



Psychometric Properties of the WhyTry Measure-R



What is the WhyTry Measure-R?

The WhyTry Measure-R is a 27-item assessment tool that uses a 5-point Likert scale (1-strongly disagree; 5-strongly agree). The measure contains statements regarding how children think, feel, and act.

Methods

The assessment was validated using a sample of 903 6th grade students in Fort Worth, Arkansas – 477 male and 426 female. The WhyTry Measure was compared against the Nowicki-Strickland Locus of Control (NSLOC) Measure. All students were taught WhyTry during weekly lessons by school counselors, and each student completed the pre and post intervention for both measures.

Conclusions

Students' scores on the WhyTry Measure increased significantly from the pre test to the post test, indicating that they were better equipped to understand and deal with social pressures after the WhyTry intervention.

Students' scores on the NSLOC decreased significantly from pre test to post test, indicating more internal locus of control after the WhyTry intervention. The correlated scores on both measures indicate that a higher internal locus of control is significantly related to the WhyTry score.

High Convergent Validity

We examined the degree to which the operationalization of the WhyTry Measure is similar to other operationalizations (NSLOC) that it theoretically should be similar to. For example, to show the convergent validity of a test of arithmetic skills, we might correlate the scores on our test with scores on other tests that purport to measure basic math ability, where high correlations would be evidence of convergent validity.

Cronbach's Alpha

Cronbach's Alpha is widely believed to indirectly indicate the degree to which a set of items measures a single unidimensional latent construct. These items measure a single unidimensional latent construct but are not too similar that they are asking the same thing. Student scores indicated a high internal consistency and reliability.

Student ethnicities in sample group	Results: WhyTry Measure	Results: NSLOC	Correlation of NSLOC and WhyTry Measure
Asian	7.8%	Pre test mean: 102.7	Total correlation: -.340
Bi-racial/multi-racial	7.0%	Post test mean: 104.9	Pre test correlation: -.335
Black/African American	13%	T-score: 3.63	Post test correlation: -.380
Hispanic/Latino	23.9%	P-value: .000	
Native American/Alaskan Native	5.1%	Internal consistency: -.86	
White/Non-Hispanic	42.1%		
Other	1.1%		