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## Reliability and validity of parenting styles & dimensions questionnaire

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### Abstract

The aim of the present study was to adapt the Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire to Turkish. The original scale was developed by Robinson, Mandlco, Olsen, & Hart (1995) and it aimed to evaluate 4-12 years old children's mother's and father's parenting styles. The Turkish version of the scale was administered to mothers and fathers of 320 preschool children of 5-6 years-old and the validity and reliability of the scale were tested.

The data were analyzed and the result indicated that the Turkish version of the scale had acceptable validity and reliability.

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*Keywords:* Parenting styles; 5-6 years-old preschool children; reliability; validity.

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### 1. Introduction

The relations of children with their families are important for their development. The parents' warm and caring approach towards the child, their expectations from the child, their communication with the child and disciplinary attitudes of the parents constitute parental child caring attitudes (Bartell, 2005). Diana Baumrind mentioned three types of parental attitudes in her theory of "Family attitudes" in 1967: Permissive, authoritative and authoritarian families (Lamb, & Baumrind, 1978).

Permissive parents, have the approach of accepting and approving behavior for the child's wishes without searching their origins or roots. Although the behavior of the child are harming the environment, those behaviors are accepted and the parents can not persuade the child to obey the rules. While those parents have the higher capabilities related to the child care, they have lower competencies to control the behavior of their children (Craig, & Kermis 1995; Johnson, 2006; Mussen, at all, 1990). They give the child excessive freedom and lower level of discipline while they have lower expectations from their children (Cunningham, 1993).

Authoritarian parents, control the behavior of their children with rigid rules and limitations shaped with the excessive level of authority. What the valuable is for those kind of parents are the child' obeying the existing rules without asking questions and parents' interfering and limiting behavior without hesitation for the good of the child. Those parents do not give support and courage and believe that what they say should be accepted by the child as the

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truth (Bartell, 2005). Although these parents have shortcomings for child care, they have the attitudes of the highest level of parental control (Johnson, 2006). They use verbal and nonverbal (physical) punishments against unwanted behavior of the child while they don't praise positive behavior. They stressed mostly upon eliminating unwanted behavior during their relations with the child (Lamb, & Baumrind 1978; Johnson, 2006). In this parental attitudes the parents expect their children beyond their real capacities (Cunningham, 1993). These parents have the highest resistance against changes. In addition, they decide quickly. But they do not evaluate the influences of their decisions over their children (Locke, 2002).

Authoritative parents, supports their children with verbal and physical expressions. They care their children with tender and close relationships. Those parents have more cooperative approach. Their expectations are related to their children's competencies (Johnson, 2006; Lamb, & Baumrind 1978). Those parents try to shape cooperative and sensitive behavior of their children. They are aware of their children's ideas, feelings and attitudes and show respect to those ideas, feelings and attitudes (Bartell, 2005). Authoritative parenting which is accepted as the most ideal form in relation to parental care and attitudes has the rules which are open, clear, discussible. It is ready to be changed according to interests and needs. It can be reorganized because of it's flexible structure (Mussen, at all, 1990).

Parental attitudes and behavior can effect the personality characteristics and adaptation to environment of their children (Johnson, 2006; Locke, 2002). Children who are grown up in the families of permissive parents can be selfish. These children do not show interest to others feelings and thoughts. They may have insufficient self- control and lower self- confidence. They may have insufficient social skills (Craig, & Kermis 1995; Santrook, 1998). Children of authoritarian parents may suffer from anxiety, unhappiness and uneasiness. They may use more physical violence when they are angry (Grobmen, 2003; Locke, 2002). Additionally, they are incapable in communicational skills. They may have lower self-confidence. They are introvert in social relations and they may be aggressive (Bartell, 2005; Santrook, 1998). Children of authoritative parents are more capable socially, taking responsibility, self-confident, cooperative, friendly, happy, autonomous, skilled socially, independent (Mussen at all, 1990; Santrook, 1998).

The aim of this research is adaptation of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire to Turkish for measuring parenting styles and dimensions of mothers and fathers of 5-6 years of children who are attending pre-school.

Following questions were targeted to be answered in relation to the aim of the research.

1. What is the reliability of the Turkish version of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire in terms of internal consistency and test re-test reliability ?

What is the validity of Turkish version of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire ?

## **2. Method**

### *2. 1. The design of research*

The reasarch is a survey for scale adaptation to measure reliability and validity of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire in Turkish

### *2. 2. The sample*

The working group of the research consisted of 604 parents (320 mothers, 284 fathers) of 328 pre-school children (168 girls, 160 boys) of 5-6 years old children who were living and attending preschools in Istanbul.

The socio-economic status of the parents were determined on the basis of information gathered from the teachers and administrators of the preschools and in terms of professions of parents.

### *2. 3. Instruments*

Personal Information Form and Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire were used as instruments in this research. Personal Information Form was prepared by researchers. There were some questions about children, mother and father such as age and gender of children, mother's /father's educational level, mother's /father's job, family socioeconomic level etc.

**Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire**, is a self report instrument designed to measure authoritarian, authoritative and permissive parenting styles of 4-12 years old children's parents. This scale was developed by Robinson, Mandelco, Olsen, & Hart in 1995. The scale included 62 items (Robinson, Mandelco, Olsen, & Hart, 1995). The final example of the scale had 32 items on the basis of the changes that were made in 2001 (Robinson, Mandelco, Olsen, & Hart, 2001). Each item of the scale were evaluated with the five points likert described as, "never", "once in a while", "about half of the time", "very often", "always".

#### **Translation of the Questionnaire to Turkish**

Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire was translated into Turkish by 5 experts who were competent in both languages, English and Turkish. Translations made by the experts were compared and some changes were made in terms of cultural meaning and lingual rules. Another expert who was competent in Turkish and English translated the scale back to English. The Original and the Turkish translation of the scale were compared by the researchers and the final form of the Turkish version was completed.

#### *2. 4. Procedure*

Personal Information Form and Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire were filled out by mothers and fathers of children. Fathers and mothers separately filled out the scale. Parents were informed about research by researchers before they started to response to the items.

#### *2. 5. Analysis of Data*

The data which were gathered were analyzed with SPSS 13.0 package programme. Distributions of frequencies and percentages were calculated in order to analyze data obtained from personal information form. Internal reliability of the scale of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire was tested with the technique of Cronbach Alpha. The test-retest reliability was calculated with Pearson correlational technique. Item analysis was made for the criteria of validity.

### **3. Results**

#### *3. 1. Scale reliability*

##### *3. 1. 1. Internal consistency coefficients*

Internal reliability of the scale of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire was tested with the technique of Cronbach Alpha (Cronbach Alpha: .63  $p < .01$ ). According to this result, the test-retest consistency of the scale were found to be relatively high.

##### *3. 1. 1. 1. Results of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire's (Turkish form) subscales internal consistency coefficients*

Table 1. Results of Authoritarian parenting style subscale's internal consistency coefficient

Items	Scale mean if item deleted	Scale variance if item deleted	Correction item – total correlation	Alpha if item deleted
Item 2	14,7557	16,7133	,3933	.68
Item 4	14,0680	15,1558	,2491	.72
Item 6	14,7476	16,1825	,4487	.67
Item 10	14,7346	16,5875	,2881	.70
Item 13	13,9191	14,8654	,4888	.66
Item 16	14,6877	16,1114	,4374	.67
Item 19	14,9320	16,9808	,3402	.69
Item 23	14,1764	15,0304	,3268	.70
Item 26	14,6570	15,1009	,4782	.66
Item 32	15,0113	17,0971	,4528	.68
Alpha: .71				

Table 1. shows that subscale's internal consistency coefficients is .71 ( $p < 01$ ). According to this results, the subscale's internal consistency coefficient was found acceptable.

Table 2. Results of Authoritative parenting style subscale's internal consistency coefficient

Items	Scale mean if item deleted	Scale variance if item deleted	Correction item – total correlation	Alpha if item deleted
Item 1	52,8859	39,8597	,4511	.84
Item 3	53,6061	38,6063	,3777	.84
Item 5	52,9823	39,5601	,4106	.83
Item 7	52,8987	38,1363	,5993	.83
Item 9	53,0482	38,1297	,5018	.83
Item 11	52,9437	37,8310	,5901	.83
Item 14	52,9003	40,5987	,3498	.84
Item 21	52,9839	37,5682	,6330	.82
Item 22	53,2460	38,4950	,2086	.84
Item 25	52,9084	38,7146	,5553	.83
Item 27	53,0225	39,4681	,4469	.84
Item 29	53,1383	37,0372	,6151	.82
Item 31	52,9920	37,9049	,5876	.83
Alpha: .84				

Table 2. reveals that the subscale's internal consistency coefficients is .84 ( $p < 01$ ). According to this results, the subscale's internal consistency coefficient was found acceptable.

Table 3. Results of Permissive parenting style subscale's internal consistency coefficient

Items	Scale mean if item deleted	Scale variance if item deleted	Correction item – total correlation	Alpha if item deleted
Item 8	9,0635	7,6398	,1103	.34
Item 15	9,1937	7,3456	,2299	.26
Item 17	9,1079	6,2109	,3261	.16
Item 20	8,9937	5,9364	,1651	.31
Alpha: .38				

Table 3. indicates that subscale's internal consistency coefficients is .38 ( $p < .01$ ). According to this results, the subscale's internal consistency coefficient was found acceptable.

Table 4. Comparision of results related to the subscales of internal consistency coefficients of Parenting Styles &amp; Dimensions Questionnaire Original and Turkish forms

Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire Original Form		Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire Turkish Form	
Subscales	Cronbach Alpha	Subscales	Cronbach Alpha
Authoritarian parenting style	.81	Authoritarian parenting style	.71
Authoritative parenting style	.83	Authoritative parenting style	.84
Permissive parenting style	.65	Permissive parenting style	.38

Table 4. shows that, authoritative parenting style's internal consistency coefficients have the highest values in both Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire original and Turkish forms (.83 and .84). Permissive parenting style's internal consistency coefficients have the lowest values in both Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire original and Turkish forms (.65 and .38).

### 3. 1. 2. Test- retest reliability

Test- retest reliability technique was used to test the time stability of the scale. For this reason, 30 parents (15 fathers, 15 mothers) who were selected randomly as sample group filled out the scale with two weeks of interval. The test-retest reliability was calculated with Pearson correlational technique.

Table 5. Results of Parenting Styles &amp; Dimensions Questionnaire test re-test reliability analysis

	N	$\bar{\chi}$	ss	R
Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire first measure	30	86,5333	4,5994	
Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire second measure	30	85,9000	5,7796	.76*

\*  $p < .01$

Table 5. shows that there is a strong and significant relation between Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire test- retest reliability measures ( $r = .76$   $p < .01$ ).

Table 6. Results of Parenting Styles &amp; Dimensions Questionnaire's subscales test-retest reliability analysis

Authoritarian parenting style subscale test re-test reliability				
	N	$\chi$	ss	R
Authoritarian parenting style subscale first measure	30	15,5000	2,5964	
Authoritarian parenting style subscale second measure	30	15,4667	3,0932	.84*
*p < .01				
Authoritative parenting style subscale test re-test reliability				
	N	$\chi$	ss	R
Authoritative parenting style subscale first measure	30	37,6000	8,8419	
Authoritative parenting style subscale second measure	30	37,1333	8,2116	.92*
*p < .01				
Permissive parenting style subscale test re-test reliability				
	N	$\chi$	ss	R
Permissive parenting style subscale first measure	30	10,5333	2,5560	
Permissive parenting style subscale second measure	30	10,3000	2,4516	.78*
* p < .01				

Table 6. indicates that there are strong and significant relations between test-retest measurements of authoritarian parenting style subscale's ( $r = .84$   $p < .01$ ), authoritative parenting style subscale's ( $r = .92$   $p < .01$ ) and permissive parenting style subscale's ( $r = .78$   $p < .01$ ).

### 3. 2. Scale validity

The face validity of the Turkish form was tested on the basis of the evaluations of three experts. The structural validity of the Turkish version of the scale was measured through item analysis.

The validity of criteria could not be tested because a similar scale with the same subdivisions was not found in Turkish language. Because the internal consistency coefficients of the subscales were high (between .38 -.84) it was decided that those subscales were consistently related. This was accepted as an evidence of structural validity of the scale. The final form of the Turkish version of the scale with 27 items was obtained by removing 5 items ( item 12, item 18, item 24, item 28 and item 30) from the original scale.

## 4. Discussion

The results of the research revealed that the Turkish version of Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire had acceptable reliability and validity. Both internal reliability and the test-retest consistency of the scale were found to be relatively high. The low Cronbach Alpha coefficient for the subscale of permissive attitude necessitate further testing and analysis. Because there are not various scales in this domain in Turkish, this scale is an important instrument in measuring parental attitudes in Turkish culture. The item analysis revealed that the scale had enough structural validity. Additional testing for the validity of the scale seems to be necessary. For instance a parallel scale measuring parental attitudes in Turkish may be used as a criteria.

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