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Validity and reliability of the Malay Iowa Infant Feeding Attitude Scale among mothers with infants in Malaysia: A validation study

[Malaysian Family Physician](#) • Article • Open Access • 2025 • DOI: 10.51866/oa.518

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Abstract

Introduction: The Iowa Infant Feeding Attitude Scale (IIFAS) has been developed to assess maternal attitudes towards infant feeding choices to predict breastfeeding intention. Validity and reliability need to be established considering cultural, language and environmental differences, especially in the Malay context due to currently unavailable Malay version. This study aimed to translate the IIFAS into Malay (IIFAS-M) and determine its validity and reliability. **Methods:** A validation study using a digital survey was conducted. The final translated version was distributed to mothers with infants using the digital form. Principal component analysis was performed using SPSS version 27. **Results:** A total of 272 mothers with a mean age of 30.1 (SD±4.2) years participated in the study. A new scoring was given to the IIFAS-M, representing positive attitudes towards breastfeeding and neutral and positive attitudes towards formula feeding. The principal component analysis showed that all items had a factor loading of more than 0.4. The Cronbach's alpha value was 0.657, and the P-value for the test–retest Pearson correlation was <0.001. **Conclusion:** The IIFAS-M is a validated and reliable tool for assessing maternal attitudes towards infant feeding among Malay speakers. © 2025, Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Breastfeeding; Infant nutrition; Language; Maternal behaviour; Psychometrics

Indexed keywords

EMTREE medical terms

adult; Article; artificial milk; attitude; attitude scale; breast feeding; child; Cronbach alpha coefficient; cross-sectional study; female; general practitioner; human; infant; infant feeding; infant nutrition; Iowa; Malay (people); maternal attitude; maternal behavior; mother; principal component analysis; psychometry; reliability; validation study; young adult

Device trade names

Commercial names given to devices, used for branding and differentiation in the market, commonly referenced in scientific and clinical research.

Tradename	Country	Manufacturer
IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows Version 27.0	United States	IBM
R software Version 4.2.0		
Microsoft Excel	United States	Microsoft

Funding details

Details about financial support for research, including funding sources and grant numbers as provided in academic publications.

Funding sponsor	Funding number	Acronym
International Islamic University Malaysia See opportunities by IIUM ↗	IRF19-020-0020	IIUM

Funding text

This research received research initiative grants from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM IRF19-020-0020).

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