Development and Validation of the Latinx Respeto Values and Behaviors Scales: Extending and Disentangling the Construct

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Introduction

ACCULTURATION
- Acculturation comprehends those phenomena which result when groups of individuals having different cultures come into continuous first-hand contact with subsequent changes in the original culture patterns of either or both groups.
- Traditionally, acculturation was viewed as a one-dimensional process in which Latinx youth completely disengaged from or never learned about their Latinx culture because they adopted aspects of the dominant U.S. culture.
- More recent multidimensional acculturation theory suggests that Latinx youth can acculturate and enculturate simultaneously.
- Enculturation is the process by which Latinx youth learn and engage in the practices, values, and identifications of their Latinx culture.
- Consistent with this notion, acculturation has been associated with the risk for depressive symptoms among Latinx youth but less is known about the associations of acculturation with depressive symptoms.

RESPETO LITERATURE
- Respeto relates to “knowing the level of courtesy and decorum required in a given situation in relation to other people of a particular age, sex and social status”.
- Generally, literature has revealed mixed findings regarding the impact of respeto on mental health outcomes.
- Some literature has found higher levels of respeto are related to better mental health and behavioral outcomes.
- Meanwhile others have found a negative relationship.
- One reason for the mixed literature might be tied to the methodological/measurement approaches, along with values that do not always translate into behaviors.

RESPETO SCALES
- While there are scales that measure the respeto value, no scale has been developed that directly measures respeto values and behavior in a multidimensional manner.

Item Development

LATINX RESPETO SCALES

PARTICIPANTS
- 1052 Latinx emerging adults
- 2 public universities in Texas
- Ages: 18-25 (M = 20.68, SD = 2.46)
- Gender: 66.1% women, 33.7% men
- Ethnicity: 85.4% Mexican descent

DATA ANALYTIC STRATEGY
- Language in values-based scale was altered to reflect behaviors.
- Mplus 7.2 software was used.
- CFA was conducted to develop the best-fitting and parsimonious model.

INSTRUMENTS
- Latinx Respeto Behaviors & Values Scales (α = 91–94)
- Based on study by Calazada, Fernandez, & Cortes
- Sample item: “Accept parental authority without questioning it”
- Ethnic Identity Scale (α = 0.92 affirmation, α = 0.88 exploration, α = 0.88 resolution)
- Sample item: “I understand how I feel about my ethnicity”
- Individualism and Collectivism Scale (α = 0.84 individualism, α = 0.88 collectivism)
- Sample item: “I would sacrifice an activity that I enjoy very much if my family did not approve of it”
- Brief Acculturation Rating Scale for Mexican Americans-II (α = 0.65 AGS, α = 0.93 MOS)
- Sample item: “I enjoy Spanish language TV”

Methods

Results

RESPETO VALUES SCALE CFA’S
- Initial model (57 items) revealed poor fit:
  - RMSEA = 0.093, CFI = 0.636, TLI = 0.622, SRMR = 0.117
- Final model (22 items) revealed acceptable model fit:
  - RMSEA = 0.082, CFI = 0.932, TLI = 0.923, SRMR = 0.059

RESPETO BEHAVIORS SCALE CFA’S
- Initial model (57 items) revealed poor fit:
  - RMSEA = 0.100, CFI = 0.551, TLI = 0.533, SRMR = 0.112
- Final model (22 items) revealed acceptable model fit:
  - RMSEA = 0.087, CFI = 0.962, TLI = 0.888, SRMR = 0.063

Conclusions

SUMMARY
- The study produced a 20-item scale for respeto-behaviors and a 22-item scale for respeto-values, both with good model fit that can be used to measure respeto values and behaviors.
- The scale demonstrated good reliability and had significant correlations with other ethnicity-related variables, highlighting good validity.

IMPLICATIONS
- The respeto values and behaviors scales can be used, in conjunction with ethnicity identity scales to gain a more holistic representation of the salience of respeto in a Latinx individual’s life.
- The respeto values and behaviors scales can be used to test incongruence between behaviors and values, which can shed light on any cognitive dissonance that might be occurring, especially since the literature indicates that incongruence can lead to poor outcomes.
- It can help us observe any differences in mental health outcomes between respeto behaviors and values.
- Utilization of the respeto values and based behaviors scales may provide useful information that might help predict mental health outcomes as they pertain to respeto values and behaviors.

References