



Measuring parents associations' empowerment to support environmental alcohol prevention: An assessment tool

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Background

Empowering parents to boost environmental prevention is a promising strategy that only a few programmes use. Evidence suggests that when families and the community are engaged, alcohol prevention is more efficient.

The FERYA Programme¹ aims to empower parents to work together to bring about changes in their communities with regard to alcohol prevention and exercise more influence over other issues that also matter to them. Due to the novelty of this approach, no specific assessment tools for this type of engagement are available.

Aims

To design a parental empowerment scale to evaluate parents' engagement in community actions, and to analyse its psychometric properties

Method

Participants

132 adults (83,5% women).
Two piloting regions (Portugal, 41,7%; and Spain, 58,3%).

Procedure

- Item development (scales used):
 - General Self-Efficacy² (10-items)
 - Intention to get involved in community³ (4-items)
 - Participation in Parents' Association (7-items)
- Scale development (scales obtained):
 - Individual and Community Self-Efficacy Perception Scale (ICSEPS)
 - Community Intervention Self-Efficacy Scale (CISES)
- Scale evaluation

Results

No statistically significant differences by country were found between the assessed scales: General Self-Efficacy Scale ($t=.855$; $df = 129$; $p=.394$); Intention to get involved in community ($t=-1.577$; $df=124$; $p=.117$); Participation in Parents' Associations ($t=-.433$; $df=128.975$; $p=.666$); Individual and Community Self-Efficacy Scale ($t=-1.216$; $df =127$; $p=.226$); Community Intervention Self-Efficacy Scale ($t=-.827$; $df =123$; $p=.410$). Table 1 shows descriptive analysis of items and reliability. Results of convergent validity were moderate (Table 2).

Means, standard deviations, adjusted item-total correlation, skewness and kurtosis for all items (range: 1-5)

	n	Mean (S.D.)	Adjusted correlation	item-total	Skewness (std. error)	Kurtosis (std. error)
Individual and Community Self-efficacy Perception Scale (α Cronbach = .804)						
1. I have control over decisions that affect my life	131	3.94 (.811)	.419		-.327 (.212)	-.489 (.420)
2. My community has influence over decisions that affect my life	132	3.14 (.982)	.424		-.589 (.211)	-.088 (.419)
3. I am satisfied with the degree of control I have over the decisions that affect my life	132	3.80 (.836)	.523		-.634 (.211)	.449 (.419)
4. I can influence the decisions that affect my community	131	3.33 (.907)	.618		-.575 (.212)	.105 (.420)
5. Working together, people in my community can influence the decisions that affect us	132	4.01 (.824)	.629		-.845 (.211)	.996 (.419)
6. People in my community collaborate to influence decisions at the local, regional or national level	132	3.11 (.946)	.545		-.505 (.211)	-.409 (.419)
7. I am satisfied with the degree of influence I have on the decisions that affect my community	131	3.21 (.903)	.626		-.565 (.212)	-.064 (.420)
Community Intervention Self-Efficacy Scale (α Cronbach = .918)						
1. To prevent street drinking in my neighbourhood	124	3.01 (.924)	.605		-.142 (.217)	.129 (.431)
2. To sensitize mothers and fathers of the need to put pressure on the authorities to eliminate or reduce the consumption of young people and adolescents	125	3.39 (.870)	.774		-.334 (.217)	.205 (.430)
3. To make the changes my community needs	125	3.24 (.797)	.779		-.072 (.217)	.754 (.430)
4. To improve my community or neighbourhood	124	3.27 (.766)	.739		-.055 (.217)	.612 (.431)
5. To negotiate with the authorities to get improvements in my community	125	3.32 (.903)	.783		-.214 (.217)	-.137 (.430)
6. To influence the other members of my association of mothers and fathers to be involved in community actions	125	3.43 (.817)	.711		-.319 (.217)	.311 (.430)
7. To promote changes that improve my community or neighbourhood.	125	3.38 (.820)	.773		-.530 (.217)	.926 (.430)
8. To influence people around me (friends, family, work ...) to be involved in community actions	125	3.46 (.809)	.682		-.486 (.217)	.878 (.430)

Discussion

Correlations between the resulting scales and the ones used for their development are good although predictive validity was not statistically significant.

Small size of the sample: future studies need to involve a bigger one.

Some demographic features were not considered (e.g. socioeconomic status).

Considerations

Preliminary findings from our study seem positive in demonstrating that parents' empowerment can be reliably assessed.

Convergent validity (Spearman)

	GSES	Intention	ICSEPS	PAP	CISES
General Self-Efficacy Scale (GSES)	1	.248**	.502**	.220*	.436**
Intention to get involved in community		1	.480**	.408**	.411**
Individual and Community Self-Efficacy Perception Scale (ICSEPS)			1	.311**	.492**
Parent's Association Participation Questionnaire (PAP)				1	.361**
Community Intervention Self-Efficacy Scale (CISES)					1

** $p < .01$; * $p < .05$

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