BRIEF REPORT

The Fear of COVID-19 Scale: Development and Initial Validation

Daniel Kwasi Ahorsu[1] · Chung-Ying Lin[1] · Vida Imani[2] · Mohsen Saffari[3] · Mark D. Griffiths[4] · Amir H. Pakpour[5,6]

Abstract

Background The emergence of the COVID-19 and its consequences has led to fears, worries, and anxiety among individuals worldwide. The present study developed the Fear of COVID-19 Scale (FCV-19S) to complement the clinical efforts in preventing the spread and treating of COVID-19 cases.

Methods The sample comprised 717 Iranian participants. The items of the FCV-19S were constructed based on extensive review of existing scales on fears, expert evaluations, and participant interviews. Several psychometric tests were conducted to ascertain its reliability and validity properties.

Results After panel review and corrected item-total correlation testing, seven items with acceptable corrected item-total correlation (0.47 to 0.56) were retained and further confirmed by significant and strong factor loadings (0.66 to 0.74). Also, other properties evaluated using both classical test theory and Rasch model were satisfactory on the seven-item scale. More specifically, reliability values such as internal consistency ($\alpha = .82$) and

✉ Mark D. Griffiths
   mark.griffiths@ntu.ac.uk

✉ Amir H. Pakpour
   pakpour_amir@yahoo.com

[1]   Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Hong Kong

[2]   Pediatric Health Research Center, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran

[3]   Health Research Center, Life Style Institute, Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

[4]   International Gaming Research Unit, Psychology Department, Nottingham Trent University, 50 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham NG1 4FQ, UK

[5]   Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Research Institute for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Bahonar Blvd., Qazvin 3419759811, Iran

[6]   Department of Nursing, School of Health and Welfare, Jönköping University, Jönköping, Sweden

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