

PERCEIVED CIVIL RIGHTS SCALE: AN IRANIAN CASE STUDY

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Abstract— The relative deprivation theory, the theory of social change, and culture's constraints model have been utilized in this study. The purpose of this study was to invent the Perceived Civil Rights Scale (PCRS) in an Iranian sample. Participants consisted of 400 adults; Fars province, Iran. A demographic questionnaire and the Perceived Civil Rights Scale (PCRS) were used in this study. An explanatory factor analysis indicated that the ten factors of the PCRS were valid and reliable. These factors are: 1) Life Quality and Security, 2) Free Information Access and Active Participation, 3) Personal Space, 4) Personal Freedom, 5) Cultural Support and Freedom, 6) Personal Growth and Ownership, 7) Responsive Government, 8) Integrative National Identity, 9) Sociocultural Fortification, and 10) Free Confession and Testimony. The reliability of all subscales was ranged .84 to .93 using Cronbach's alpha.

Index Terms— Perceived Civil Rights Scale, Psychometrics, Gender, Adults

I. INTRODUCTION

Civil rights are essential for the stipulation and regulation of relations between the State and its citizens in any society. These relationships are characterized as public freedoms, fundamental rights and human rights (1). Psychological sciences showed that perception of civil rights influences by multiple pathways to place, space, and authority in a given society (2). Today, psychological sciences have learned a lot about aggression, violence, prejudice, superheroes, racism, oppression and denigration, and group pressures and relations as main barriers of civil rights (2,3). Also, psychological literature showed how cultural beliefs and practices concerning justice and its changing in a societal context can influences perception of human rights in citizens. Thus, meritocracy beliefs, perceived post-racialism, and organizational variety initiatives can eliminate the social discrimination in organizations and these programs can help to enhance perceived civil and human rights in social settings (4). From a psychological perspective, Prentice (5) conceptualized that social values and norms as the core of civil rights play significant roles in regulating of human behaviors in societies. Prentice (5) noted that psychological level of analysis can help to explore how people represent the norms of their groups and how those representations can influence behavior and the perception of human rights at an individual level since "promoting human rights" means

changing behavior. Prentice (5) noted "changing the behavior of governments that mistreat suspected criminals, opponents of their policies, supporters of their political rivals, and members of particular gender, ethnic, or religious groups; changing the behavior of corporations that mistreat their workers, damage the environment, and produce unsafe products; and changing the behavior of citizens who mistreat their spouses, children, and neighbors"(p22). Prentice (5) conceptualized that norms-based interventions are most likely to be effective for changing of behaviors in the filed of civil rights. Since social norms are just one part of an individual's motivational system (5). Therefore, human rights should be considered as an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of mental health policies and programs in all counties (6). Altogether; the current literature in social psychology suggested that civil rights as an example of social change depends to aspiration and accomplishments of citizens toward this construct (7). So, actualization of civil rights can be understood in terms of goal progress vs. goal commitment that affects individuals' self-perception in a society (7).

Theoretically, the Relative Deprivation Theory (RDT) suggested that feelings of deprivation and discontent in the general public are related to a desired point of reference (i.e. reference groups). Perceptions of relative deprivation, social stratification and social discrimination in the general society will arise when desires become legitimate expectations and those desires are blocked by society. Relative deprivation is considered to be the central variable in the explanation of civil rights and is used to explain the quest for social change (8; 9). In particular, relative deprivation theory is the foundation of multiple theories of social psychology including frustration-aggression, equity, social comparison and reference group theories (9); and these theories are useful to understand the roles of social injustice, racism, prejudice in perceived civil rights.

The Social Movement Theory (SMT) suggests that civil rights are formed through the use and handling of frames of reference. Social movements can influence and control their members through tactics such as mobilizing fear, engaging in frame appropriation, social constructionism, and counter framing (9,10).

The cultural approach has suggested that the concept of civil rights and its dimensions may be influenced by both ecology and culture (11). This theory predicted that ecological change drives shifts in values, behaviors, and psychology (11). In fact, radical ecological change from rural to urban

and change in individual and collective values can influence perception of civil rights in a society.

In sum; the relative deprivation, social change and culture's constraints theories have been utilized in this study. This study is essential because of the lack of literature with regards to measurement of perceived civil rights in adults, particularly in Iranian culture. The main hypothesis of this study is that perceived civil rights is a multi-faceted construct in this sample.

A. II. METHOD

Participants

The sample included 400 participants (M=190 and F=210) adult citizens in the cities of Abadeh, Bavanat, Eghlid and Khorambid; the northern part of Fars province, Iran. The mean and standard deviation of age for males and females were $M=31.48$, $SD=6.08$ and $M=28.20$, $SD=7.45$ respectively. The original sample of 412 individuals was recruited through random sampling for volunteers. A total of 12 individuals' data was removed due to their invalid responses to the measures. After informed consent was acquired, all participants completed a demographic questionnaire and two inventories in a personal session. Participants were granted counseling and psychotherapeutic services as a compensation to participate in the study. All tests were administered in the Persian language.

Instruments

The demographic questionnaire and the Perceived Civil Rights Scale (PCRS) were used in this study. The demographic questionnaire included items on age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, the level of education, job, and size of family. The Perceived Civil Rights Scale (PCRS) is an 80-item self-rating inventory that allows participants to assess their perception of civil rights in a few different domains.

The rationale of item selection originated in the president Rohani's draft of civil rights in the country. The PCRS scale evaluates the respondents' gut level assessment of how desirable each of the same behaviours' is on a 5-point rating scale ranging from 1 (Completely Disagree) to 5 (Completely Agree).

B. III. RESULTS

To examine the main hypothesis an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was computed to evaluate the factorial structure of perceived civil rights scale. Also, an exploratory factor analysis was conducted to evaluate the construct validity of the PCRS in a sample of adults. Factor analysis indicated that the PCRS consisted of ten factors. Principal factor analysis with varimax rotation was used to determine the construct validity, with considering an Eigenvalue higher than 1. Factor analysis specification was satisfactory; $KMO = .92$, Bartlett's Test of Sphericity = 18.96, $df = 3160$, $p = .0001$, and the Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings = 65.60. Table 1 shows the significantly rotated correlation of higher than .30 for 53 items in 12 iterations. Factor analysis indicated that the PCRS is consisted of ten factors and that the Eigenvalues for the ten factors ranged from 9.37 to 65.60. These factors explained 65.60% of variance. These factors are: 1) Life Quality and Security (LQS), 2) Free Information Access and Active Participation (FIAAP), 3) Personal Space (PS), 4) Personal Freedom (PF), 5) Cultural Support and Freedom (PSF), 6) Personal Growth and Ownership (PGO), 7) Responsive Government (RG), 8) Integrative National Identity (INI), 9) Sociocultural Fortification (SCF), and 10) Free Confession and Testimony (FCT).

Table 1 Rotated Component Matrix

| Items | Factors | | | | | | | | | | Items | Factors | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------|------|------|------|------|---|---|---|---|----|-------|---------|------|---|------|---|------|------|---|------|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | .557 | | | | | | | | | | 28 | | .694 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | .662 | | | | | | | | | | 29 | | .682 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | .610 | | | | | | | | | | 30 | | .693 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | .555 | | | | | | | | | | 31 | | .662 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | .677 | | | | | | | | | | 32 | | | | | | .664 | | | | |
| 6 | .674 | | | | | | | | | | 33 | | | | | | .628 | | | | |
| 7 | .686 | | | | | | | | | | 34 | | | | | | .609 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | .649 | | | | | | | 35 | .587 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | .710 | | | | | | | 36 | .521 | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | .593 | | | | | | | 37 | .512 | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | .623 | | | | | | | 38 | .577 | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | .537 | | | | | | | 39 | | | | .600 | | | | | | |
| 13 | | .582 | | | | | | | | | 40 | | | | .492 | | | | | | |
| 14 | | .584 | | | | | | | | | 41 | | | | .672 | | | | | | |
| 15 | | .538 | | | | | | | | | 42 | | | | .617 | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | .679 | | | | | | 43 | | | | | | | | | .713 | |
| 17 | | | | | .669 | | | | | | 44 | | | | | | | | | .648 | |
| 18 | | | | | .662 | | | | | | 45 | | | | | | | | | .602 | |
| 19 | | | | | .585 | | | | | | 46 | | | | | | | | | .660 | |
| 20 | | | | | .635 | | | | | | 47 | | | | | | | | | .557 | |
| 21 | | | | | .503 | | | | | | 48 | | | | | | | | | .562 | |
| 22 | .677 | | | | | | | | | | 49 | | | | | | | | | .615 | |
| 23 | .597 | | | | | | | | | | 50 | | | | | | | | | .594 | |
| 24 | .612 | | | | | | | | | | 51 | | | | | | | .565 | | | |
| 25 | | | .575 | | | | | | | | 52 | | | | | | | .577 | | | |
| 26 | | | .618 | | | | | | | | 53 | | | | | | | .604 | | | |
| 27 | | | .635 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

These factors and their items showed in table 2. Item ratings are added across all items of a given subscale to obtain subscale scores. Higher scores indicate a greater perception of civil rights in the domain of the subscale. The reliability of all subscales was ranged .84 to .93 using Cronbach's alpha. The reliability of the PCRS was established using Cronbach's alpha, which was found to be .88.

C. IV. DISCUSSION

Results from the main hypothesis in this study showed that perceived civil rights scale is multifaceted valid and reliable measure with ten subscales. These subscales including: 'life quality and security'; 'free information access

and active participation'; 'personal space'; 'personal freedom', 'cultural support and freedom'; 'personal growth and ownership'; 'responsive government'; 'an integrative national identity'; 'sociocultural fortification'; and 'free confession and testimony'. The total score of the PCRS equals to the summation of the aforesaid subscales. From the theoretical point of view; the multifaceted nature of the PCRS is consistent to the predictions of deprivation, social change and culture's constraints theories (8,9,10,11). This finding is congruent with predictions and applications of psychological sciences in the filed of civil rights as a part of group dynamics and social psychology studies in general (3, 4, 5, 6, 7). The presence of good psychometric

Table 2 Factors and Items

| Factors | Items | Cumulative % |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Life Quality and Security (LOS) | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 22, 23, 24 | 9.37 |
| 2. Free Information Access and Active Participation (FIAAP) | 13, 14, 15, 35, 36, 37, 38 | 18.25 |
| 3. Personal Space (PS) | 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 | 26.53 |
| 4. Personal Freedom (PF) | 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 | 33.40 |
| 5. Cultural Support and Freedom (PSF) | 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 | 40.24 |
| 6. Personal Growth and Ownership (PGO) | 39, 40, 41, 42 | 46.39 |
| 7. Responsive Government (PG) | 32, 33, 34 | 52.30 |
| 8. Integrative National Identity (PNI) | 51, 52, 53 | 57.67 |
| 9. Sociocultural Fortification (SCF) | 47, 48, 49, 50 | 61.70 |
| 10. Freely Confession and Testimony (PCT) | 43, 44, 45, 46 | 65.60 |

properties of the PCSR in this study shows its application for investigations of civil rights in the general public. Using the PCSR the State can encourage citizenship programs that may result in more efficient citizenship in the country. However, the present study has limitations because it only used a self-rated scale in this sample. This study is further restricted because it did not include a nationally representative sample. Positive development programs in governmental policies, non-governmental organizations; community based programs for positive mental health by clinicians; and higher education and justice systems can use this measure for the purposes of institutionalization and establishment of civil rights in Iranian society.

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