

Validation of the Korean Premarital Inventory K-PREPARE

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Doctoral Dissertation 2009

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This study examined the factor structure and validity of the PREPARE, which was originally developed in the United States. The K-PREPARE was translated and slightly revised for use with Korean premarital couples.

This study addressed the following questions:

1. Is the translation of the K-PREPARE appropriate?
2. How is the factor structure of the K-PREPARE?
3. Is the reliability of the K-PREPARE appropriate?
4. Is the K-PREPARE a valid inventory?
 - 1) How is the construct validity of K-PREPARE?
 - 2) How is the criterion-related validity of K-PREPARE?
 - 3) How is the predictive validity of K-PREPARE?

Results of Study:

A total of 2,344 Korean premarital couples were subjects for the translation verification, factor structure analysis, and reliability analysis.

First, for the translation verification of the K-PREPARE, a special team which consisted of Korean and native English speakers checked the translation of the K-PREPARE through cross translation. As a result, only 2 items among a total of 117 items have translation problems.

Second, the exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses were performed to analyze factor structure. As a result, the K-PREPARE exhibited 11 factors and 67 items. Three factors (personality, communication, conflict resolution) in the American version changed into 2 factors (personality and communication, conflict avoidance) in the Korean version. The 11 factors of K-PREPARE were idealistic distortion, marriage expectation, personality and communication, conflict avoidance, financial management, role relationship, sexual intimacy, leisure activities, parenting, family and friends, and spiritual beliefs.

Third, the internal consistency reliability coefficient of the K-PREPARE subscales varied between .52 - .87, which is an acceptable level.

Fourth, Korean premarital and newlywed couples were subjects of the K-PREPARE validity study. The results of the study were as follows:

To verify the construct validity of the K-PREPARE, this study administered the K-PREPARE to 174 Korean premarital couples; confirmatory factor analysis was performed with the data. The results of the confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the model provided a good fit to observed data (IFI- .924, TLI- .905, CFI- .921, RMSEA- .037).

To verify criterion-related validity, this study administered the K-PREPARE and Premarital Preparation Evaluation Scale to 174 Korean premarital couples at the same time and examined the correlation between two premarital scales. As a result, the inter-correlations of common factors were significant ($r=.26-.68, p<.01$), so the criterion-related validity of K-PREPARE was verified.

To verify predictive validity, this study administered the K-PREPARE and Marital Satisfaction Scale to 46 Korean newlywed couples at the same time and examined the correlation between two scales. As a result, the inter-correlations of seven common factors were significant ($r=.28-.79, p<.01$), so the predictive validity of K-PREPARE was verified.

Summary & Conclusions:

An analysis of the theoretical field identified 11 factors which could affect the marriage preparation of Korean premarital couples. The K-PREPARE assessed 10 of the 11 factors. Furthermore, 7 factors of the K-PREPARE were in harmony with Premarital Preparation Evaluation Scale (PREPARE) developed for Korea. This study found the K-PREPARE to be culturally relevant.

Methodologically, this study examined translation verification, the structure of sub-scales and reliability analysis, as well as construct validity, criterion-related validity, and predictive validity of the K-PREPARE. This study proved that the K-PREPARE is a relevant and valid tool for Korean premarital couples.

In the practical field, the K-PREPARE can be used to help Korean premarital couples to evaluate their preparation in the major areas of marriage life. It can help to customize the programs to fit each premarital couple. It can also help to build healthy family life and prevent marriage troubles. Second, if the premarital couples who do not know the importance of marriage preparation take the K-PREPARE they will recognize the necessity of premarital education. Premarital educators can also use the K-PREPARE as a tool to verify the effectiveness and the improvements of premarital education programs. Third, marriage life deals with the wide range of subjects. Before K-PREPARE, there was no premarital tool to work with premarital couples. This study demonstrated that the K-PREPARE can be a useful and valid tool for premarital counseling in Korea.

Key words: *Premarital inventory, Premarital education, K-PREPARE (Korean Premarital Personal and Relationship Evaluation)*