Validity and Comparability Issues in Cross-Cultural and International Assessments

Abstract

Tests have been administered to groups of individuals from different cultures, within the same country or across countries, ever since tests have been in use for assessing a multitude of educational and psychological constructs. Challenges in such multicultural assessments are great and multi-faceted. Perhaps ones that are most easily understood are those due to different languages in these cultures. It is obvious and well understood that testing individuals in a language they do not speak or understand will not provide meaningful assessment information. Therefore, the use of multiple language versions of tests is not only desirable but necessary for many tests that involve individuals from different cultures. This presentation will focus on validity and discuss findings and methodologies used in examining construct and score comparability in multilingual assessments.

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