Research Project VI.C.T.I.MS

with the title

An indirect harmful effect of violence: Victimizing the child and Re-victimizing the woman-mother through her child's exposure to violence against herself.

Sensitizing and creating awareness through research-product material, both transnational and differential according to the partner-context.

(CYPRUS, ITALY, ROMANIA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC)

University of Cyprus

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Report on the use of the Harter's Instrument in the Study – Validation

The four countries (partners in the project) used the Harter's instrument (SPPC- first two parts mainly) to a sample of children, in order to validate it, decide about its readability and comprehension by the sample. In the following brief report a general conclusion is given, regarding the aim of the pilot phase of the research.

We analysed the data derived from 3 countries (Cyprus, N=38, Italy, N=30 and Romania, N=96) after the administration of the Harter's Self-Perception questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of 36 items, but only 30 items were common in the three countries so the following analysis concerns only these 30 items. Slovakia had its own extended analysis which resulted at the same conclusion as the one described below.

Data analysis was conducted through the statistical model Rasch[1] and specifically through the Winsteps Software[2]. Rasch model is designed to build scales. Both students' scores and items' difficulty are placed in the same scale. The units used for the building of the scale are conventional and are called logits and range from -4 to +4.

Diagram 1 illustrates the scale for the 30 items of the test with the item difficulties and student measures calibrated on the same scale. It reveals that the 30 items have a good fit to the measurement model, indicating agreement among the 164 students located at different positions on the scale across almost all 30 items. Students at the top of the diagram are considered to have higher self-perception profile.

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          PERSONS MAP OF ITEMS

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Table 1 provides a summary of the scale statistics for the sample. The index of item separation is 6.48, indicating that the separability of the scale is good. Moreover, the infit mean square as well as the outfit mean square approach 1 and the values of infit t as well as outfit t approach 0 (-0.3 up to 0.0). Since the mean squares are within 30% of the expected values, calculated according to the model, it can be claimed that there is a good fit to the model. Therefore we could claim that this questionnaire measures reliably with consistency the underlying construct which is considered to measure (students' self-perception).

Table 1: Scale Statistics

Statistical values (n=164)	items	persons
Mean	1.01	0.96
Standard deviation	0.17	0.48
Reliability	0.95	0.60
Infit mean square	1.01	0.96
Outfit mean square	0.98	0.98
Infit t	0.0	-0.3
Outfit t	-0.1	-0.3

As a result it was found that the instrument can be used for the research project.