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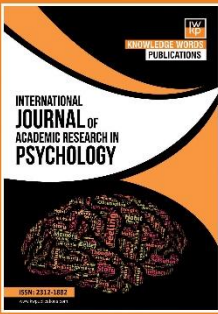
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## Examining the Psychometric Properties of the Albanian Version of the Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ)

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### Abstract

Parents are one of the most important agents in child's development. They create, through their parenting behaviors and strategies, a healthy family environment, when children benefits a lot in terms of their psychological and social development.

In the last two decades, the development psychologists have shown an increasing interest in measuring parenting styles and practices, using psychometric instruments. Parenting Style and Dimensions Questionnaire is a well-known and wide used self-reported instrument to assess parenting styles in different cultural contexts.

The aim of the present study was to adapt the Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire to Albanian family context. The original scale was developed by Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen, & Hart (1995) and it aimed to evaluate 4-12 years old children's mother's and father's parenting styles.

The Albanian version of the scale was administered to mothers and fathers of 316 preschool children of 3-6 years old in four kindergartens in Tirana city. The analyses for the internal consistency and internal structure-related validity of the scale were tested. The data were analyzed and the results showed that the Albanian version of the scale had acceptable validity.

**Keywords:** Parenting Styles, Preschool Children, Psychometric Properties.

### Introduction

Several studies have shown that parenting is one of the most influential factor in the development of their children. The child benefits from growing up in a healthy family and this is reflected in personality attributes, healthy relationships with others, adaptable behaviors etc.

Many parents struggle in their daily life doing their best to get the desired results with their parenting styles and strategies. There is a great number of researchers that have conducted studies regarding parenting issues aiming to find the best effective technique, parenting styles, discipline strategies in order to increase the development of psychologically healthy children (Calzada & Eyberg, 2002).

Diana Baumrind is considered one of the most influential figure of parental authority. According to Baumrind, parenting styles can be explained by two independent factors: warmth (or responsiveness) and control (or demandingness). Warmth/ responsiveness dimension refers to the degree of parental nurturance, emotional expression, and positive reinforcement of child's opinion where as control/ demandingness reflect the parents' level of demands, control, or expectations (Desjardinsa, Zelenskib, & Coplanb, 2008). The combinations of these two factors in various degrees according to Baumrind create the behaviors and attitudes that can be conceptualized in three parenting styles (Greenspan, 2006). Baumrind identified three parenting styles according to the prototypic pattern emerging from parents' and children's behavior: authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting, and permissive parenting. Authoritative parents were defined as those who "direct the child's activities but in a rational, issue-oriented manner" and evaluate "both expressive and instrumental attributes, both autonomous self-will and disciplined conformity" (Baumrind, 1968). Authoritarian parents were defined as those who "shape, control, and evaluate the behavior and attitudes of the child in accordance with a set standard of conduct"; they do "not encourage verbal give and take, believing that the child should accept their word for what is right (Baumrind, 1968). Permissive parents were defined as those who "behave in a non-punitive, acceptant, and affirmative manner toward the child's impulses, desires, and action"; they avoid "the exercise of control, and [do] not encourage [them] to obey externally-defined standards. [They attempt] to use reason but not overt power to accomplish [their] ends (Baumrind, 1968).

In order to measure parenting styles that occur within the context of these typologies, Robinson, Mandaleco, Olsen, and Hart (1995) created a new instrument and proposed a self-reporting questionnaire specifically developed for parents of preschool-aged and school-aged children based on Baumrind's (1968) parenting style typologies and definitions (Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen, & Hart, 1995).

Initially, the authors built a questionnaire of 133 items. In its development, they used 80 items of Block's (1965) Child-Rearing Practices Report, a 91-item Q-sort, and 53 new items, "based on conceptualizations of Authoritative, Authoritarian, and Permissive typologies drawn from current literature that appeared to have face validity" (Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen, & Hart, 1995). Their questionnaire was administered to 1251 volunteer parents (534 fathers and 717 mothers) from Utah. The authors carried out a series of principle axes factor analysis to obtain a three-factor solution corresponding to Baumrind's (1968) parenting styles typologies, producing a 62-item questionnaire. The instrument comprised 27 questions regarding the authoritative style, 20 questions regarding the authoritarian style, and 15 questions regarding the permissive style. Then, the authors carried out on each set of items a principle axes factor analysis, extracting four factors from the authoritative style (warmth/involvement, reasoning/induction, democratic participation, good nature/easygoing), four factors from the authoritarian style (verbal hostility, corporal punishment, non-reasoning, punitive strategies, directiveness), and three factors from the permissive style (lack of follow-through, ignoring misbehavior, and self-confidence). In developing this measure, Robinson et al. (1995) reported good reliability: Cronbach's alphas for authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive parenting were .91, .86, and .75, respectively. In 2001, Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen, and Hart published an adaptation of Robinson et al.'s (1995) scale (Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen, & Hart, 2001). In this brief article, the authors presented the scale, named the Parenting Style and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) and the scoring instruction.

Since 1995, several articles have been published providing different uses of the scale, and most of the findings showed the significant impact of parenting style on children's adjustment (Olivari, Tagliabue, & Confalonieri, 2013).

The questionnaire was designed by authors that conducted the study in United States and claim that it can be used in multicultural settings (Onder & Gulay, 2009; Kern & Jonyniene, 2012). This instrument has been translated and adapted to the Australian, Russian and Chinese context (Robinson, et al., 1996). With a sample of approximately 190 mothers and 150 fathers from each culture, three parenting styles appeared to be stable constructs regardless of cultural settings. The authoritative parenting pattern yielded the highest internal correlations in Australian, Russian, and Chinese cultures (.84 to .91) followed by the authoritarian parenting practices (Cronbach's alpha .82 to .88). The weakest internal correlation was found for the permissive pattern for all cultures (Cronbach's alpha .58-.65) (Robinson, et al., 1996).

In Albania there has been little attention given to parenting style research and no studies could be identified that assessed the psychometric properties of the PSDQ with Albanian parents.

Despite these findings with a variety of parents from different cultures, no studies on the psychometric properties of the PSDQ have been conducted before with Albanian parents. Therefore, the aim of this study was to assess the psychometric properties of the instrument with Albanian parents. More specifically, the research question is as follow:

Can a parenting style questionnaire titled The Parenting Styles and Dimensions questionnaire (PSDQ) created by Robinson and his colleagues be effectively translated, validated, and assessed as a reliable instrument that can be adapted for use in Albanian family context?

## **Method**

### **Participants**

Data for the present study were collected from a sample consisting of 316 parents, but for the analysis were considered 308 parents, n=8 questionnaires were excluded because resulted to be invalid. 68.5% of the questionnaires were filled in by mothers, 17.2% were filled in by fathers and 14.3% were filled in by both parents. The parents reported for their preschool children ranging from 3 to 6 years old (mean age was 4.81 years and standard deviation 12.42). Regarding the gender of the children, there were 160 boys and 148 girls.

### **Instrument**

The original version of PSDQ has 62-item and was developed by authors for use with parents of children from 4 to 12-year-old in various cultures (Robinson et al., 1996). In the current study, the 58-item scale was used to assess the parenting style of Albanian parents. Parenting Styles & Dimensions Questionnaire, is a self-report instrument designed to measure authoritarian, authoritative and permissive parenting styles. Each item of the scale were evaluated with the five points Likert described as, 1- "never", 2- "once in a while", 3- "about half of the time", 4- "very often", 5- "always". The Authoritative parenting style scale consists of 27 items in total. This scale reflects four dimensions: 11 items expressing the dimension of warmth and involvement (e.g., Give comfort and understanding when our child is upset); reasoning/induction consists of 7 items (e.g., Explains the consequences of the child's behavior); democratic participation consists of 5 items (e.g., Channel our

child's misbehavior into a more acceptable activity); good natured /easy going consists of 4 items (e.g., Show patience with our child).

The Authoritarian parenting style scale consists of 16 items and reflects four dimensions: verbal hostility consists of 4 items (e.g., Explodes in anger toward child); corporal punishment consists of 2 items (e.g., Grab our child when he/she is being disobedient); non-reasoning/punitive strategies consists of 6 items (e.g., Uses threats as punishment with little or no justification); and directiveness consists of 4 items (e.g., Tells child what to do).

The Permissive parenting style scale has 15 items and is designed to assess three dimensions: lack of follow through consists of 6 items (e.g., Threaten child with punishment more often than actually giving it); ignoring misbehavior consists of 4 items (e.g., Allows child to interrupt others); self-confidence consists of 5 items (e.g., Appear confident about parenting abilities).

### **Procedure**

First, the translation was organized following the procedure of back–forward translation accordingly. A team of three psychologist translated the instrument separately, and the translated items were reviewed by a language expert. This was followed by translating the instrument back to the English language.

The final instrument was then administered to parents of four kindergartens in the city of Tirana. Kindergarten educational staff handed questionnaires to the parents, at the time they came to pick up their children.

### **Data Analysis**

The data were analyzed using the statistical package for the social science 21. The statistical methods included Cronbach's  $\alpha$ , Pearson correlation coefficient and descriptive statistics (means and standard deviations). The Mahalanobis' distance procedure was conducted to identify outliers.

Data cleaning procedure was employed. The questionnaires that had 10% of the items unanswered were excluded ( $N = 4$ ). Also the data that were identified following the Mahalanobis' distance procedure were excluded ( $N=4$ ).

### **Results**

#### **Scale Analysis**

The normative data, based on sample of 308 parents reporting for their preschool children are presented in the table below. The mean score for the Authoritative Style Scale was 53.32 ( $SD = 11.40$ ), and scores ranged from 31 to 85. Analysis of skewness and kurtosis for this scale was slightly negatively skewed (skewness = 0.261; kurtosis = -0.398). The mean score for the Authoritarian Style Scale was 38.39 ( $SD = 3.90$ ), ranging from 28 to 50. The Authoritarian Style Scale is normal distributed (skewness = 0.210; kurtosis = 0.199). The mean score for the Permissive Style Scale was 33.75 ( $SD = 4.36$ ), and scores ranged from 23 to 45. Analysis of skewness and kurtosis for this scale was slightly negatively skewed (skewness = 0.197; kurtosis = -0.317).

Table 1: Normative data for the subscales of PSDQ

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Score range	
			Min	Max
Authoritative style	53.32	11.40	31	85
Authoritarian style	38.39	3.90	28	50
Permissive style	33.75	4.36	23	45

### Internal consistency

The preliminary Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the translated version of the PSDQ are presented in Tables below. The results presented in Table 2 indicated that the Cronbach's alpha coefficients for three scales parenting styles of PSDQ in Albanian version were slightly different from those reported in the English version. The Cronbach's alpha for Authoritative Parenting Style was  $\alpha = .820$ . Not quite adequate internal consistency was found for the Authoritarian Parenting scale  $\alpha = .671$ . The internal reliability of Permissive Parenting Style was assessed to be unacceptable based on the Cronbach's alpha coefficients of  $\alpha = .522$ . Though authors of the original instrument declared Cronbach's alpha for the three major scales, in the current study the internal consistency analysis are conducted also for the sub-factors.

Table 2: Comparison of results related to internal consistency coefficients of Parenting Styles &amp; Dimensions Questionnaire

Subscales	Original Form	Spanish version	Portuges version	Turkish version	Lithuania n version	Albanian version
	Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen, & Hart, 1995	Diaz, 2005	Pedro, 2008	Onder & Gulay, 2009	Kern & Jonynien e 2012	(current study)
	Cronbach Alpha	Cronbach Alpha	Cronbach Alpha	Cronbach Alpha	Cronbach Alpha	Cronbach Alpha
1.Authoritative Parenting Style	.91	0.86	0.83	0.84	0.85	0.82
2.Authoritarian Parenting Style	.85	0.69	0.81	0.71	0.76	0.67
3.Permissive Parenting Style	.75	0.55	0.65	0.38	0.58	0.52

The correlational analysis between the PSDQ scales and subscales may also be informative for exploring the PSDQ internal reliability. The Pearson correlation was found to be statistically significant in three major scales: the correlation between authoritative parenting style and authoritarian parenting style as well as the correlation between authoritative parenting style and permissive parenting style was estimated to be moderately strong and positive (Pearson correlation coefficients



were equal to  $r = .214$  and  $r = .451$ ,  $p < .01$ , respectively); the correlation between authoritarian parenting style and permissive parenting style was found to be weak and positive (Pearson correlation coefficient had the value of  $r = .131$ ,  $p < .01$ ).

Table 3: Correlations, Internal Consistency Reliability Coefficients, Means, and Standard Deviations for PSDQ Albanian Version

Scale	1. Authoritative Parenting Style	2. Authoritarian Parenting Style	3. Permissive Parenting Style
1. Authoritative Parenting Style	1		
2. Authoritarian Parenting Style	.214**	1	
3. Permissive Parenting Style	.451**	.131*	1
Psychometric properties			
$\alpha$	.820	.671	.522
M	53.32	38.39	33.75
SD	11.40	3.90	4.36

Note: N=308. PSDQ = Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire.

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

Cronbach's alpha coefficients and Pearson correlation analysis was employed for the subscales of each of parenting style scales. The results showed that reasoning/induction and democratic participation (Authoritative Parenting Style) were acceptable Cronbach's alpha,  $\alpha = .740$  and  $\alpha = .655$  respectively. Also, dimensions of Authoritarian parenting style as well as the dimensions of Permissive parenting style did not reach  $\alpha = .70$  of Cronbach's alpha coefficient (coefficients were equal to  $r = .39$  and  $r = .50$ ,  $p < .01$ ).

Table 4: Correlations, Internal Consistency Reliability Coefficients, Means, and Standard Deviations for Authoritative Parenting Style- PSDQ Albanian Version

Scale	1	1a	1b	1c	1d
1. Authoritative Parenting Style	1				
1a. Warmth and involvement	.876**	1			
1b. Reasoning/ induction	.739**	.478**	1		
1c. Democratic participation	.761**	.566**	.406**	1	
1d. Good natured /easy going	.641**	.506**	.309**	.347**	1
Psychometric properties					
$\alpha$	.820	.620	.740	.655	.501
M	53.32	20.47	12.41	11.72	8.70
SD	11.40	7.94	3.92	3.46	3.46

Note: N=308. PSDQ = Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire.

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

The Pearson correlation between different parenting dimensions was found to be statistically significant in most interrelations. The strongest positive correlation was identified between parenting dimensions of the same parenting style: Pearson correlation coefficients had the value of  $r = .41$  and

$r = .87$ ,  $p < .01$  (strong correlation) for most of the dimensions of authoritative parenting style. Warmth/involvement and democratic participation showed to be in a strong relations with the Authoritative Parenting Scale. While Reasoning/ induction dimension showed to be in a moderate correlation with good nurtured/easygoing dimension,  $r = .309$ ,  $p < .01$ .

Table 5: Correlations, Internal Consistency Reliability Coefficients, Means, and Standard Deviations for Authoritarian Parenting Style- PSDQ Albanian Version

Scale	2	2a	2b	2c	2d
2. Authoritarian Parenting Style	1				
2a. Verbal hostility	.597**	1			
2b. Corporal punishment	.481**	.392**	1		
2c. Non-reasoning/punitive strategies	.482**	.069	.028	1	
2d. Directiveness	.322**	-.329**	-.236**	-.079	1
Psychometric properties					
$\alpha$	.671	.612	.574	.399	.432
M	38.39	9.74	3.66	15.48	9.49
SD	3.90	2.47	1.46	1.87	2.56

Note: N=308. PSDQ = Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire.

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

The Authoritarian Parenting Style showed to have not adequate internal consistency, Cronbach's alpha resulted  $\alpha = .671$ , compare with the original English version. Corrected item-to-total correlations showed that the items that had a correlation coefficient below  $r = .30$  were item 44 (e.g., When two children are fighting, discipline children first and asks questions later), item 47 (e.g., Scold or criticize when the child's behavior doesn't meet our expectations) and item 16 (e.g., Scold and criticize to make the child improve).

The correlation Pearson correlation between Authoritarian Parenting Style and each of the three subscales showed a strong correlation (coefficients were equal to  $r = .48$  and  $r = .59$ ,  $p < .01$ ). The directiveness dimension showed a moderate relation with Authoritarian Parenting Style Scale (coefficient was equal to  $r = .32$ ) and also, showed to have moderate to weak and negative relation with the other subscale (coefficients were equal to  $r = -.08$  and  $r = -.24$ ,  $p < .01$ ). The non-reasoning/punitive strategies dimension is not related to any of the other dimensions of the scale.



Table 6: Correlations, Internal Consistency Reliability Coefficients, Means, and Standard Deviations for Permissive Parenting Style- PSDQ Albanian Version

Scale	3	3a	3b	3c
3. Permissive Parenting Style	1			
3a. Lack of follow through	.723**	1		
3b. Ignoring misbehavior	.424**	.064	1	
3c. Self-confidence consists	.647**	-.054	.140	1
Psychometric properties				
$\alpha$	.522	.422	.399	.501
M	33.75	16.02	7.68	10.04
SD	4.36	2.86	1.81	2.54

Note: N=308. PSDQ = Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire.

\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

The permissive parenting style scale showed a low internal consistency,  $\alpha = .522$ . This scale has shown a low consistency even in the original version and other versions. The subscales of permissive parenting style have a strong and positive correlation with it (coefficients were equal to  $r = .42$  and  $r = .72$ ,  $p < .01$ ). The Pearson correlation in each of the permissive parenting style scale dimensions was found to be not significant in all interrelations.

### Conclusions

The psychometric properties of Albanian version of PSDQ among parents with preschool aged children were explored in the present study. Based on this preliminary analysis, the findings indicate that the PSDQ Albanian version had similar psychometric properties to the PSDQ original version (Robinson et al., 2001).

The results of this study revealed the preliminary internal consistency reliability of the three major scales and eleven subscales of PSDQ Albanian version. Though only some subscales were found to have acceptable internal consistency reliability, none of them could be compared to the results of other studies as no information was found available on that.

The reliability of Authoritative Parenting scale had the highest Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The Permissive Parenting scale was found to have the lowest Cronbach's alpha. This finding is supported even in the other versions of PSDQ. This finding need to be explored further.

Although the authors of the scale (Robinson, et al., 1996) reported the parenting styles as stable constructs from a multicultural perspective, the preliminary exploratory data support the permissive style of the PSDQ.

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