

PSYCHOMETRIC PARAMETERS OF THE TURKISH VERSION OF THE AFFECTIVE AND COGNITIVE MEASURE OF EMPATHY (ACME)

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Abstract

The concept of empathy, which consists of both affective and cognitive elements, is defined as replacing the other side and understanding their feelings and thoughts. In this study, it was aimed to adapt the Affective and Cognitive Empathy Scale, which was developed in order to measure empathy concept more comprehensively, in Turkish. In line with this goal, the validity and reliability study of the scale was conducted on 289 university students. Affective and Cognitive Empathy Scale, Basic Empathy Scale and Altruism Scale were applied to students and the scores obtained from these scales were used. Confirmatory factor analysis conducted in the study showed that the fit indexes were among the acceptable values and the three-factor structure of the scale was also valid in this study group. Within the scope of the scale's reliability study, Cronbach alpha internal consistency coefficient was calculated as .91. The internal consistency coefficients of the sub-dimensions of the scale ranged between .86 in cognitive empathy, affective resonance .85, and affective dissonance .84. According to the results of the analysis conducted for similar scale validity, there was no significant relationship between the Affective and Cognitive Empathy Scale with the Basic Empathy Scale, while there was a positive and low negative relationship between the sub-dimensions of the Basic Empathy Scale and the emotional empathy. It was also observed that there was a significant relationship between the Altruism Scale and sub-dimensions of the Affective and Cognitive Empathy Scale and helping and philanthropy. In addition, there are both significant and non-significant relationships between the sub-dimensions of the Affective and Cognitive Empathy Scale and the sub-dimensions of the Basic Empathy Scale. Finally, it was observed that there was no significant relationship between the Baseline Empathy Scale, which is two similar scales, and the Altruism Scale and its sub-dimensions. It was determined that cognitive empathy, which is the sub-dimension of the Basic Empathy Scale, has a significant relationship with the Altruism Scale and its sub-dimensions. In summary, the results of the study showed that the Turkish version of the Affective and Cognitive Empathy Scale is a valid and reliable measurement tool for university students.

Keywords: Empathy, Cognitive empathy, Affective resonance, Affective dissonance, Validity, Reliability.