Measuring family function from a systematic perspective

قياس الوظيفة الأسرية النوذج النسقي

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Abstract:

The present study aims to build a scale that accurately determines the family's functional and dysfunctional level, through the family members' awareness of the nature of relationships and roles , which are governed by a set of explicit and implicit rules, that determine how, when, and with whom individuals deal; going from the systemic perspective, which derives its most important characteristics from the general systematization theory, this latter assumes that the person who suffers in the family (le patient désigné) is a symptom of dysfunction of the family function, therefore , the treatment is given to the family not to the patient only. Aiming atbuilding the scale, we relied on the exploratory factor analysis, to extract the factors and determine the dimensions. Then we relied on the confirmatory factor analysis, in order to achieve the design of a scale to measure the perception of the family function with good indicators of good conformity; starting with the RMSEA square root indicator, which is considered one of the most important and accurate indicators of conformity, it equals = 0.05, which reflects an acceptable conformity, as it did not exceed the confidence limits; the indicator of the degree of freedom of the chi-square ($\chi 2/df$) is good = 1.83 as well , this value indicates an exact conformity; Also, the Comparative Conformity Indicator CFI = 0.81.

Keywords: family function; relations; the rules; exploratory factor analysis; Confirmative factor analysis

ملخص:

تهدف هذه الدراسة الى بناء مقياس يحدد بدقة مستوى وظيفية الاسرة أو اختلالها، وذلك عبر إدراك أفراد الأسرة لطبيعة العلاقات، والأدوار، التي تحكمها مجموعة من القواعد الصريحة والضمنية، والتي تحدد بدورها كيف، ومتى، ومع من؟ يتعامل الأفراد؛ وذلك انطلاقا من المنظور النسقي الذي يستمد أهم خصائصه من نظرية الأنساق العامة، والتي تفترض أن الشخص الذي يعاني في الأسرة، هو عرض لاختلال الوظيفة الاسرية، وعليه، فان العلاج يكون للأسرة وليس للمعالج. وقد اعتمدنا في بناء المقياس على التحليل العاملي الاستكشافي، لاستخراج العوامل وتحديد الأبعاد، ثم اعتمدنا كذلك على التحليل العاملي التوكيدي؛ لنصل الى تصميم مقياس لقياس ادراك الوظيفة الأسرية بمؤشرات جيدة لحسن المطابقة؛ بداية بمؤشر الجدر التربيعي RMSEA والذي يعتبر من أهم وادق مؤشرات المطابقة حيث يساوي = 0.05، والتي تعكس مطابقة مقبولة حيث لم تخرج عن حدود الثقة؛ كما أن مؤشر نسبة درجة الحرية لمربع كاي($\chi 2/df$) جيد =1.83 وهي قيمة تدل على مطابقة تامة؛ كما إن مؤشر المطابقة المقارن CFI = 0.81 حتى وأن لم يقترب بدرجة كبيرة من 1 إلا أنه يبقى في حدود الثقة وليس بعيد عن 1، زيادة على ذلك فإن مؤشر تاكر لويس وهو من أقوى مؤشرات المطابقة الجيدة يساوي TLI=0.80 حيث إن مداه من 0 إلى 1 ويستحسن أن يقترب من 1 ومع ذلك فإن قيمته مقبولة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الوظيفة الأسرية؛ العلاقة؛ القواعد؛ التحليل العاملي الاستكشافي؛ التحليل العاملي التوكيدي.

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1. Introduction:

Educators, parents, and officials, suffer from many types of behaviors that are rejected by the family and the society, based on customs and norms that define acceptable and rejected behavior. The psychology clinical specialist, like other specialists in the field of psychology, is forced to use a number of tools for research and diagnosis in order to obtain evidence and information that are important to understand and interpret, until reaching the scientific knowledge. At that time, these psychologists encounter a number of difficulties when applying the tools for collecting data, information and diagnostic tools, the most important of which is that the built tools were prepared in different environments in the cultural and social structure. this situation leads to a long and a hard work to adapt the tools according to the environment and culture of the society to be studied , it also allows to build special tools if the tools available to the psychology clinical specialist and others do not fit the objectives of providing assistance, or that the clinician's experience and field observations allowed him to identify the defects

1-2- Conceptual framework of the study:

1-2-1- General theory of systems:

The General theory of systems represents the basic and modern view of how to look at the family. The theory of systems has its roots in gestalt psychology, where it adopts the concept of the total formula, they concluded that the analysis of parts cannot provide a good understanding of the functionality of the whole, which is the principle on which the theory of systems is built.

"Pertalanffy" dealt with the theory of systems in a way that made it include many different fields such as the social and behavioral sciences, because the theory deals with research in the comprehensive principles that are applied in all systems, regardless of the nature and type of the system; so that the laws of physics and biology can be applied to psychology and economics. Thus, "Pertalanffy" saw that the theory of patterns can be used in many different fields; but because of the application of the theory in several fields, and the consequent similarities in construction and composition (similarity in form and construction) between phenomena that belong to different fields, "Pertalanffy" warns us of those superficial similarities that can make us overlook the differences and variations' between phenomena and forget that there is no similarity. (Asia,2009, p:69),

-1-2-2- The concept of the system: there are many definitions of system, including the following, for example, but not limited to:

-1-2-3 Pertalanffy's concept: "A system is a complex order of elements interacting with each other.""Pertalanffy" focused on the parts of the system and their relationship to each other.

The system is every order that is understood by studying the relationship of its parts to each other and in their relationship to the overall process. (Kafafi, 1999, p. 83)

-1-2-4- Peer's concept (Peer-1964): "Everything consists of interconnected parts, which we may call a system. "Peer" focused widely and largely in defining the system on the constituent elements of the thing in all fields and their connection to each other, so we conclude that the system is any assembly of parts that have a relationship to each other and we can understand it through their relationship to the whole (Fahd, 2005,p:186),

2-2- The concept of family system:

"Youcef Adouan" (2005): He defines it as "a specific group of people, between whom there are existing and continuous relationships that manifested in the form of communication. "Through this definition, the family system is first a human system. The most important characteristic of this human group is the interaction through contact resulting from the permanent and continuous relationship. (Adouan, 2005, p.: 637)

2-2-1- The concept of family function:

The concept of Walher-Canton: defines the functionalism (according to the view of proper performance):

"The family that has a proper performance is the one that is characterized by flexibility and boundaries arrangements separating roles, in addition to working in democracy and using security exchanges with groups and individuals outside the family." According to Walher-Cantor, functionalism is characterized by the following: clear boundaries; acceptable and flexible family rules; working democratically; interacting freely and openly with external systems. (Al-Dulaim, 2005, p. 4)

2-2-2-The concept of Olsen and colleagues (1979):

He defines the functionalism as : we look at the factor of cohesion and adaption as two basic factors in proper functioning: cohesion, which means the emotional bond that links the family together, this link is a motive for the personal independence that individuals experience in the family system . For adaption, it expresses the ability of the system to change its strong structure, its main rules, and the role of relationships in it, in response to the situational and developmental pressures. (Youssef, 2014,p:89)

Based on the foregoing, functionalism, according to Olsen and his colleagues, shows the basis of the balance between cohesion and adaption which is neither excessive in its cohesion nor in its adaptation. They also look at growth and change as possible things in proper performance (functionality), as it has demonstrated flexibility, joint leadership, appropriate rules, open feedback patterns, clear roles, and appropriate assurances and negotiations among members with greater

clarity, Olsen and his colleagues believe that functional families are balanced in their relationships with the following eight cohesion properties:

Emotional attraction, differentiation and discrimination, support and assistance, loyalty and affiliation, psychological security, familial mimetism and identification, caring, physical attention, happy and pleasant interaction.

It is noted that Olsen and his colleagues viewed that the characteristics of the family function have been limited to the following:

cohesion, which means emotional bonds; Adaptation, represent by a flexible response to stress; these two factors lead to independence and adaptation that mean appropriate and flexible rules, open formats, and clear roles.

2- Methods:

How to set up the Family Function scale:

Firstly, the researcher wanted to prepare a scaleto describe the family function. The researcher begins the first step as follows:

1-Inform the researcher about a set of available scales on the same topic. (Fahd, Abdullah Al-Dulaim., 2005 p:23)

2-An accurate definition of the concept of family function.

3-The procedural definition of the family function.

4-Review of previous studies.

5-Review of set of theories that dealt with systemic family therapy.

We start from the latter (the theories of systemic family therapy): the most important systemic approaches of family treatment, are namely:

- The interactive viewpoint on family therapy and counselling.
- The strategic model in family treatment and counseling.
- Family systems theory and treatment.

4-Constructive family therapy.

The researcher also relied on the general systems theory, cybernetic theory, and communication theory of Paulo Too, since these three theories act as a common branch of all systemic therapeutic theories.

The researcher focused on the accurate description of the family system dysfunction according to each theory of the of systemic therapy theories , they extracted broad titles that summarize all of these theories, namely:

Characteristics of the dysfunction-producing family; defense mechanisms in the family, feedback, information, and system setting; emotional processes in the family and Emotional climate in the family.

we focused then on the broad headings and their contents, and the symptoms indicating each of those elements:

- Symptoms and characteristics of the dysfunction-producing family;
- Symptoms and characteristics of defense mechanisms in the family of different function
- Symptoms and characteristics of feedback, information, and system settings;
- Emotional symptoms and characteristics in the dysfunctional family;
- Symptoms and characteristics of the affective climate in the dysfunctional family.

Then the researcher asked several questions about each of the symptoms that belong to the five (05) above-mentioned headings, In the end, the researcher got (101) questions that summarize the five titles. These titles summarize the theories of systemic family therapy, the theory of communication, and the theory of general system.

After, the researcher reviewed all the available standards in order to compare their terms and dimensions with the questions that he proposed . Among the most important standards reviewed by the researcher we mention the following:

The family adaptability scale, the imperative climate scale, the Macmaster family assessment device, the relationship style scale, the family cohesion and adaptation assessment scale, the family assessment scale and the families environment measure. (Aladdin, p.: 353(

Secondly, the researcher compared the paragraphs of the previous standards, in terms of formulation, content and belonging to their dimensions with the prepared paragraphs and their dimensions, where he reformulated some of the repeated and similar items, and the dimensions were as follows:

Table showing the dimensions and the number of items they belong to.

Dimension	Number of item
Defensive mechanisms in the family dimension	10 paragraphs
Conflict and its resolution dimension	10 paragraphs
Feedback, information and setting dimension	15 paragraphs
Unhealthy climate in the family dimension	10 paragraphs
Emotional processes in the family dimension	15 paragraphs
5 dimensions	60 paragraphs

After comparing these dimensions with family apperception scale FAT:

Apparent conflict; conflict resolution; definition of boundaries (rules); quality of the relationship; defining the boundaries between the different systems in the family; dysfunctional circularity; Unusual responses.

As well as, thanks to some other scales, the researcher reached to reduce the intersections that exist between these scales and the measure of family dysfunction in progress, as well as the theoretical trend adopted in the study.

Table No. (9): shows the dimensions after modification

Dimension	number of items
Boundaries and rules dimension	16
Conflict and its resolution dimension	07
Relationship dimension	06
Treatemnet dimension	07
Emotional climate dimension	09
05 dimensions	45

The researcher has presented the tool to a group of arbitrators.

Table showing: a list of the names of the arbitrators of the scale

Name and surname of the arbitrator	Academic degree	University
1.Prof. Chayeb Elsetassi	University professor	University of Kasdi Marbach Ouargla
2. Prof. Amrouni Houria	University professor	University of Kasdi Merbah Ouargla
3. Dr. Abi Mawawed Abd El Fattah	Lecturer Professor A	University of Kasdi Merbah Ouargla
4. Dr. Kadouri Youssef	Lecturer professor A	University of Ghardaia
5. Prof. Taabali Mouhamad Taher	University professor	University of Algiers 2
6. Dr. Badis Boukheloua	Lecturer professor B	University of Kasdi Merbah Ouargla
7. Dr. Sourya ELhadi	Lecturer processor B	University of Kasdi Merbah Ouargla

Most of the arbitrators' suggestions were in the apparent aspect, that is, in terms of wording and clarity of clauses. Some of the suggestions were related to the repetition of some items that are believed to measure the same feature, but everyone agreed on the validity of the dimensions to which they belong and that they are able to measure the feature that was specified to them.

After the arbitration, the number of items became 41 instead of 45 before ; 3 items were deleted, namely:

Hence, the dimensions and clauses in the end, after arbitration, became as follows:

Table showing the items after arbitration

Dimension	dimensions and their numbers
Boundaries and rules dimension	Dimension number ، (21) ، (15) ، (11) ، (14) ، (10) ، (8) ، (2) 38 ، 36 ، 34 ، (32) ، (31) ، (25) ، (24)
Conflict and its resolution dimension	40 ، 33 ، 30 ، 09 ، 18 ، 1
Relationship dimension	39، 37 ، 35 ، 26 ، 17 ، 07
Emotional climate dimension	03، 06 ، 04 ، 16 ، 20 ، 23 ، 28
Emotional climate dimension	41 ، 29 ، 27 ، 22 ، 19 ، 05، 12 ، 03
Total	41dimensions

3- Psychometric study of the family function scale:

1-1 Description of the scale: it is built by the researcher and aims to accurately describe the relationships within the family, reveal the rules and systems that regulate those relationships, reveal the conflict inside and outside the family, and the methods used to resolve the conflict. The scale also reveals the unconscious ways that the family pursues in response to the conflict, and the nature of relationships within the system, with its contradictions and alliances. finally, it reveals the type of treatment and the emotional atmosphere it creates within the family, to describe in the end the family function.

1-2 correction key:

The researcher used the gradual trend method (Libkert's method), where 5 alternatives were allocated to answer each paragraph, which are as follows:

1 – Strongly opposed, 2 – Opposed, 3 – Unsure, 4 – Strongly agree.

The researcher determined (05) weights (from 1 to 5) for each paragraph, and the last was the key to correcting the family function scale as follows:

Table showing the correction key for the family function scale:

Paragraph alternatives	Strongly agree	Agree	Unsure	Opposed	Strongly opposed
All negative paragraphs	1	2	3	4	5

The meaning of the grades:

From ¬(1 to 2.33) dysfunctional family.

From (2.34 to 3.66) a medium-functional family.

From (3.67 to 5) family with high function.

Psychometric properties of the scale: with exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, the basic components battery.

Steps to perform a factor analysis:

There are some assumptions required by factor analysis such as: the nature of the distribution of the degrees of the measured variables, the level of their measurement, the size of the sample, and the selection of the validity of the data to conduct the factor analysis on it.

First: **Sample size**: The pilot study sample consisted of 241 high school students.

Second: Verify that the correlation matrix has properties that make it amenable to factor analysis:

The table shows the KMO index and the Bertlettscale for the family function scale

	Kaiser-Mayer-Ochlin
0.861	Precision measurement of the sample of -Kaiser-Mayer-Ochlin
820	Bartlet eddl sphericity scale
0.000	Bertlett-signification

According the table, it is clear that the Bertlettscale equals 820, which is statistically significant. So, we say that the matrix of correlation coefficients is different from the matrix of unity.

It is also clear that the value of the Kaiser-Mayer-Ochlinscale index (KMO) = 0.861, which is greater than 0.5, therefore the partial correlation coefficients are low, and the sampling adequacy and relevance for each variable is good. (Tegza, 2012, p. 27)

- 0.0001=Déterminant, which means that there is no linear dependence between the classes.

1-2 Factors Extraction Method: The researcher used the principal component analysis method, in French (ACP):

2- Criterion to determine the extracted factors

There are many Criterion to determine the extracted factors, among which the researcher chose the following:

a- Kattell'sScree Scale:

a- Kattell'sScreeScale:

Gorusuch (1983) prefers the slope curve scale on the Keizer scale and believes that the slope curve scale is more accurate when the sample is large, and the prevalence values are high and the ratio of the number of measured variables is not less than 3 variables for one factor.
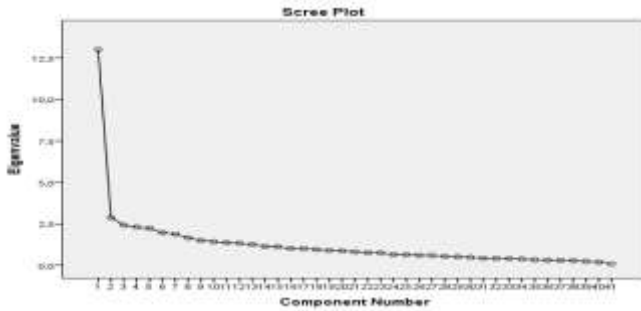

Figure No. (4) shows the number of latent variables based on the Cattell Criterion graph

The shape of the curve shows how many factors will be deducted from the number of extracted factors represented by the two perpendicular lines showing the inflection point that determines the number of latent factors.

B- Rotations of factors (axes)

To get rid of the problem of the factor structure's lack of interpretation when extracting it, we use the rotation strategy or Factor Rotation, whose goal is to distribute the interpreted variance on the factors while keeping the total variance constant without change, (Tegze, p.: 45.46).
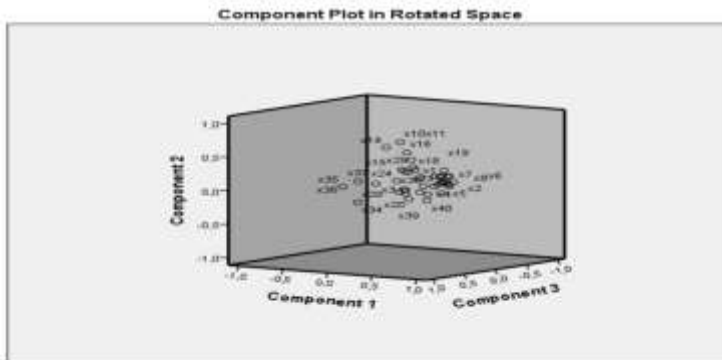
There are two types of rotation: orthogonal rotation, and oblique rotation. The researcher chose orthogonal rotation: Varimax. The following table shows the saturation after rotation.

Table showing the matrix of components after orthogonal rotation Varimax

Component Matrix					
Paragraphs	**Components**				
	1	2	3	4	5

Item	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5
7X	0.705				
5X	0.682				
6X	0.655				
33X	0.649				
8X	0.608				
9X	0.600				
13X	0.595				
1X	0.558				
38X	0.558				
19X	0.554				
4X	0.513				
22X	0.464				
25X	0.451				
30X	0.445				
21X	0.434				
34X		0.408			
3X					
39X					
31X		0.632			
32X		0.613			
29X		0.584			
17X		0.562			
40X		0.552			
41X		0.518			
2X		0.491			
36X		0.475			
24X					
27X					
12X			0.580		
26X	0.481		0.564		
11X			0.508		
14X			0.492		
16X			0.469		
18X				0.621	
15X				0.592	
10X				0.534	
28X			-0.404	0.415	
23X					
37X					0.607
20X					0.565
35X					0.460

It also explains the factors and their distribution.

Component Plot in Rotated Space

The figure shows a diagram representing the factors rotated orthogonally by the Varimax method

It is clear from Figure No. (02) above that the variables or items are centered on five axes that represent the factors extracted from the orthogonal rotation by the Varimax method. We notice a clear convergence between the items that constitute each of the factors.

Last stage in exploratory factor analysis:

- **Naming the factors and minimum acceptable level of saturations:**

The phase of naming the factors comes after the rotation is completed. It is the process of searching for a title or a name for the common meaning between paragraphs or variables (dimensions) with acceptable saturation or that achieve a minimum acceptable saturation, which is 0,40(Ahmed Bouziane (2012).

Through the table, we note that there are paragraphs that did not achieve the minimum saturation (0.40), and therefore the following paragraphs were canceled: x35, x36; x34; x20; x10; x3 so that the number of paragraphs at the end becomes 35 paragraphs distributed over 5 dimensions. The researcher kept the same designation of the dimensions after investigating the meanings of the paragraphs and what they aim at, despite the presence of some difficulties in that, so that the dimensions and paragraphs to which they belong are thus:

- The first is: the limits and rules dimension : The number of paragraphs is 15, which are:

x38 ; x33 ; x35 ; x30 ; x25 x22 x19 x13 x9 x8 x7 x6 x5 x4 x1

The second is :the conflict dimension: 8 paragraphs

39, 31, 32, 29, 17, 40, 41, 2

The third is: the relationship dimension: 5 paragraphs: (24, 27, 12, 26, 11)

The fourth is: ill-treatment dimension 4 paragraphs (14, 15, 16, 18)

The fifth is: the family climate dimension, 3 paragraphs: (28, 23, 37)

1- Confirmatory factor analysis:

Steps to scale the confirmatory factorial model:

The first stage:

1- The researcher assumed that 5 latent factors (5 dimensions) explain the family function and not only one factor.

2- The researcher has a clear conception of the identity of the five dimensions (factors), so that he named them as follows:

*- The first dimension: the dimension (factor) of limits and rules.

*- The second dimension: the conflict dimension and ways to solve it.

*- The third dimension: the relationship dimension (the nature of the relationships between family members inside and outside the system).

*- The fourth dimension: the treatment dimension.

*- The fifth dimension: the emotional climate in the family.

3- The researcher assumed that the five dimensions are not completely independent, but that there is a correlation between them. He also assumed in this case that this correlation between the

five dimensions should not be weak, at the same it should not be high because the high altitude means that the assumed factors are undifferentiated and can be combined into a factor one for example.

4- The correlation between the five factors (dimensions) is positive, not negative.

5- Each factor has its own indicators that saturate it, and there is no intersection between saturation.

6- Each of the supposed five factors does not explain all the variance found in the indicators, but the researcher assumes that a part of the variance remains unexplained, in which the indicator does not share with its factor (after it) , it is called the variance error, but the researcher assumes that these errors are small and do not threaten the stability of the indicators (their accuracy or its significance to its factor). He also assumed that the variance error is present in every indicator and is not non-existent because it is impossible. The researcher assumes that these errors are independent and not linked; the diagram contains 5 ovals that express the five underlying factors (dimensions, boundaries, relationship conflict, treatment, and family climate);

The drawing also includes double-directional convex arrows indicating a positive correlation of the five factors. It also contains rectangular or square shapes that indicate the measured indicators or variables (questionnaire paragraphs). The straight arrows that are pronounced from the latent factor and directed to the measured variables for each factor indicate the saturation of the indicators (the measured variables), in other words, each arrow going from the latent factor (dimension) to the measured indicator (the paragraph) indicates the amount (percentage) of variance that is explained by the factor From the total variance contained in the measured indicator or variable, that is, the extent of the common variance or space of common significance between the dimension and the paragraph.

While the short lower straight arrows that end to the rectangles indicate the residuals (the residuals of variance), which the latent factor did not explain in the paragraphs. (Tegza, 2012, p.: 193).

To this extent, the researcher has completed the stage of developing the hypothetical model, ie determining it.

• **The second stage: the stage of defining the model:**

In order to find out whether the model we are scaleing is non-assignment, determinant or multi-assigned, following way was adopted:

Summarizing the free parameters of the factorial model of family function:

1. Number of factors contained in the model: Number of factors = 5.

2. Number of correlations between factors (number of convex arrows) = 10.

3. Number of saturation paths (starting from the factor and ending at the measured indicator) = 35.

4. Number of errors (measurement error) = 35

Sum all = 5 + 10 + 35 + 35 = 85

Degree of freedom=630-85=545

So, the factorial model for the postulate is a transitive function, and this is a good indicator, and we can pass to the third stage:

- **The third stage: fixing one of the saturations on the factor with a fixed value of one(1).** The matching function, or the method for estimating the parameters used by the statistical packages (if the user does not require another method), is automatically the maximum likelihood (ML) method. This method preserves the accuracy of its parameter estimates.

Table 10 shows indicators of good conformity to the confirmatory global model of the scale

indicators of good conformity	Indicator value	Ideal range of the indicator
square kay	Insignificant	
Degree of freedom		
root-mean-square error association	0.04	From 0-0.08 and better from 0-5
From 0-1, preferably more than 0.90	1,684	Between 1 and 3 , if less than 2 it is a total conformity
CFI Conformity Index	0,841	From 0-1 preferably up to 0.90
Tucker Lewis TLC Index	0,81	From 0-1, preferably more than 0.90

The table shows the indicators of good fit for the confirmatory factorial model of the scale. The above table also shows the indicators of good conformity to the family function scale that seemto be good indicators, starting with the RMSEA, which is one of the most important and accurate indicators of conformity, since it equals = 0.05 that reflects an acceptable match as it did not exceed the confidence limits; Also, the indicator of the degree of freedom of the chi-square ($\chi 2/df$) is good = 1.83, a value that indicates an exact match; The Comparative Conformity Index 81CFI = 0

Even if it is not very close to 1, but it remains within confidence and not far from 1, moreover, the Tucker Lewis index, which is one of the strongest indicators of good conformity, is equal to TLI =

0.80, since its range is from 0 to 1 and it is desirable to approach 1 however Its value is acceptable. (Kardasheh, 2009 ,p:75)

Measurement results:

Through the table in Appendix No. 2, we note that the values of the correlation coefficients range from 2980, the lowest value to 8400, the largest, compared with their theoretical values, which range from 0.00 to 0.01, their values are relatively high, and this is a good indicator of stability. As for the validity of the measured indicators, it is dictated by the value of saturations Normative, since the amount of saturation of the indicator measured on its factor is considered a validity coefficient, and after examining the saturation of the indicators on its two factors, we find that the validity coefficient is an accusative indicator of the validity of the factors, and from it the validity of a model, (Mourad, 2012, p: 52),

Low or moderate correlation coefficients between the five dimensions is used as supreme evidence of differential validity, and the high one is used as an indicator of convergent validity. Referring to the table in Appendix No. 2 which shows the factors of correlation between the five factors, we find that the correlation factors in most of them are strong and statistically significant, which indicates the provision of discriminatory honesty among the factors is high.

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