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Face Validity of Items Measuring Environmental Safety, Perceived Control and Environmental Reductionism Attitudes among College Going Students

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Environmental safety, Perceived control and Environmental reductionism attitudes indirectly affect mental health of college going students. Current study aims at examining face validity of newly developed questionnaires measuring the said three variables. Face validity is the extent to which a test is subjectively viewed as covering the concept it purports to measure. Q-sort technique and relevance judgement are common techniques. In this study, an attempt was made to focus on extent of relevance judgement instead of the frequency of people who judged the item. One five point rating scale was constructed with 30 items (10 items X 3 study variables). The scale was administered to 13 judges. Judges were selected based on inclusion criteria that they had high subjective affinity towards the environment and exclusion criteria of any prior psychological problems or disorders. Descriptive statistics revealed that 16 items possessed high face validity with respect to extent of matching. Findings are discussed in terms of face validity and theory of item design.

Keywords: Face validity, item construction, environmental safety, perceived control, environmental reductionism

Mental health is the state of emotional, psychological and physical well-being. It signifies that the individual is living a satisfactory life and is able to adjust satisfactorily with others as well as different life situations. Mental health is closely linked with the physical environment, especially in times of a pandemic. Living in times of a global crisis, can have definite effect on the depression and anxiety levels of a population. However, to ascertain the extent of effect the environment can have on the mental health of an individual, it is imperative to understand the perception that individuals hold towards the various aspects of environment. Skewed perception can lead to negative influence in a person's life. Thus, attitudes determine how to perceive the environment and how we respond to them. Understanding the attitudes can help in bringing about the necessary changes in the environment and help in sustaining life on the planet.

An attitude is a psychological construct. Many variables studied by psychologists are straightforward and simple to measure. These include sex, age, height, weight, and birth order. One can often tell whether someone is male or female just by looking. One can ask people how old they are and be reasonably sure that they know and will tell you. Although people might not know or want to tell you how much they weigh, you can have them step onto a bathroom scale. Other variables studied by psychologists—perhaps the majority—are not so straightforward or simple to measure. We cannot accurately assess people's level of intelligence by looking at them, and we certainly cannot put their self-esteem on a bathroom scale. These kinds of variables are called constructs. The conceptual definition of a psychological construct describes the behaviors and internal processes that make up that construct, along with how it relates to other variables.