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The cross cultural validity of an occupation-based assessment among Taiwan, U.S.A. and UK

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Introduction & Objects: The purpose of the study is to examine if there are item bias of an occupation-based assessment - Model of Human Occupation Screening Tool (MOHOST) among samples from Taiwan, U.S.A. and UK. The MOHOST was developed based on MOHO. Research found that there were 6 domains within the scale. In order to compare the level of occupational participation among clients from different countries, there is a need to investigate if items of the MOHOST are free of cultural bias.

Methods: 197 clients with psychiatric disorders were assessed using the MOHOST (105 from Taiwan, 21 from USA, 71 from UK). The data of Taiwan were from a study conducted to examine the psychometric qualities of the Chinese version MOHOST (Fan, 2008). The Data of the USA and UK were obtained from MOHO clearing house of the University of Illinois at Chicago. The Differential Item Functioning (DIF) was used to investigate if there is significant difference of item calibration between countries. The DIF analysis was conducted for each domain with Rasch measurement model using FACETS computer program

Results: There were several items demonstrating DIF between countries. There were 12 DIF items between Taiwan and UK (commitment, adaptability, responsibility, vocal expression, relationship, problem solving, planning, knowledge, organization, energy, physical space and social groups). There were 7 DIF items between Taiwan and USA (interest, problem solving, organization, coordination, energy, physical space and psychical resource). The proportion of DIF items between Taiwan and UK was 50% (12/24); and it was 29.2% (7/24) between Taiwan and US.

Conclusion & Contribution to the Practice: Quite a few items of the MOHOST showed DIF between countries. In order to compare the level of occupational participation of the clients from different countries, it is better to use items without bias. There is also a need to develop country specific item calibration which can be used to adjust the level of occupational participation of the clients when involve in cross-cultural comparison.