blaming the victim, we try to ensure that the student is not penalized by our less-than-perfect system" (Malott, 1994, p. 5). Social work trainers can successfully use their knowledge of behavioral principles in course design. Social work students and future clients will benefit. As Jason (1984) put it: "There is a clear need to expand traditional training programs so that students are introduced to this orientation as a viable alternative approach for extending human services" (p. 139).

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Comprehensive Assessment in Social Work Practice: The Multi-Problem Screening Inventory

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Findings are reported from an initial evaluation of a new multidimensional assessment tool, the Multi-Problem Screening Inventory (MPSI). The inventory gathers information on 27 different areas of personal and social functioning and is designed for use by human service practitioners in a variety of settings. Basic guidelines for using the instrument are detailed, with emphasis given to the preparation and interpretation of graphic profiles for rapid but comprehensive client assessments. Reliabilities and validities obtained for each of the subscales are then reviewed, along with suggestions for further development and use of the MPSI in clinical trials and research applications.

Most social workers struggle with the difficulties inherent in assessing the presence and severity of personal problems being experienced by their clients. Standardized assessment instruments can be extremely helpful in this process, but it is often difficult to find the right instrument for a particular problem or to find a single instrument that will address a variety of frequently encountered personal and social problems. The development of rapid assessment instruments (RAIs) over the past 15 to 20 years has assisted in this process, but there is a wide diversity of these instruments, a wide range of scoring procedures, and haphazard records regarding validity and reliability (Corcoran & Fischer, 1994). More importantly, social work practice increasingly emphasizes the person-in-environment and ecological systems models, but assessment in this context is rendered more rather than less difficult by the practitioner having to resort to a jumbled array of unidimensional assessment tools.

Clearly, the need remains for multidimensional instruments that allow social work practitioners easy access to assessments of a range of client

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MPSI

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THE MULTI-PROBLEM SCREENING INVENTORY

INSTRUCTIONS

This questionnaire is designed to obtain information about a wide range of possible problem areas. Answer each item as carefully and as accurately as you can by placing a number beside each one as follows:

1 = None of the time
2 = Very rarely
3 = A little of the time
4 = Some of the time
5 = A good part of the time
6 = Most of the time
7 = All of the time
x = Does Not Apply

You may discover that some of the items do not apply to you or your personal situation. For any such item, please enter an x or X but ***do not leave any item blank.***

When you begin to complete the items on this questionnaire you will see that you can very easily make yourself look as good or as bad as you wish. ***Please do not do that.*** It is extremely important for you to provide the most accurate answers possible even though you may feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. If you provide incorrect or misleading information to those who are trying to assist you, it will be very difficult to provide you with the help that you are seeking.

Please Print Your

SAMPLE

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Age: _____ Gender: ___ Male ___ Female Race: _____

SSAN: _____ Today's Date: _____

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No part of the *Multi-Problem Screening Inventory* (MPSI) may be copied or reproduced in any manner without written permission from the publisher.

ANSWER KEY

1 = None of the time
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5 = A good part of the time
6 = Most of the time
7 = All of the time
X = Does not apply

SUBSCALE: DEPRESSION

1. _____ I feel powerless to do anything about my life.
2. _____ I feel blue.
3. _____ I have crying spells.
4. _____ It is easy for me to enjoy myself. *
5. _____ I have a hard time getting started on things that I need to do.
6. _____ I get very depressed.
7. _____ I feel there is always someone I can depend on when things get tough. *
8. _____ I feel that the future looks bright for me. *
9. _____ I feel downhearted.
10. _____ I feel that I am needed. *
11. _____ I feel that I am appreciated by others. *
12. _____ I enjoy being active and busy. *

SUBSCALE: SELF-ESTEEM

13. _____ I think my friends find me interesting. *
14. _____ I think I have a good sense of humor. *
15. _____ I feel very self-conscious when I am with strangers.
16. _____ I feel that if I could be more like other people I would have it made.
17. _____ I feel that people have a good time when they are with me. *
18. _____ I feel that people do not enjoy my company.
19. _____ I feel I get pushed around more than others.
20. _____ I think I am a rather nice person. *
21. _____ I feel that people really like me very much. *
22. _____ I feel that I am a likable person. *
23. _____ I am afraid I will appear foolish to others.
24. _____ My friends think very highly of me. *

SAMPLE

SUBSCALE: PARTNER RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS

25. _____ My partner is affectionate enough. *
26. _____ My partner treats me badly.
27. _____ My partner really cares for me. *
28. _____ I feel that I would not choose the same partner if I had it to do over again.
29. _____ I feel that I can really trust my partner. *
30. _____ I feel that our relationship is breaking up.
31. _____ My partner really does not understand me.
32. _____ I feel that our relationship is a good one. *
33. _____ Ours is a very happy relationship. *
34. _____ Our life together is dull.
35. _____ We have a lot of fun together. *
36. _____ My partner does not confide in me.
37. _____ Ours is a very close relationship. *

ANSWER KEY

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4 = Some of the time
5 = A good part of the time
6 = Most of the time
7 = All of the time
X = Does not apply

SUBSCALE: SEXUAL DISCORD

38. _____ I feel that my partner enjoys our sex life. *
39. _____ Our sex life is very exciting. *
40. _____ Sex is fun for my partner and me. *
41. _____ Sex with my partner has become a chore for me.
42. _____ I feel that our sex is dirty and disgusting.
43. _____ Our sex life is monotonous.
44. _____ When we have sex, it is too rushed and hurriedly completed.
45. _____ I feel that our sex life is lacking in quality.
46. _____ My partner is sexually very exciting. *
47. _____ I enjoy the sex techniques that my partner likes or uses. *
48. _____ I feel that my partner wants too much sex from me.
49. _____ I think that our sex life is wonderful. *

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH MY CHILD

50. _____ My child gets on my nerves.
51. _____ I get along well with my child. *
52. _____ I feel that I can really trust my child. *
53. _____ I dislike my child.
54. _____ My child is well behaved. *
55. _____ My child is too demanding.
56. _____ I wish I did not have this child.
57. _____ I really enjoy my child. *
58. _____ I have a hard time controlling my child.
59. _____ My child interferes with my activities.
60. _____ I resent my child.
61. _____ I think my child is terrific. *
62. _____ I hate my child.

SAMPLE

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH MOTHER

63. _____ My mother is very patient with me. *
64. _____ I really like my mother. *
65. _____ I like being with my mother. *
66. _____ I feel like I do not love my mother.
67. _____ My mother is very irritating.
68. _____ I feel very angry toward my mother.
69. _____ I feel violent toward my mother.
70. _____ I feel proud of my mother. *
71. _____ I wish my mother was more like others I know.
72. _____ My mother does not understand me.
73. _____ I can really depend on my mother. *
74. _____ I feel ashamed of my mother.

ANSWER KEY

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4 = Some of the time
5 = A good part of the time
6 = Most of the time
7 = All of the time
X = Does not apply

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH FATHER

75. _____ My father gets on my nerves.
76. _____ I get along well with my father. *
77. _____ I feel that I can really trust my father. *
78. _____ I dislike my father.
79. _____ My father's behavior embarrasses me.
80. _____ My father is too demanding.
81. _____ I wish I had a different father.
82. _____ I really enjoy my father. *
83. _____ My father puts too many limits on me.
84. _____ My father interferes with my activities.
85. _____ I resent my father.
86. _____ I think my father is terrific. *
87. _____ I hate my father.

SUBSCALE: PERSONAL STRESS

88. _____ I feel very panicked.
89. _____ I feel like I am on the verge of a total collapse.
90. _____ I feel that I am losing control of my life.
91. _____ I feel that I am near a breaking point.
92. _____ I feel wound up like a coiled spring.
93. _____ I feel that I cannot keep up with all the demands on me.
94. _____ I feel very much behind in my work.
95. _____ I feel tense and angry with those around me.
96. _____ I feel I must race from one task to the next.
97. _____ I feel that I just cannot keep up with everything.
98. _____ I feel as tight as a drum.
99. _____ I feel very much on edge.

SAMPLE

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH FRIENDS

100. _____ I get along very well with my friends. *
101. _____ My friends act like they do not care about me.
102. _____ My friends treat me badly.
103. _____ My friends really seem to respect me. *
104. _____ I do not feel like I am "part of the group" with my friends.
105. _____ My friends are a bunch of snobs.
106. _____ My friends understand me. *
107. _____ My friends seem to like me very much. *
108. _____ I really feel "left out" by my friends.
109. _____ I hate my present group of friends.
110. _____ My friends seem to like having me around. *
111. _____ I really like my present group of friends. *
112. _____ I really feel that I am disliked by my friends.

ANSWER KEY

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2 = Very rarely
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4 = Some of the time
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6 = Most of the time
7 = All of the time
X = Does not apply

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH NEIGHBORS

113. _____ I really feel that I am disliked by my neighbors.
114. _____ I wish I had a different group of neighbors.
115. _____ My neighbors are very nice to me. *
116. _____ My neighbors seem to look up to me. *
117. _____ My neighbors think I am important to them. *
118. _____ My neighbors are a real source of pleasure to me. *
119. _____ My neighbors do not seem to even notice me.
120. _____ I wish I were not part of this neighborhood.
121. _____ My neighbors regard my ideas and opinions very highly. *
122. _____ I feel like I am an important member of my neighborhood. *
123. _____ I cannot stand to be around my neighbors.
124. _____ My neighbors seem to look down on me.
125. _____ My neighbors really do not interest me.

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH SCHOOL

126. _____ I hate school.
127. _____ I enjoy my school work and studies. *
128. _____ I put off studies at school until the last minute.
129. _____ My school homework is very boring.
130. _____ School is not for study, it is for parties and play!
131. _____ I study very hard at school. *
132. _____ I think I am a good student at school. *
133. _____ I think my school work will help my future. *
134. _____ I really do pretty shoddy work at school.
135. _____ I feel I learn a great deal in school. *

SAMPLE

SUBSCALE: AGGRESSION

136. _____ When I have to, I really do not mind punching someone out.
137. _____ I get into fights.
138. _____ When I hurt someone physically it really does not bother me.
139. _____ I am quick to let people know they cannot walk all over me.
140. _____ I push others around before they have a chance to push me around.
141. _____ People tell me I have a bad temper.
142. _____ I hurt people before they can hurt me.
143. _____ I threaten people with a fight.
144. _____ I like it when others are afraid of me.
145. _____ If punches are thrown, mine go first!

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH WORK ASSOCIATES

146. _____ I get along very well with my work associates. *
147. _____ My work associates act like they do not care about me.
148. _____ My work associates treat me badly.

ANSWER KEY

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2 = Very rarely
3 = A little of the time
4 = Some of the time
5 = A good part of the time
6 = Most of the time
7 = All of the time
X = Does not apply

149. _____ My work associates really seem to respect me. *
150. _____ I do not feel like I am "part of the group" with my work associates.
151. _____ My work associates are a bunch of snobs.
152. _____ My work associates understand me. *
153. _____ My work associates seem to like me very much. *
154. _____ I really feel "left out" by my work associates.
155. _____ I hate my present group of work associates.
156. _____ My work associates seem to like having me around. *
157. _____ I really like my work associates. *

SUBSCALE: FAMILY RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS

158. _____ There is too much hatred in my family.
159. _____ Members of my family are really good to one another. *
160. _____ My family is well respected by those who know us. *
161. _____ There seems to be a lot of friction in my family.
162. _____ There is a lot of love in my family. *
163. _____ Members of my family get along well together. *
164. _____ Life in my family is generally unpleasant.
165. _____ My family is a great joy to me. *
166. _____ I feel proud of my family. *
167. _____ Other families seem to get along better than mine.
168. _____ My family is a real source of comfort to me. *
169. _____ I feel "left out" of my family.
170. _____ My family is an unhappy one.

SUBSCALE: SUICIDAL THOUGHTS

SAMPLE

171. _____ I think about ending my life.
172. _____ My life is so grim that I have considered ending it.
173. _____ I think about committing suicide.
174. _____ I feel that everyone would be better off if I were dead.
175. _____ I actually think about different ways that I could kill myself.
176. _____ I have actually decided that I am going to take my own life and I now think about my final plans for doing that.
177. _____ I feel that it is useless for me to continue living.
178. _____ I think about finding relief or peace by taking my own life.
179. _____ I feel that the only way to end my shame is to end my life.
180. _____ I feel that my agony is too great for me to continue living.
181. _____ I feel that my life is over and I may as well end it.

SUBSCALE: NON-PHYSICAL ABUSE

182. _____ My partner belittles me.
183. _____ My partner demands obedience to his or her whims.
184. _____ My partner becomes surly and angry if I say he or she is drinking too much.
185. _____ My partner demands that I perform sex acts that I do not enjoy or like.

ANSWER KEY

1 = None of the time	5 = A good part of the time
2 = Very rarely	6 = Most of the time
3 = A little of the time	7 = All of the time
4 = Some of the time	X = Does not apply

186. _____ My partner becomes very upset if my work is not done when he or she thinks it should be.
187. _____ My partner does not want me to have any friends.
188. _____ My partner tells me I am ugly and unattractive.
189. _____ My partner tells me I really could not manage or take care of myself without him or her.
190. _____ My partner acts like I am his or her personal servant.
191. _____ My partner insults or shames me in front of others.
192. _____ My partner becomes very angry if I disagree with his or her point of view.
193. _____ My partner is stingy in giving me money.
194. _____ My partner belittles me intellectually.

SUBSCALE: PHYSICAL ABUSE

195. _____ My partner tries to choke or strangle me.
196. _____ My partner knocks me down and then kicks or stomps me.
197. _____ My partner twists my fingers, arms or legs.
198. _____ My partner throws dangerous objects at me.
199. _____ My partner bites or scratches me so badly that I bleed or have bruises.
200. _____ My partner violently pinches or twists my skin.
201. _____ My partner hurts me badly while we are having sex.
202. _____ My partner injures my breasts or genitals.
203. _____ My partner tries to suffocate me with pillows, towels, or other objects.
204. _____ My partner pokes or jabs me with pointed objects.
205. _____ My partner has broken one or more of my bones.
206. _____ My partner kicks my face and head.

SUBSCALE: FEARFULNESS

SAMPLE

207. _____ I experience a great deal of fear.
208. _____ A sense of terror washes over my entire body.
209. _____ I have frightening nightmares.
210. _____ My dreams are very frightening.
211. _____ I become afraid very easily.
212. _____ I feel panic stricken and terrified.
213. _____ I am stricken with a sense of paralyzing fear.
214. _____ Panic and fear disrupt what I am trying to do.
215. _____ I am frightened very easily.
216. _____ I am very afraid that I will be hurt or damaged.
217. _____ I become afraid for no apparent reason.
218. _____ I am terrified that something awful is going to happen.
219. _____ I break out in cold sweats of fear and panic.
220. _____ I am terrified that something really bad will happen to me.
221. _____ I become so afraid that I feel I am going to die.
222. _____ I become so afraid that I can hardly move.
223. _____ I wake up at night feeling afraid.
224. _____ Fear courses through my body.
225. _____ I wake up at night in a state of terror.

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7 = All of the time
X = Does not apply

SUBSCALE: IDEAS OF REFERENCE

226. _____ I think people talk about me behind my back.
227. _____ People are definitely "out to get me".
228. _____ I think people are plotting against me.
229. _____ People keep staring at me.
230. _____ People who are supposed to be my friends are really out to stab me in the back.
231. _____ Various people keep talking about me.
232. _____ I think there are people who are plotting against me.
233. _____ People are out to get me because they are jealous of me.
234. _____ Secret agents keep spying on me.
235. _____ People sneak around and try to cause me trouble.
236. _____ People are trying to hurt me.
237. _____ People who call themselves my friends try to pull me down because they would love to see me fail.
238. _____ People are plotting to kill me.
239. _____ I can feel people watching me.
240. _____ Government agents are plotting my downfall.
241. _____ My boss would really like to see me mess up.
242. _____ People around me really resent my ability and talent.
243. _____ People keep trying to invade my privacy.
244. _____ There are people who would really like to get rid of me.
245. _____ People are trying to make me look foolish.

SUBSCALE: PHOBIAS

SAMPLE

246. _____ I feel extremely nervous when I must go to high places or look down from them.
247. _____ I am extremely frightened or nervous when I am in crowds of people.
248. _____ I feel panicked when I must cross over bridges or go through tunnels.
249. _____ I am terrified when I enter small rooms or closed spaces.
250. _____ I am extremely nervous when I fly in airplanes.
251. _____ I am terrified of driving in even moderate traffic.
252. _____ I am extremely nervous when I am in the presence of strangers.
253. _____ I am terrified of being alone.
254. _____ I am extremely nervous, even panicked, when I meet people for the first time.
255. _____ I feel completely incapacitated at the thought of public speaking.
256. _____ I feel afraid to go out of my house alone.
257. _____ I feel afraid in open spaces or in the streets.
258. _____ I feel afraid I will faint in public.
259. _____ I am comfortable traveling on buses, subways or trains. *
260. _____ I feel nervousness or shakiness inside.
261. _____ I feel comfortable in crowds, such as shopping or at a movie. *
262. _____ I feel comfortable when I am left alone. *
263. _____ Due to my fears, I unreasonably avoid certain animals, objects or situations.
264. _____ Due to my fears, I avoid social situations, whenever possible.
265. _____ Due to my fears, I avoid being alone, whenever possible.

ANSWER KEY

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4 = Some of the time
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7 = All of the time
X = Does not apply

SUBSCALE: FEELINGS OF GUILT

266. _____ I seem to feel guilty for no good reason.
267. _____ When things go wrong, I feel I should apologize even if it is not my fault.
268. _____ When things do not go right I usually accept the blame for them.
269. _____ I am usually the one who apologizes for anything.
270. _____ I have this nagging feeling that I have done something wrong.
271. _____ I have the feeling I should be punished even when I have done nothing for which to be punished.
272. _____ I have the feeling that I have done something terrible.
273. _____ I feel very guilty and ashamed.
274. _____ Deep inside, I feel that I am really a "bad" person.
275. _____ I feel that people would be ashamed of me if they really knew me very well.

SUBSCALE: PROBLEMS WITH WORK

276. _____ My job is very boring.
277. _____ I hate my job.
278. _____ I cannot stand my boss.
279. _____ My boss is a fool.
280. _____ I really like my job. *
281. _____ I think I am good at my job. *
282. _____ I get to work on time. *
283. _____ I like to "goof off" on the job.
284. _____ The best part of my job is coffee breaks, lunch, and vacations.
285. _____ I work very hard at my job and I am very conscientious about doing it well. *

SUBSCALE: CONFUSED THINKING

SAMPLE

286. _____ I have difficulty keeping my thoughts straight.
287. _____ My thinking becomes confused.
288. _____ I cannot seem to keep things straight in my mind.
289. _____ There are times when my mind plays tricks on me.
290. _____ Some of the strangest ideas just pop into my mind.
291. _____ There are times when my thinking does not seem to work right.
292. _____ I worry about the way my mind seems strange.

SUBSCALE: DISTURBING THOUGHTS

293. _____ I have ideas and thoughts that disturb me greatly.
294. _____ Some of my thoughts are frightening to me.
295. _____ I think about ugly or horrible things.
296. _____ There are times when I have very strange and disturbing thoughts.
297. _____ I cannot get certain bad thoughts out of my mind.
298. _____ Disturbing ideas come to me and I cannot get rid of them.
299. _____ I worry about the horrible thoughts that I have.
300. _____ Ugly or horrible thoughts rush into my mind.
301. _____ I just cannot get certain bad thoughts out of my mind.