

Ch. 5: Methods for Looking Within Ourselves



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Uses and Limitations of Self-Report Measures

- Self-report measure
 - Ask people to look within themselves
 - Disclose (expose) attitudes, feelings, perceptions, and beliefs
- Standardized measures
 - Measures that are developed, administered, and scored according to certain rules

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Uses and Limitations of Self-Report Measures

- Standardized measures
 - Beck's Depression Inventory
 - BDI has been used to assess presence and the severity of depressive symptoms

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Kapci et. al (2008)

TABLE 6. The reliability, specificity and χ^2 values of the BDI subscales of patients, remitted and nonremitted groups

BDI Subscale	Patients (n)	Specificity (%)	χ^2
1	100	100	12.50
2	100	100	12.50
3	100	100	12.50
4	100	100	12.50
5	100	100	12.50
6	100	100	12.50
7	100	100	12.50
8	100	100	12.50
9	100	100	12.50
10	100	100	12.50
11	100	100	12.50
12	100	100	12.50
13	100	100	12.50
14	100	100	12.50
15	100	100	12.50
16	100	100	12.50
17	100	100	12.50
18	100	100	12.50
19	100	100	12.50
20	100	100	12.50
21	100	100	12.50
22	100	100	12.50
23	100	100	12.50
24	100	100	12.50
25	100	100	12.50
26	100	100	12.50
27	100	100	12.50
28	100	100	12.50
29	100	100	12.50
30	100	100	12.50
31	100	100	12.50
32	100	100	12.50
33	100	100	12.50
34	100	100	12.50
35	100	100	12.50
36	100	100	12.50
37	100	100	12.50
38	100	100	12.50
39	100	100	12.50
40	100	100	12.50
41	100	100	12.50
42	100	100	12.50
43	100	100	12.50
44	100	100	12.50
45	100	100	12.50
46	100	100	12.50
47	100	100	12.50
48	100	100	12.50
49	100	100	12.50
50	100	100	12.50
51	100	100	12.50
52	100	100	12.50
53	100	100	12.50
54	100	100	12.50
55	100	100	12.50
56	100	100	12.50
57	100	100	12.50
58	100	100	12.50
59	100	100	12.50
60	100	100	12.50
61	100	100	12.50
62	100	100	12.50
63	100	100	12.50
64	100	100	12.50
65	100	100	12.50
66	100	100	12.50
67	100	100	12.50
68	100	100	12.50
69	100	100	12.50
70	100	100	12.50
71	100	100	12.50
72	100	100	12.50
73	100	100	12.50
74	100	100	12.50
75	100	100	12.50
76	100	100	12.50
77	100	100	12.50
78	100	100	12.50
79	100	100	12.50
80	100	100	12.50
81	100	100	12.50
82	100	100	12.50
83	100	100	12.50
84	100	100	12.50
85	100	100	12.50
86	100	100	12.50
87	100	100	12.50
88	100	100	12.50
89	100	100	12.50
90	100	100	12.50
91	100	100	12.50
92	100	100	12.50
93	100	100	12.50
94	100	100	12.50
95	100	100	12.50
96	100	100	12.50
97	100	100	12.50
98	100	100	12.50
99	100	100	12.50
100	100	100	12.50

BDI = Beck's Depression Inventory; Patients, 100; Specificity, 100; χ^2 values, 12.50.

Uses and Limitations of Self-Report Measures

- Psychologists use self-reported measures for many reasons
 - Personality inventories
 - Attitude and opinion inventories
 - Inventories on feelings (pain, anxiety etc.)
- How to measure duration, intensity and kind of pain apart from self-report?
 - Impossible with known technology

Uses and Limitations of Self-Report Measures

- Purpose:
 - Introduce you several self-report measures
 - Pros and cons of each measure
- Can you use self-report measures?
 - Some self-report measures are freely available
 - Some require training and certification
 - Some require permission to administer

Uses and Limitations of Self-Report Measures

- Two important resources of self-report measures?
 - "Directory of unpublished experimental mental measures"
 - "Health and psychosocial instruments"
- How to find self-report measures translated/adopted to Turkish?
 - Search PubMed
 - turkish scale/inventory X

Issues with Self-Report Measures

- Four important issues to consider about self-reported measures
 - Dependability of self-report data
 - Right to privacy
 - Validity and reliability
 - Interpretation of individual scores

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Issues with Self-Report Measures

- Dependability of self-report data
 - Assumption: what people say themselves is true and honest. But is it?
 - Truthfulness what people report, especially when the information is personal and sensitive
 - Evaluation apprehension (anxiety, fear)