The present study intended to develop the Hindi version of the Mehrabian and Epstein (1972) Questionnaire Measure of Emotional Empathy.

Keeping in view the relevance of the scale in determining human behaviour, it was sought to be adapted in Hindi in order to make it suitable for use in the Indian context. The main objectives were to determine the equivalence of the Hindi and English Empathy Scales and to find out the internal consistency, split-half reliability and test-retest reliability and criterion-related and construct validity of the former.

First of all, a tentative Hindi translation of the original scale, along with the scoring system, was prepared. While preparing the Hindi translation, the essential contents of the original scale were retained as far as possible. The translated scale was given to the judges who were requested to review each statement and to give the suggestions regarding the translation of items as well as the categories of the scoring system.

The Hindi and English Empathy Scales were then administered to 100 bilingual subjects (50 males, 50 females), selected from the general population. The
scales were presented in a counter-balanced order.

The equivalence of the Hindi and English Empathy Scales was determined by correlating the scores of 100 subjects on the two scales. Highly significant correlation showing high equivalence of the scales was obtained.

The internal consistency reliability of the Hindi Empathy Scale was determined in terms of (a) coefficient alpha reliability which was found to be quite high and (b) the item-total correlations which were found to be fairly high for most of the items of the scale.

The split-half reliability was computed by correlating the scores of 100 subjects on the odd-and even-numbered items of the Hindi Empathy Scale. The corrected split-half reliability was found to be highly significant, thereby, showing the scale to be fairly reliable.

The test-retest reliability, involving the retest period of 30 days was, thereafter, determined. The high correlation between the test scores and the retest scores on the Hindi Empathy Scale was obtained, proving a fair test-retest reliability of the scale.
The criterion-related validity of the Hindi Empathy Scale was determined in two ways. First, the empathy scores of 25 subjects were correlated with their ratings by peers. But the correlation obtained was found to be nonsignificant. Second, the empathy scores of other 25 subjects were correlated with their self-ratings on certain pictures containing an element of empathy. The second approach yielded a high correlation between the scores on the Empathy Scale and the "Empathy Pictures Set", showing a reasonably good criterion-related validity of the Hindi Empathy Scale.

The construct validity was also determined for the Hindi Empathy Scale by means of correlating the empathy scores on the Hindi Empathy Scale and the scores on another measure of empathy i.e. the "Attitude Scale". A fairly high correlation was obtained between the two scales, again showing the strong construct validity of the adapted scale. Thus, an internally consistent, reliable and valid Hindi version of the original Mehrabian and Epstein (1972) Questionnaire Measure of Emotional Empathy was developed.