

Validate the Use of College Self Efficacy Inventory for Measuring Psychosocial Factors on Indian Students

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to apply the College Self-Efficacy Inventory (CSEI) scale to measure the social and psychological factors on Indian students. The major research question of the study is to answer whether the CSEI scale fit the data. The sample of the study is 141 in BBA and B.Com (H) first year in affiliated college of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Delhi. Path analysis has been used in the study to examine the interrelationship between course-roommate-social self-efficacy. To analyse the data correlation, CFI, RMSEA, Cronbach alpha, regression weights, Durbin – Watson test etc. has been used. The study found affirmative steps in collecting validity evidence for the CSEI scale as well as found significant inter - relationship between course-roommate-social self-efficacy of Indian undergraduate students. It has been also found that CSEI scale can be used to measure college self- efficacy for the broader college experience of Indian students.

Keywords: *Self – efficacy, CSEI, students, Path analysis, relationship*

College student adjustment process has been gaining importance in order to increase the satisfaction level of the students due to increasing complexities of the environment. The process has been explored in different contexts such as social, academic, motivational, psychosocial, and personality. One specific construct that has received considerable interest in the domain of college student adjustment is self-efficacy to organize and execute courses of action required to attain designated types of performances (Bandura, 1986, p. 391).

It has been suggested that self-efficacy is important to not only the academic and social adjustment of students but to their overall wellness and personal adjustment as well (e.g., DeWitz & Walsh, 2002; Gore, 2006; Solberg & Villareal, 1997). Self-efficacy is viewed as a person's perception of his or her capabilities to attain a specific goal or task (Bandura, 1993, 2000).

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Self-efficacy, rooted in Bandura's social-cognitive theory (Bandura, 1986), is related to a number of educational and psychological constructs. As stated by socio-cognitive theory, efficacy beliefs coupled with goal systems are able to strengthen motivation and performance through increasing effort or persistence (Bandura, 2001) and higher level of self-efficacy equates with embarking on higher levels of goals over time (Locke & Latham, 1990).

Self-efficacy progresses in stages when an individual moves on through life's various phases (Azar & Fatemeh, 2014). The first stage of self-efficacy development is within the student's family environment and its progress continues with age because of being exposed to models and the sense of progress which derives from mastery experiences. Peers also exert vulnerable effect on the individuals' efficacy beliefs (Bandura, 1986). In case of reassessing their competence, children's self-perceptions may shift while going through a developmental process (Marsh, Craven, & Debus, 1999, Yeung, Lau, & Nie, 2011).

Self-efficacy has been linked to motivational constructs such as persistence and goals/goal setting (e.g., Multon, Brown, & Lent, 1991; Schunk & Ertmer, 1999), the use of strategies such as self-regulated learning (e.g., Pintrich & DeGroot, 1990), actual achievement (e.g., Pajares & Miller, 1995), and affective constructs such as stress and distress and anxiety (e.g., Finney & Schraw, 2003; Solberg & Villareal, 1997). One important character of self-efficacy is that it is domain specific; that is, self-efficacy judgments are specific to certain tasks in certain situations (Bandura, 1977, 1986, 1997). Researchers have shown the strongest link between self-efficacy and outcomes when the specificity of the efficacy assessment and the criterion matches (Choi, 2005; Pajares & Miller, 1995).

Self-efficacy has been studied within a variety of specific domains such as academic, social, career, clinical, athletics, and health areas (Bandura, 1997). Self-efficacy in the academic domain has been widely studied with college students with college-aged populations because both are integral components of the college experience. Self-efficacy results were significantly related to hope level in education systems (Davidson et al., 2012). A gender study on college students suggest that perceived self-efficacy must be taken into consideration (Chavez et al., 2014). It has been found that academic achievements can be enhance by increasing their self- efficacy through applying training methods and enriching educational environments (Jahanian & Mahjoubi, 2013). Recently, a new domain of self-efficacy beliefs has been proposed for the college student: that of college self-efficacy. College self- efficacy is the degree of confidence students have for completing college-related tasks (Barry & Finney, 2007).

Few scales have been developed to measure general self- efficacy like academic Self-Confidence subscale of the Student Readiness Inventory (ASC; Le, Casillas, Robbins, & Langley, 2005) and the College Academic Self-efficacy Scale (CASES; Owen & Froman, 1988) are the examples of general measures. The CSEI was developed (Solberg et al.1993) in order to understand the role

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of self-efficacy in the college adjustment. The college self-efficacy inventory was first developed to understand the role of self-efficacy in the process of college adjustment (Solberg et al. 1993). College self-efficacy inventory scale (CSEI) has been applied to establish a retention strategy for freshmen African American males and revealed that it is associated with student's academic success. Social self-efficacy, Roommate self-efficacy and course self-efficacy were three psychosocial factors that were analyzed and found that these factors have been associated with student's academic success and retention (Dauvell, 2013).

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

The major research question of the study is to answer "Does the CSEI scale fit the data?" The other purpose of the study was to examine the interrelationship between course self-efficacy, roommate self-efficacy and social self-efficacy with undergraduate students. The goal was to understand the applicability of College Self efficacy Inventory Scale (CSEI) on students. From the previous studies, it has been found that CSEI is applied with Turkish students, Hispanic students, African American etc. but not yet examined specifically with Indian students. This study could be helpful in measuring and understanding the psychosocial factors of the Indian student. The focus of research was to assess college self-efficacy, or "the degree of confidence students have in their ability to successfully perform a variety of college-related tasks" (Solberg, 1993). The CSEI would be used to measure self-efficacy for the broader college experience.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study has used CSEI scale to measure the college self-efficacy which was developed by Solberg (Solberg et al., 1998). The study specified three psychosocial factors: Course Efficacy, Roommate Efficacy, and Social Efficacy. The scale consisted of 20 items with three broad categories: course self-efficacy, roommate self-efficacy and social self-efficacy. Course self-efficacy consists of 7 items (e.g., "Participate in class discussion"). Roommate self-efficacy consists of 4 items (e.g., "Get along with others you live with"). Social self-efficacy consists of 9 items. Both the Roommate and Social subscales were social in nature, but the Roommate items were more specific to social interactions with those you live with, whereas the Social items were largely specific to social interactions in the classroom or with university staff. CSEI instrument is 10 point scale to rate the confidence. This three-factor model has received some support throughout the literature (Gore et al., 2006; Solberg et al., 1993).

CSEI data were collected from 156 undergraduate students. Cases with incomplete data and duplicate cases were removed to yield a total sample of 141. All undergraduate students are studying in BBA and B.Com (H) first year in affiliated college of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University Delhi. Convenient sampling method has been used for data collection.

To analyze the data Amos 22 and SPSS 22 software were used. Path analysis has been done in the study to examine the interrelationship between course-roommate-social self-efficacy. The

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correlations among the 20 items of CSEI scale have been calculated. To understand the applicability of College Self efficacy Inventory Scale (CSEI) on India students model fit has been investigated. Comparative fit index, Root Mean Square Error of Approximation, Goodness of fit index and CMIN (minimum sample discrepancy) have been analyzed to check the model fit in the sample. Standard regression weights have been computed to check the factor loading of each item. Durbin Watson statistics used to check the problem of auto correlation among items in data. Other statistics like Mahalanobis distance (Multi- collinearity problem), Cronbach alpha (reliability of CSEI scale) etc. have been calculated to examine the sample data.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Correlation has been analyzed to measure the strength and direction of the linear relationship between 20 items. The study found (Table 1) that course self-efficacy (item 1/item 4) is strongly and positively correlated (0.715/0.712) to social self-efficacy (item 8/item 6). Course self-efficacy (item 2) is highly correlated with course self- efficacy (item 3) but moderately correlated with roommate and social self-efficacy. Course self-efficacy (item 3/item 6) is strongly correlated with one of the item of each factors of course-roommate-social (0.719-0.720-0.746-0.717/0.720-0.746-0.717). This item “Do well in your exams” is the most important parameter of college self-efficacy of the first year students. Course self -efficacy (item 5) is highly correlated with course self- efficacy (item 6) and social self -efficacy (item 1). Course self -efficacy (item 7) and Roommate self – efficacy (item 2) is moderately correlated with all other 19 items. Roommate self- efficacy (item 1) is directly correlated with social factors (0.729/0.705/ 0.712). Roommate self –efficacy (item 3) is strongly correlated with both course (item 3 & item 6) and social factors (item 1 & item 8). Roommate self –efficacy (item 4) is poorly correlated with other factors. All items of social self-efficacy are inter-correlated with each other {example: social self- efficacy item 6 is positively and strongly correlated with social self-efficacy item 5 (0.702) and item 7 (0.710) }. The study shows that the 20 items taken in CSEI scale have positive correlation among them (Table 1).

The analysis shows that interrelationship between courses self -efficacy factor with roommate as well as social self- efficacy factor is positively strong. The study also found that all the three factors are strongly and positively inter-correlated (Table 2).

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Table 1: Correlation Matrix

CORRELATION Matrix B/W 20 Items																				
ITEMS	CSE1	CSE2	CSE3	CSE4	CSE5	CSE6	CSE7	RSE1	RSE2	RSE3	RSE4	SSE1	SSE2	SSE3	SSE4	SSE5	SSE6	SSE7	SSE8	SSE9
CSE1	1.000	.637	.615	.553	.557	.620	.515	.613	.475	.649	.451	.587	.497	.673	.565	.516	.547	.572	.715	.618
CSE2	.637	1.000	.719	.602	.571	.539	.536	.610	.590	.666	.565	.612	.477	.646	.538	.494	.465	.579	.651	.560
CSE3	.615	.719	1.000	.610	.680	.720	.679	.694	.674	.746	.588	.717	.579	.582	.488	.617	.626	.625	.600	.616
CSE4	.553	.602	.610	1.000	.541	.651	.618	.696	.539	.669	.365	.571	.591	.564	.465	.545	.712	.590	.496	.506
CSE5	.557	.571	.680	.541	1.000	.734	.578	.688	.643	.681	.481	.779	.497	.610	.572	.555	.516	.563	.577	.557
CSE6	.620	.539	.720	.651	.734	1.000	.692	.676	.592	.746	.479	.717	.627	.568	.532	.595	.670	.557	.558	.556
CSE7	.515	.536	.679	.618	.578	.692	1.000	.634	.523	.688	.323	.680	.696	.509	.470	.598	.697	.622	.474	.483
RSE1	.613	.610	.694	.696	.688	.676	.634	1.000	.590	.676	.518	.729	.680	.608	.508	.649	.705	.712	.629	.639
RSE2	.475	.590	.674	.539	.643	.592	.523	.590	1.000	.638	.618	.614	.486	.520	.446	.516	.522	.563	.515	.558
RSE3	.649	.666	.746	.669	.681	.746	.688	.676	.638	1.000	.468	.772	.659	.661	.634	.621	.669	.571	.717	.645
RSE4	.451	.565	.588	.365	.481	.479	.323	.518	.618	.468	1.000	.441	.279	.432	.445	.404	.331	.377	.447	.495
SSE1	.587	.612	.717	.571	.779	.717	.680	.729	.614	.772	.441	1.000	.596	.644	.508	.656	.600	.650	.666	.617
SSE2	.497	.477	.579	.591	.497	.627	.696	.680	.486	.659	.279	.596	1.000	.477	.547	.604	.772	.650	.447	.571
SSE3	.673	.646	.582	.564	.610	.568	.509	.608	.520	.661	.432	.644	.477	1.000	.640	.526	.495	.577	.760	.562
SSE4	.565	.538	.488	.465	.572	.532	.470	.508	.446	.634	.445	.508	.547	.640	1.000	.496	.496	.487	.546	.511
SSE5	.516	.494	.617	.545	.555	.595	.598	.649	.516	.621	.404	.656	.604	.526	.496	1.000	.702	.647	.640	.667
SSE6	.547	.465	.626	.712	.516	.670	.697	.705	.522	.669	.331	.600	.772	.495	.496	.702	1.000	.710	.518	.607
SSE7	.572	.579	.625	.590	.563	.557	.622	.712	.563	.571	.377	.650	.650	.577	.487	.647	.710	1.000	.615	.751
SSE8	.715	.651	.600	.496	.577	.558	.474	.629	.515	.717	.447	.666	.447	.760	.546	.640	.518	.615	1.000	.692
SSE9	.618	.560	.616	.506	.557	.556	.483	.639	.558	.645	.495	.617	.571	.562	.511	.667	.607	.751	.692	1.000

Table 2: Inter Correlation Matrix

Inter Correlations b/w three factors	
	Estimate
CSE <--> RSE	1.013
RSE <--> SSE	.962
CSE <--> SSE	.962

The internal consistency reliability of CSEI scale on the given sample is examined by Cronbach’s Alpha coefficient. Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient normally ranges from 0 to 1. In the sample value of alpha coefficient is 0.966 (closer to 1) which indicates higher internal consistency of the items in CSEI scale.

To analyze the research question is whether the specified model is supported by the sample data, CMIN (Normed Chi-Square), Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) and

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Comparative Fit Index (CFI) has been calculated. The value of RMSEA in the study is 0.00 which indicates a close fit of the model in relation to the degrees of freedom (rule of thumb: <0.05). Comparative Fit Index value is 0.85 which is closer to 1 which indicates that CSEI scale has good fit on the sample data. CMIN (Normed Chi-Square) value is 3.213 which lies in the range from 1 to 5 that proved the model fit of data (Table 3).

Table 3: Model Fit Criteria

Model Fit Parameters	Results	Interpretation
RMSEA	0.00	Value less than 0.05 indicates a good model fit
CFI	0.85	Value closer to 1 reflects a good model fit
CMIN	3.213	Value Less than 1.0 is a poor model fit, More than 5.0 indicates a need for improvement

Path analysis (figure 1) has been done to explain the interrelationship between the college self-efficacy scale factors. Standardized regression weights (Table 4) have been used to compare direct effect on the given course-roommate-social factors in a single group study. Table 4 shows that all the 20 items of CSEI scale are greater than 0.5 which indicates none of the item is insignificant in the data. Result indicates that there is no need to remove any item of CSEI Scale (rule of thumb: Factor loading < 0.5 – remove that factor).

Table 4: Standardized Regression Weights

	Estimate
CSE1 <--- CSE	.751
CSE2 <--- CSE	.844
CSE3 <--- CSE	.716
CSE4 <--- CSE	.759
CSE5 <--- CSE	.786
CSE6 <--- CSE	.802
CSE7 <--- CSE	.786
RSE4 <--- RSE	.777
RSE3 <--- RSE	.767
RSE2 <--- RSE	.661
RSE1 <--- RSE	.747
SSE9 <--- SSE	.735
SSE8 <--- SSE	.861

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	Estimate
SSE7 <--- SSE	.566
SSE6 <--- SSE	.880
SSE5 <--- SSE	.780
SSE4 <--- SSE	.841
SSE3 <--- SSE	.802
SSE2 <--- SSE	.848
SSE1 <--- SSE	.736

In the study Mahalanobis distance (Table 5) has been examined to check the problem of multi-collinearity and Durbin –Watson (Table 5) has been calculated to detect the problem of auto-correlation in the data. The study found that there is a significant problem of multi-collinearity (89.54) but the problem of auto- correlation (1.956) has not been found. R- Square value 0.834 (Table 5) which demonstrate the proportion of total variation of outcomes explained by the model. It specifies how well the data fit in a statistical model.

Table 5: Estimates

R-Square	Adjusted R-Square	Sig. F-Change	Durbin-Watson	Maha. Distance
0.834	0.806	0.000	1.956	89.54

CONCLUSIONS

The current study has made favorable steps in collecting validity evidence for the CSEI scale on Indian students and delivers a better understanding of this measure. However building the case for validity for a particular instrument is a never ending process (e.g. Benson, 1998), and additional work is required. The current study concludes that the CSEI scale fit the data appropriately. There is significant interrelationship between course-roommate-social self-efficacy of Indian undergraduate students. It is found that scale is applicable for Indian students also. Study also explains that psychological factors needs to be understood with first year students for college self-efficacy.

In precise, it is important to reconsider the conceptualization of the college self-efficacy to make sure that all the dimensions of the college experience are effectively signified. There are other factors which influence the college experience e.g. motivation, goal choices, experiences got from family and social comparison, perception etc.

The study has not compared the scale based upon the gender differences. The study has not examined the college self-efficacy as a predictor of academic success. The study also found the problem of multi – collinearity in the data. It could be due to the repetition of same kind of items in the scale or factors are highly correlated to each other (Table 2). The study concludes that the degree of confidence of Indian students can be measured through social self-efficacy, course

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self-efficacy and roommate self-efficacy. The future researcher can explore that academic success can be achieved through enhancing self-efficacy.

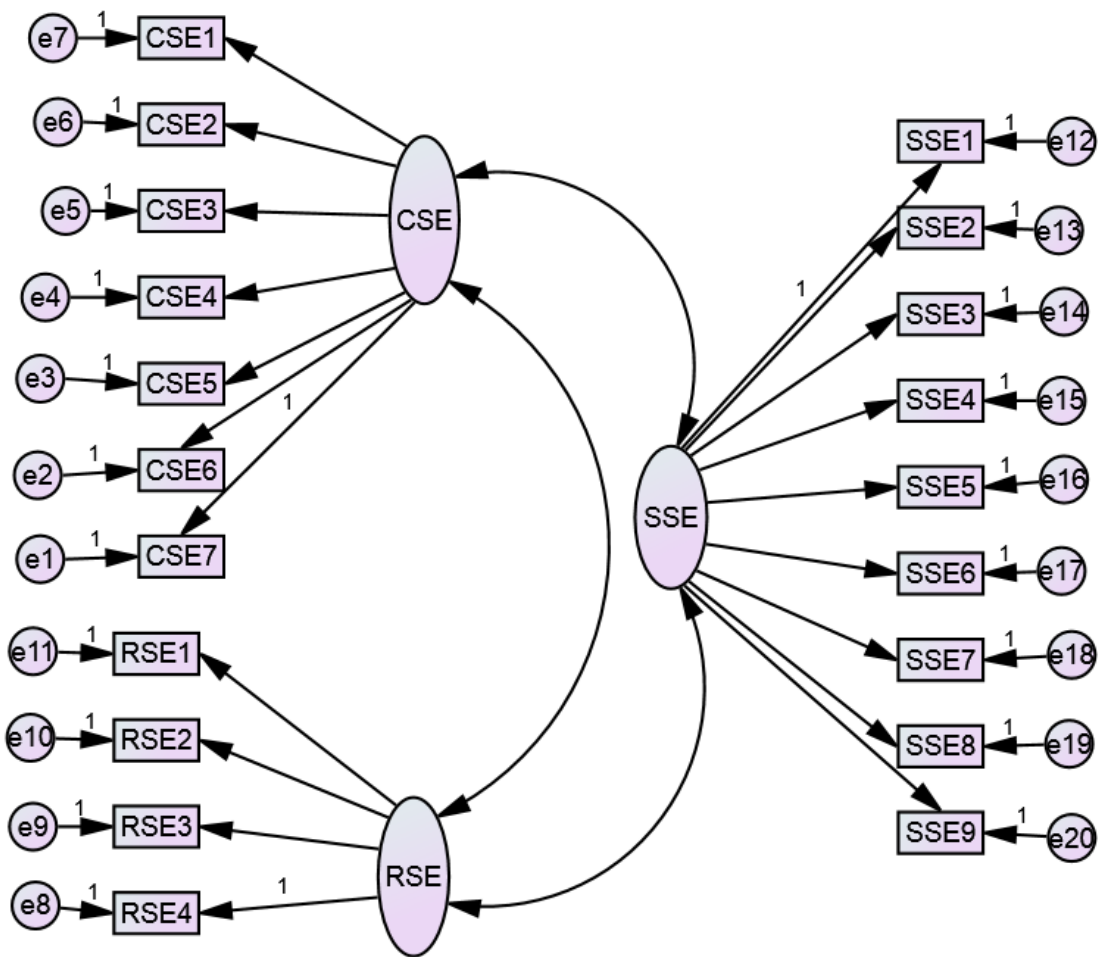


Figure 1: Path Analysis Diagram

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