



THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF TURKISH VERSION OF THE ASSETS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCALE

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Assets in the Neighborhood Scale (Oliva, Antolin, & Lopez, 2011). The sample of this study consisted of 250 high school students. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the 22 items and five-dimensional assets in the neighborhood model (Support and empowerment of youth, Attachment to the neighborhood, Security, Social control, and Availability of youth activities) was well fit ($\chi^2= 311.40$, $df= 198$, $RMSEA= .047$, $GFI= .90$, $CFI= .93$, $IFI= .94$, and $SRMR= .060$). The internal consistency reliability coefficients of the scale were .83 for support and empowerment of youth subscale, .86 for attachment to the neighborhood subscale, .67 for security subscale, .70 for social control subscale, .51 for availability of youth activities subscale, and .88 for overall scale. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .18 to .70. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had high validity and reliability scores.

Key Words: Neighborhood, validity, reliability, confirmatory factor analysis.

INTRODUCTION

For the past two decades, there has been a growing interest to understanding the human development in contexts which people are embedded and to comprehending how these contexts singularly and interactively influence development (Burton, Price-Spratlen, Spencer, & 1997; Moen, Elder, & Lüscher, 1995). According to Bronfenbrenners' ecological model, we live in a system of interconnected settings and each setting has specific rules and we must recognize the interaction of all these settings in order to understand human development. In his model, family and school represent microsystems that critical to child development. Neighborhood is an important context for child's development and it deeply influences to family, school, and social networks (Bronfenbrenner, 1989).

Researchers have documented the relationship between neighborhood characteristics and different variables. In these studies, disadvantaged neighborhoods experience was found related with worse health outcomes and



behaviors including teen pregnancy (Harding, 2003), higher rates of obesity (Black & Macinko, 2008), psychological distress, depressive symptoms, and major depression (Mair, Diez Roux, Galea, 2008; Kim, 2008). Neighborhood disadvantage has also been associated with sedentary lifestyle (Cubbin, Hadden, & Winkleby, 2001), drug use (Boardman, Finch, Ellison, Williams, & Jackson, 2001), coronary heart disease (Diez Roux et al., 2001), and death (Wight, Cummings, Karlamangla, & Aneshensel, 2010).

There is intense link between neighborhood characteristics and positive development. The purpose of this study is to adapt into Turkish and to examine the validity and reliability of the Assets in the Neighborhood Scale (Oliva et al., 2011).

METHOD

Participant

Participants were 250 high school students (132 (53 %) were female, 118 (47%) were male) who were enrolled in three high school, in Sakarya, Turkey.

Measures

Assets in the Neighborhood Scale. The Assets in the Neighborhood Scale (Oliva, Antolin, & Lopez, 2011) is a self-report questionnaire with 22 items rated on a 7-point scale. The scale has five sub-dimensions: Support and empowerment (6 items), attachment to the neighborhood (4 items), security (4 items), social control (4 items), availability of youth activities (4 items). High scores indicate higher levels of neighborhood. The Cronbach alpha internal consistency reliability coefficients of the scale were .93 for overall scale, .91 for support and empowerment subscale, .91 for attachment to the neighborhood subscale, .87 for security subscale, .85 for social control subscale and .80 for availability of youth activities subscale.

Translation and adaptation process

Primarily the scale was translated into Turkish by three academicians who know English well. After that the Turkish form was back-translated into English and examined the consistency between the Turkish and English forms. Than Turkish form has been reviewed by five academicians from educational sciences department. Finally they discussed the Turkish form and along with some corrections this scale was prepared for validity and reliability analyses.

Procedure

Permission for participation of students was obtained from related chief departments and students voluntarily participated in research. Completion of the scales was anonymous and there was a guarantee of confidentiality. The scales were administered to the students in groups in the classrooms. In this study confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was executed to confirm the original scale's structure in Turkish culture and Cronbach' Alpha reliability coefficient was calculated to examine the reliability. Data were analyzed using LISREL 8.54 and SPSS 15 package programs.

RESULTS

Construct Validity

Confirmatory factor analysis demonstrated that the five-dimensional Assets in the Neighborhood model was well fit ($\chi^2= 311.40$, $df= 198$, $RMSEA= .047$, $GFI= .90$, $CFI= .93$, $IFI= .94$, and $SRMR= .060$). Factor loads of items belonging Turkish version of Assets in the Neighborhood Scale are presented in Figure 1.

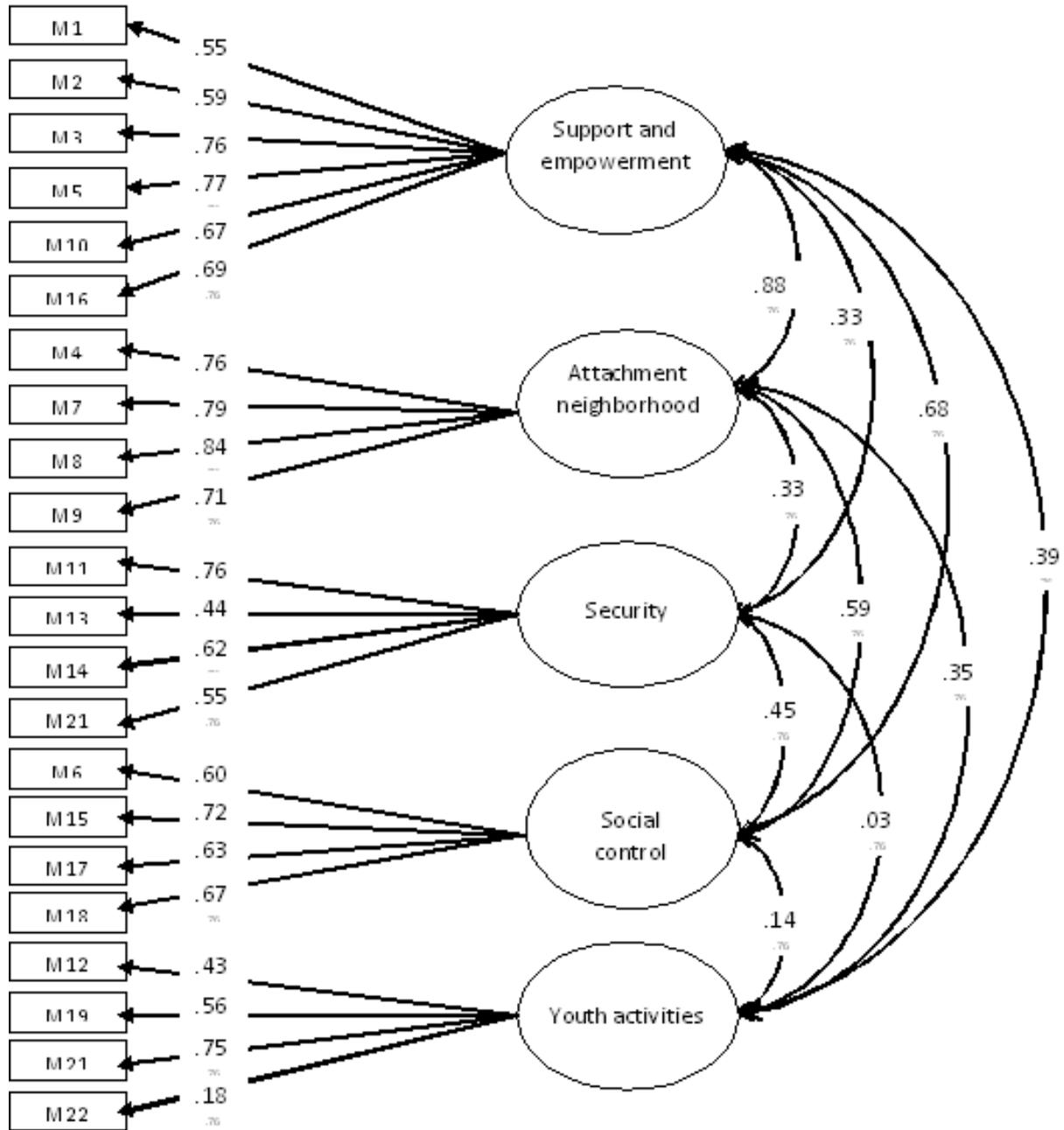


Figure 1: Factor Loadings for the Turkish version of the Assets in the Neighborhood Scale



Item Analysis and Reliability

The Cronbach alpha internal consistency reliability coefficients of the Turkish form were .88 for overall scale, .83 for support and empowerment subscale, .86 for attachment to the neighborhood subscale, .67 for security subscale, .70 for social control subscale and .51 for availability of youth activities subscale. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .18 to .70. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had high validity and reliability scores.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to translate Assets in the Neighborhood Scale into Turkish and to examine its psychometric properties. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had acceptable validity and reliability scores. Further studies that will examine the convergent validity of the Assets in the Neighborhood Scale are important for its measurement force. Also the temporal stability of the Assets in the Neighborhood Scale may be calculated using test re-test method.

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