 26%; Christians, 8%, and Sikhs, 5.3%. Of the total, 24% of the caregivers were from Pakistan, while 76% were from India. The average length of stay in the United States among caregivers was about 5 years.

Norms:

Means and standard deviation of the Perceived Social Support Scale items (7 items)

Sub-scale/Item	Mean	Sd
Emotional Support (range 4-16)	10.01	3.38
4. How often has the elder been right there with you (physically) in a stressful situation?	.503	.864
5. Comforted you by showing you physical affection.	.946	.325
6. Listened to you talk about your private feelings	.960	.279
7. Expressed interest and concern in your well being	.869	.494
Informational Support (range 3-12)	6.27	2.13
8. How often has elder suggested some action you should take in order to deal with problem you are having.	.915	.402
9. Given you information that made a difficult easier to understand.	.860	.511
10. Help you understand why you didn't do something well	.864	.468

Reliability: The 7 item scale was found to be internally consistent alpha = .897  
 Emotional support sub-scale (4 items) alpha = .925.  
 Informational support sub-scale (3 items) alpha = .852

Validity: Established by Krause & Markides (1990)

Original reference for instrument: Krause, N., & Markides, K. S. (1990). Measuring social support among older adults. *International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, 30, 37-53.

How to obtain a copy of instrument: Contact Rashmi Gupta, Ph.D., LMSW  
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