

Name of Measure: Malay version of the Self-Description Questionnaire-1 (SDQ-1) (Marsh 1988)

Purpose of Measure: To assess multiple dimensions of self-concept.

Reference: Watkins, D., Kan, A., & Ismail, M. (1996). The self –conceptions of Malaysians adolescents: Assessment and cross-cultural comparisons. *Psychologia*, 39, 144-149.

Description of measure: The Malay version consists of 64 items of the original 74 items. Negatively worded items were omitted because of the comprehension difficulty they pose for young subjects. Each item has a 5-point response scale: (1) false, (2) mostly false, (3) sometimes false, sometimes true, (4), mostly true, and (5) true. There are eight sub- scales: Physical Abilities, Physical Appearance, Peer Relations, Parental Relations, Reading, Mathematics, General-School, and General-Self.

Language: English, Bahasa, Malaysia.

Translation Comments: The measure was translated into the National Language (Bahasa Malaysia) and back translated into English. Different boy and girl versions were created to accommodate wording differences. Items 1, 22, and 38 refer to “good/nice looking”. In Bahasa Malaysia, the equivalent wording translates as handsome/smart for boys and beautiful for girls.

Description of population: Malaysian public high school students aged 14 to 15 years; 137 males and 163 females.

Norms: The mean and standard deviation of the Malaysian were compared to Marsh’s (1988) Australian norming sample. There were statistically significant gender x country differences on each of the sub-scales. The findings suggest that Asian children in comparison to Australian counterparts report higher self esteem in academic areas of self concept (e.g., reading, general-school) but lower self-esteem in non-academic areas such as physical ability and physical appearance.

Reliability: The internal consistency reliability estimates alpha for the 8 SDQ-1 scales ranged from .70 (Peer Relations) to .89 (Mathematics). The median of the scale alphas for the Malaysian sample was .81. Marsh (1988) reported a median alpha of .86 based on an Australian sample.

Validity: Within construct validity was assessed through confirmatory factor analytic procedures. The analysis confirmed a hierarchical model of seven dimensions nested within two correlated higher order dimensions (Academic and non-Academic)

Original Reference: Marsh, H. (1998). The self-description questionnaire I: SDQ manual and research monograph. San Antonio: Psychological Corporation.

How to obtain a copy of this instrument: For permission to use this instrument, please contact Professor Herbert Marsh, Director, SELF Centre, University of Western Sydney, Macarthur PO Box 555, Campbelltown NSW 2560 Australia, Phone: 02 9772 6633, Fax: 02 9772 6432; email: h.marsh@uws.edu.au

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