Name of Measure: Coopersmith Self-Esteem Inventory—The School Form (SEI) (Coopersmith, 1981).

Purpose of Measure: To measure level of self-esteem with an adolescent population


Description of Measure: This measure consists of 58 items, eight of which comprise a lie scale. The remaining items are scored on a dichotomous scale (“like me” or “not like me”) to provide a global measure of self-esteem. Higher scores indicate higher self-esteem.

Language: English, Vietnamese

Translation Comments: Using Smith and Bond’s (1993) back-translation method, the instrument was translated into Vietnamese.

Description of Populations: The sample consists of 238 adolescents ranging in age from 12 to 19 years. The sample was comprise of roughly equivalent numbers of Vietnamese-Australian (N=118), and Anglo-Australian children (N=120). The majority of the Vietnamese-Australian sample reported that they had lived in Australia for less than 10 years.

Norms: The mean Total Self-esteem score was 34.88 (SD=8.69) for the Anglo-Australian sample and 32.03 (SD=7.18) for the Vietnamese-Australian sample. This difference was statistically significant (p<.05).

Reliability: The alpha coefficients for the Total Self-Esteem scale was .88 and .79 for the Anglo-Australian and Vietnamese-Australian samples respectively.

Validity: Convergent and discriminant validity were assessed. The Total Self-esteem score was found to be significantly and negatively correlated with the neuroticism sub-scale of the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) in both the Vietnamese-Australian and Anglo-Australian samples. The Total Self-esteem score was significantly and positively correlated with the EPQ extroversion sub-scale.

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