THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PARENTS ATTITUDE SCALE TOWARDS PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS

Erman ÖNCÜ Özbay GÜVEN

Extended Abstract

Participation of children in physical education and sports activities is heavily related to the attitude of their parents towards sports, which is almost the most decisive factor in participation of children in such activities. Despite the fact that the influence of parents on doing or starting sports is often considered to be the most important factor, studies conducted in Turkey have mainly focused on correlations between the habit of doing sports and variables including profession, income, age and gender. From this perspective, it is obviously important to determine the attitudes of parents towards participation of their children in physical education and sports activities. The aim of this study is therefore to develop a valid and reliable scale to measure the attitudes of parents towards participation of their children in physical education classes.

The study used a descriptive and survey method to determine the existing situation. The sample group of the study consisted of parents of students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades of primary schools. The study was conducted on 186 parents — 107 mothers (58%) and 79 fathers (42%). The scale developed in order to measure the attitudes of parents towards participation of their children in physical education classes is a quintet like tert-type scale and consisted of 25 positive and 15 negative (40 in total) items. In order to determine the conformity of data with factor analysis, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin and Barlett sphericity tests were used. Factor analysis for basic components was made to define the factor structure. Confirmatory factor analysis, attitude scale and correlation tests among sub-factors were conducted to provide evidence for the factor structure. Cronbach Alpha and Spearman Brown coefficients were calculated to provide evidence for reliability and item-total test correlations to provide evidence for item validity.

In the outcome of the analyses conducted to determine the efficiency of the sample of the study, the Bartlett test result KMO 0.91 was found to be significant ($X^2=3839.69, p<0.001$). As a result of the analyses conducted to define the factor structure of the scale, it was seen that the joint variance explained collectively by four factors was 60.05%, and factor loads of items composing the scale ranged between 0.543 and 0.806, and the correlation between the scores obtained through the attitude scale and scores of sub-factors ranged between 0.40 and 0.84. The secondary confirmatory factor analysis conducted to provide evidence for the factor structure of the attitude scale gave us the following values: $X^2/sd=1.67$, RMSEA=0.06, RMR=0.06, SRMR=0.06, CFI=0.97, GFI=0.86, AGFI=0.83, NFI=0.93 and NNFI=0.97. As a result of the analyses carried out to determine the items and reliability of the scale, it was seen that the Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient for the scale and sub-factors ranged between 0.74 and 0.90, the Spearman Brown split-half test correlation coefficient ranged between 0.76 and 0.87, the item-total test correlations ranged between 0.36 and 0.69. It was also observed that the reliability coefficient (Cronbach Alpha) did not go down when any one of the items was taken out from the scale.

The findings of the reliability and validity study of the scale to measure the attitudes of parents towards participation of their children in physical education classes have shown that the scale composed of 21 items and 4 sub-factors can be used on parents reliably and validly. The scale is also uni-factorial. In other words, the fact that the pre-rotational factor I load values of the items (0.390-0.773) and the variance explained by the scale on its own (35.50%) were high indicates that the scale has a general factor. Thus, it seems convenient to use the scale in a unifactorial way as well as a four-factor scale. It is considered to be contributive to the validity and reliability of the scale to apply the scale on different parent groups such as parents of students in the elementary part of primary schools and high schools in further studies.