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Measuring Hierarchy of Basic Needs Among Adults

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Abstract
Although some instruments have been provided to measure needs in Maslow's hierarchy, most of them either deal exclusively with one component or they do not measure all of the five basic needs. This study aims to develop a reliable scale measuring basic-needs-satisfaction for adults. A scale was constructed. The scale was administered with 87 subjects. It is found that the scale to be a reliable and relatively valid scale to measure basic-needs-satisfaction.

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Keywords: Maslow; Basic-Needs-Satisfaction; Scale; Hierarchy; Adults

1. Introduction
The power of Maslow's theory mainly comes from its accurate description of human motivation (Marshall, 2002). The hierarchy of basic needs seems to be the most powerful instrument to describe human motivation.

Despite the contribution of Maslow's theory in psychology, there are not many attempts to construct standard scales for measuring basic-needs-satisfaction. Although some instruments have been provided to measure needs in Maslow's hierarchy, according to Goebel and Brown (1981) most of them "either deal exclusively with one component... or they don't measure all of the five basic needs" and they are age population restricted (p. 810). According to Gowan (1974) most and best attempt to construct scales regarding basic needs, concerns to Shostrom. Shostrom called this scale as The Personal Orientation Inventory which is often referred to as the P.O.I.

Besides of above efforts, however, the variable of this study (basic-needs-satisfaction) apparently has not been considered to be measured—at least author of this research could not find. It is important to notice that basic-needs-satisfaction as is defined in this study is different with measuring self-actualization as P.O.I. does and with measuring all basic needs as what Goebel and Brown (1981) have done. Measuring basic-needs-satisfaction means measuring how much individual is satisfied in terms of basic needs.

As Goebel and Brown (1981) claimed, Maslow's theory "suffers from vagueness of concept and looseness in language and because of the nature of the theory, defies empirical testing" (p. 811). Therefore, mainly this study chose to try to construct a scale.

The purpose of this study is to construct a reliable and valid scale measuring basic-needs-satisfaction among adults.

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