

Abstract

The Fear Survey Schedule for Children (FSSC-II) was the revised and most updated self-report fear scale introduced by Gullone and King in 1992. Its validity and applicability for use across cultures were shown in past research. The FSSC-II was also modified as a parent-report fear scale (FSSC-IIP) by Bouldin and Pratt in 1998. The present study examined the psychometric properties of the Chinese versions of the FSSC-II and FSSC-IIP for validation and application in Hong Kong. The FSSC-II was administered to 1209 students and 19 patients with clinical anxiety disorders aged 8 to 15, while the FSSC-IIP was administered to 1066 parents of students and 34 parents of patients with clinical anxiety disorders aged 6 to 18.

For both FSSC-II and FSSC-IIP, satisfactory internal consistency and test-retest reliability were found. A four-factor solution was obtained for the FSSC-II scores while a five-factor solution was obtained for the FSSC-IIP scores from the current sample, which were conceptually similar to those obtained in previous studies. On the other hand, the present data did not support the criterion validity of the FSSC-II and only minimally supported that of the FSSC-IIP in discriminating the clinical sample from the community sample. In the community sample, gender differences in the Total Intensity Fear scores and age differences in specific types of fear scores were found for the FSSC-II scores, while both gender and age differences were found for the FSSC-IIP Total Intensity Fear scores. In the clinical sample, no age or gender difference was found for both FSSC-II and FSSC-IIP. Certain cultural differences in fear expressions of children and adolescents were shown. Overall, the Chinese versions of the FSSC-II and FSSC-IIP were demonstrated to be valid cross-cultural assessment tools for fears in children and adolescents in Hong Kong, with their satisfactory reliability and factorial validity. However, their application as screening Chinese FSSC-II and FSSC-IIP tools for anxiety disorders in Hong Kong was not supported by the current data with their limited concurrent criterion validity.