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DIFFERENTIAL ITEM FUNCTIONING OF THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE SOMATOSENSORY AMPLIFICATION SCALE AMONG ADOLESCENTS ACROSS GRADE LEVELS

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Introduction: Tam et al. (2011)[1] recently reported the invariance of the one-factor model of the Chinese version of the Somatosensory Amplification Scale (ChSAS). The objective of this paper is to further examine the item-level equivalence of the ChSAS in a sample of Chinese adolescents across grade levels.
Methods: The ChSAS was administered to 500 Chinese adolescents. Differential item functioning (DIF) analysis was performed to identify any uniform and non-uniform differences on the 10 ChSAS items among adolescents across different grade levels.
Results: After a Bonferroni adjustment of *p* value (=0.0007, i.e., 0.05/70), results of DIF analyses showed that there is no uniform (all *F*s ranging from 0.17-2.15, *p*s>0.09) or non-uniform (all *F*s ranging from 0.47-1.76, *p*s>0.02) difference on the 10 ChSAS items.
Conclusions: The four different grade level groups used the scale comparably, without showing any difference on item properties. These findings further substantiate the use of ChSAS as a valid and reliable instrument among adolescents across grade levels.
[1] Tam, B. K. H. & Wong, W. S. (2011). Confirmatory factor analysis and sample invariance of the Chinese version of Somatosensory Amplification Scale (ChSAS) among Chinese adolescents. Paper presented at the 12th European Congress of Psychology, Istanbul, Turkey, 2011.

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