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Classification and Measurement of Character Strengths: VIA-IS-P and GASC-24 Forms

Problem: Character strengths, one of the important concepts of positive psychology, refer the positive personal characteristics and strengths of individuals. Discovering and supporting the strengths of individuals is important to enhance life satisfaction and quality. Character Strengths Classification of Peterson and Seligman (2004) consist of twenty-four character strengths under six virtues. Wisdom, courage, humanity, justice, temperance and transcendence are the six basic virtues. There are character strengths of creativity, curiosity, judgment, love of learning, perspective under the virtue of wisdom; courage, perseverance, honesty, zest under the virtue of courage; social intelligence, love, and kindness under the virtue of humanity. There are the character strengths of leadership, teamwork, and fairness under the virtue of justice; forgiveness, humility, prudence, and self-regulation under the virtue of temperance; appreciation of beauty and excellence, gratitude, hope, humor, and spirituality under the virtue of transcendence. In this study, it is aimed to examine the psychometric properties of the VIA-Character Strengths Inventory (VIA-IS-P) Turkish Form, which is frequently used in the measurement and evaluation of character strengths. In addition, correlations of the scale with GASC-24 were examined.

Method: Two different samples were used to examine the validity and reliability of the measurement tool. The first sample consisted of participants over the age of 18 who wanted to learn their character strength profiles by filling out the measurement tool on the VIA website (<https://www.viacharacter.org/survey/account/register>) (N=3233). The second sample consisted of 628 participants (74.4% of them women) who were reached by convenience sampling method. Before collecting the data, permission was obtained from the Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Committee. Data were collected by online forms between December 2020 and March 2021. VIA- Character Strengths Inventory (VIA-IS-P) (McGrath, 2019) consists of 96 items, 4 positive items for each character strength, in order to evaluate 24 character strengths and 6 virtues. In GASC-24, there is only one item for each character strength. In the process of adapting the inventory (VIA-IS-P) to Turkish, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted for construct validity. Corrected item-total correlations were calculated for the item analysis of the scale. For the reliability of the scale, Cronbach's α internal consistency coefficients and test-retest reliability coefficient were calculated. For the GASC-24 form, descriptive statistics were calculated and correlations between VIA-IS-P were examined in a small sample (N=63). The data of the study were analyzed with SPSS and LISREL program.

Findings: When the fit indexes of the DFA results of the VIA-IS-P form are evaluated, the 24-dimensional model is acceptable fit. Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency coefficient of VIA- Character Strengths Inventory (VIA-IS-P) Turkish Form subscales ranged from .63 to .89, and the mean was calculated as .75. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .27 to .83. For the test-retest reliability of the inventory, 99 university students answered the scale with an interval of 2.5 months and the reliability coefficient of the subscales ranged from .52 to .84, and the mean was calculated as .73. The correlation coefficients between VIA-IS-P and GASC-24 ranged from .40 to .80 and the mean was calculated as .59.

Results: According to the findings, confirmatory factor analysis results show that the goodness-of-fit indices are within acceptable limits and the scale provides construct validity.