

## **General attitudes towards marriage scale: psychometric properties in Malaysian adolescents of divorced families**

### **ABSTRACT**

Attitudes towards marriage in adolescence may influence the relationship quality in later years. There exist many measures of attitudes towards marriage which were validated among adolescents from two-parent family in the Western context. There is a need to validate measure of attitudes towards marriage in different countries. This study examined the psychometric properties of the Malay version of general attitudes towards marriage scale in a sample of 480 adolescents from divorced families in Malaysia. Exploratory factor analysis yielded a two-factor structure of general attitudes towards marriage scale, which explained for 60% of the variance. Additionally, the two-factor structure of general attitudes towards marriage scale demonstrated good fit to data in the confirmatory factor analysis (non-normed fit index = .941, comparative fit index = .958, root mean square error of estimation = .087, and  $\chi^2/df = 4.615$ ). Overall, the general attitudes towards marriage scale exhibited good internal consistency ( $\alpha = .901$ ), which supports the reliability of the instrument. The significant relationships between general attitudes towards marriage scale and other constructs also provided evidences to the convergent validity ( $r = .761, p < .001$  with intent to marry,  $r = -.170, p < .001$  with overt inter-parental conflict, and  $r = .523, p < .001$  with mother-adolescent relationship). Significant gender difference was found in the report of general attitudes towards marriage scale ( $t = -2.265, p < .05$ ). Thus, the translated general attitudes towards marriage scale is a reliable, valid, and practical instrument to measure attitudes towards marriage among Malaysian adolescents in divorced family setting.

**Keyword:** Attitudes towards marriage; Psychometric; Adolescent; Divorced family; General attitudes towards marriage scale (GAMS)