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Measurement Invariance of the Flourishing Scale: A Race, Gender, and Race-Gender Intersections Analysis Among US College Students

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Poster Title:
Measurement Invariance of the Flourishing Scale: A Race, Gender, and Race-Gender Intersections Analysis Among US College Students

Poster Type:
Standard Poster

Abstract:
The present study assessed the measurement invariance of the Flourshing Scale (FS) among US college students across gender and race including Middle-Eastern, Native American, and Pacific Islander. Configural, metric, and scalar invariance across race, gender, and race-gender intersections were tenable with adequate fit indices.

Primary Subject Area:
Clinical Science

Secondary Subject Area:
Methodology

Keyword:
Positive Psychology

Supporting Summary:

Many studies have looked into the validity of the Flourishing Scale (FS) – a concise measure of psychological well-being – across different populations. However, hitherto, there is a dearth of research on the psychometric properties of FS across race and gender within the US. The present study examines measurement invariance of the FS among US college students across gender and race, including racial minority groups with limited representation in the literature (i.e., Middle-Eastern, Native American, Pacific Islander). Further, this study also looked into race-gender intersections, extending the current literature, which has only looked into race and gender separately (e.g., Rando, Abreu, & Blanca, 2022; Romano et al., 2020). Using data from 2016 to 2021 National Healthy Minds Study (n = 232,254), the present study tested the FS for measurement invariance across 2 binary gender, 7 racial, and 14 race-gender intersection groups. Multigroup structural equation modeling shows, configural, metric, and scalar measurement invariance of the FS across all sub-groups were tenable with adequate fit indices. The configural models (no equality constraints) demonstrate adequate fit to the data for gender ($\chi 2$= 56130.92 [df=40], CFI=0.965, RMSEA=0.091, SRMR=0.026), race ($\chi 2$=51832.31 [df=140], CFI=0.965, RMSEA=0.091, SRMR=0.026), and race-gender intersections ($\chi 2$=50543.85 [df=280], CFI=0.965, RMSEA=0.091, SRMR=0.026). Given the large sample size, the present study does not use the Chi-squared statistics to determine model fit and for the subsequent measurement invariance tests, as the Chi-squared statistics is highly sensitive to sample size (Chen, 2007; Meade, 2005; Meade, Johnson, & Brady, 2008; Putnick & Bornstein, 2016). Instead, the present study follows Chen (2007) recommendations for the cutoff to determine non-invariance. For gender, equality constraints placed on the factor loadings (metric model) did not substantially worsen model fit: Δ CFI=-0.001, Δ RMSEA=-0.006,

Δ SRMR=0.003). Similar results were found when constraining item intercepts (scalar model: Δ CFI=-0.001, Δ RMSEA=-0.002, Δ SRMR=0.002). For race, equality constraints placed on the factor loadings (metric model) did not substantially worsen model fit: Δ CFI=-0.001, Δ RMSEA=-0.010, Δ SRMR=0.003). Similar results were found when constraining item intercepts (scalar model: Δ CFI=-0.004, Δ RMSEA=-0.015, Δ SRMR=0.005). For race-gender intersections, equality constraints placed on the factor loadings (metric model) did not substantially worsen model fit: Δ CFI=-0.002, Δ RMSEA=-0.010, Δ SRMR=0.006). Similar results were found when constraining item intercepts (scalar model: Δ CFI=-0.006, Δ RMSEA=-0.002, Δ SRMR=0.004). The findings support the validity of the FS for measuring psychological well-being among US college students. Observed differences in FS score among subgroups therefore represent true differences in well-being rather than artifacts of differential interpretation.

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