

Factorial Structure and Evidence of Validity and Reliability of the Mexican Sexual Street Harassment Questionnaire

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Harassment (2015) indicates that it is a form of gender-based violence of a non-reciprocal sexual nature directed mainly against women. Although it is true that men are also exposed to this type of harassment, they are exposed to it to a lesser extent (Maqías, 2016). On the other hand, *Sexual street harassment has gone from being considered a romantic expression of courtship to a form of harassment and therefore an expression of gender-based violence. Due to the impact it has on women and the characteristics that surround its expression, there is still confusion in the characterization of this phenomenon and in the measurement of its magnitude; therefore, the objective of this research was to build and establish evidence of validity and reliability of the Mexican Sexual Street Harassment Questionnaire (CMASC). Derived from the literature, a two-part questionnaire was constructed: the first explores the forms of harassment and its frequency, and the second collects reactions to harassment. Two samples of women under 30 years of age were used: the first to perform the exploratory factor analysis, and the second to perform the confirmatory factor analysis. The exploratory factor analysis yielded three factors for the first part, which were named "non-physical harassment," "physical harassment," and "explicit harassment." The second part also shows three factors named "negative reactions," "neutral and positive reactions," and "self-defense reactions." Both parts show evidence of validity and reliability superior to other published questionnaires. The confirmatory factor analysis shows excellent goodness of fit indices for both parts, which verifies the good fit of the model. The implications of the study would be that there is enough evidence that the CMASC can be used in national surveys and can facilitate legislation on this type of behavior.*

KEYWORDS: *Questionnaire, Street Harassment, Sexual, Validity*

street harassment as any practice that: a) has a sexual connotation, b) is perpetrated by strangers, c) is carried out in public or semi-public spaces, d) is unidirectional, and e) has the potential to produce discomfort (anger, fear, disgust, helplessness, stress, etc.).

Likewise, the Chilean Observatory against Street Harassment (2015) proposes the following categories of harassment according to its practices:

- Verbal/non-verbal harassment: includes gestures, sounds, and comments of a sexual nature, obscene whistles and sounds, lewd looks and gestures, inappropriate comments about a woman's body, comments alluding to sexual acts, and sexist insults.
- Physical harassment: includes touching, brushing, or grazing in a sexual way, in non-intimate or intimate parts of the body, and pressing the body against the other person.
- Serious harassment: intimidating approaches and cornering, chasing someone down on foot or by a means of transportation, exhibitionism, or public masturbation.
- Audiovisual recording: taking photographs or recording of a person or parts of their body without their knowledge.

With the most precise conceptualization of the phenomenon, and given the magnitude and impact it has on the lives of women, sexual street harassment in the Americas is going from being invisible and accepted as natural to being conceived as a psychosocial problem; however, its measurement has been scarcely developed. Until 1999, a uniform scale had not been constructed to adequately measure the severity and extent of the experience of sexual street harassment. Lenton et al. (1999) and MacMillan et al.



indicates that the data are appropriate for the exploratory factor analysis.

After performing the exploratory factor analysis, 14 items

by Bentler, (1990), Bentler and Bonnet, (1980), and Levy and Varela (2008), which can be seen in Table 2. Figure 1 shows the model with standardized scores.

For the second part, which explores reactions to sexual street harassment, since they are dichotomous items, their factorial

Factor Analysis with which tetrachoric correlations can be carried out, which are indicated for dichotomous scales

reactions.” It consists of 6 items with an Orion index of 0.96. The second factor was called “neutral and positive reactions” and consists of 4 items with an Orion index of 0.90. And the third factor was called “protective reactions” and consists of

The KMO test is equal to 0.892, and Bartlett’s sphericity test

(Table 4).

Table 2.
Expected fit indices for a structural equations model and indices obtained by confirmatory factor analysis.

Fit index	Expected	Obtained
Goodness of Fit Index (GFI)		
Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index (AGFI)		
Root mean square residual index (RMR)		
Root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA)		
Comparative Fit Index (CFI)		
Normalized Fit Index (NFI)		
Non-normalized Fit Index (NNFI or TLI)		

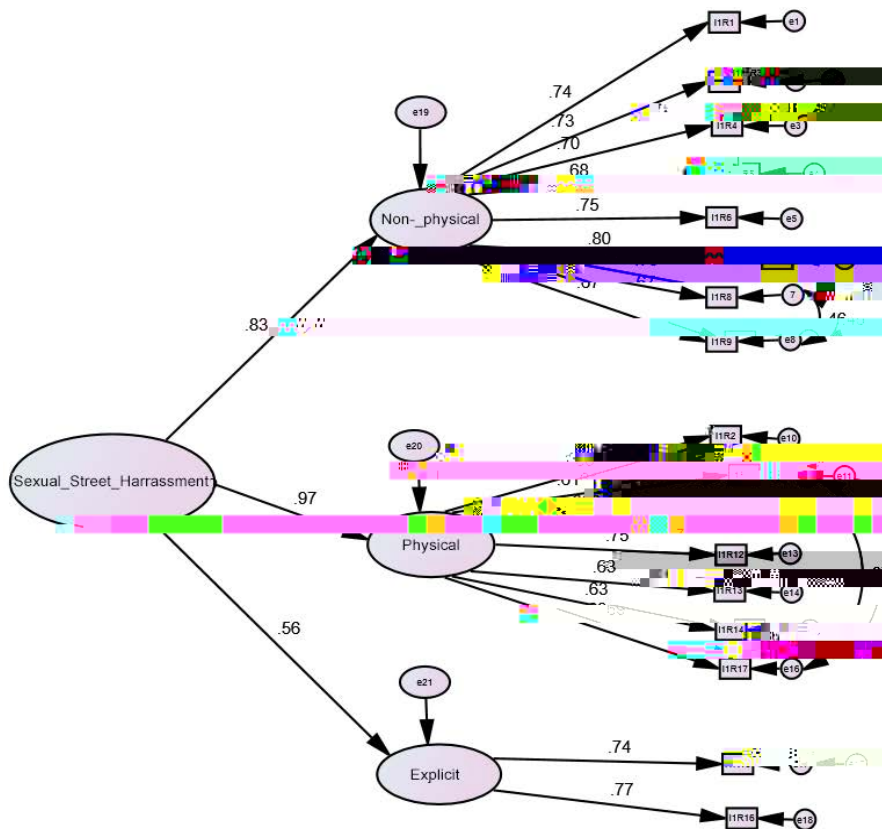


Figure 1. Confirmatory factor analysis model.

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