

NURSING RESEARCH REVIEW FORM

1st Review

Manuscript # 2005/027
Manuscript title: Use of situation-specific Norbeck Social Support Questionnaire (NSSQ) items
Manuscript type: Brief Report
Number of text pgs.: 8
Number of figures: 1
Number of tables: 4
Reviewer: Linda Hollinger-Smith
Stat reviewer assigned?: Yes - a stat reviewer has been assigned

Please evaluate the following with these choices: (1) adequate, (2) inadequate (describe in written review) or (3) not appropriate (describe in written review)

Problem statement: 1
Attention to relevant literature: 1
Theoretical framework: 1
Research design: 1
Data analysis: 1
Discussion of results: 1
Organization: 1
Writing style: 1

Please rate the following topics 1-5 (with 5 being the highest rating):

Value of topic: 5
Probable reader interest in topic: 4
Importance of present contribution to nursing: 5
Priority of topic for publication: 5
Rank this manuscript for its value: 5

Reviewer's Recommendation (please type "X" after your choice):

Accept without revisions
Accept with revisions X
Maybe accept with revisions
Do not accept

Comments for Editor only:

**Please provide a comprehensive and integrated review of this manuscript.
Be sure to present a balanced view of the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses.**

Manuscript 2005/027. Use of Situation-Specific Norbeck Social Support Questionnaire Items.

Problem Statement. The purpose of this paper is to report findings of a factor analysis to explore statistical parameters of situation-specific affect, affirmation, and aid items and to recommend development of NSSQ situation-specific items. The purpose concisely describes the focus of this methodological paper.

Literature Review. The author begins with a brief description of the NSSQ and background that supports the application of the tool in measuring situation-specific support. This is an important discussion as many social support tools are often “misused” as global measures of social support applicable to almost any situation. In the case of the NSSQ, the author describes work done by Norbeck to demonstrate the situation-specific focus of this tool. Other than this work by Norbeck, no other published studies utilized the tool as a situation-specific measure. The author provides a detailed description of the rationale and development of situation-specific items for the NSSQ.

Theoretical Framework. The paper focuses on methodological issues, so discussion of theoretical basis is not emphasized. The author does provide descriptions of the concepts of social support measured by the NSSQ.

Research Design. We learn about the study conducted to examine the situation-specific properties of the revised NSSQ for the first time under the “methods” section. It would be valuable to learn about this study earlier in the paper (after purpose) so there is a clear explanation of how the author plans to examine this revised tool. Under the “procedure” section, the author indicates that the response rate was 57%. The tool was administered to 168 undergraduate women. The sample size was then indicated to be 154. Please clarify the correct response rate (154/168?). Descriptives of the sample demographics were summarized.

Data Analysis/Discussion of Findings. The author presents a detailed description of the data analysis procedures. Rationale for variable selection for LISREL analyses was clear. The author provides clarification throughout the data analysis and discussion of the statistical findings in terms that reader unfamiliar with LISREL analysis will understand. Results were presented in detail for each situation-specific dimension of NSSQ and how they applied to the context of the “maternal vs. student” roles and support mechanisms. The author provides concise recommendations that researchers will find valuable in the use of the NSSQ. As this study is one of the first to provide a detailed, methodological driven analysis of the NSSQ’s situation-specific application to measure social support dimensions within a specific context, it will be widely referenced by nurse researchers.

Organization. Organization of the manuscript was very good.

Style of Presentation. No issues.