Introducing the Questionnaire of Commitment to Exercise

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Abstract

The present study aimed to make and establish psychometric features of an exercise commitment questionnaire. The primary 35 questions were administered to 210 staffs working in Isfahan Steel Company, 120 males and 90 females. Subjects had 10 years of work experience in the company and were randomly selected using stratified sampling method. Principle component analysis and Varimax rotation were used to measure its construct validity. Finally, 25 questions were extracted with more than 0.5 loading factor indicating the validity of the instrument. Accordingly, a four-factor construct was made, being capable of explaining 58.4 percent of total variance by the use of principle component method. Results of the confirmatory factor analysis yielded features indicating positive fitness of the confirmatory analytic model of the commitment to exercise questionnaire. Also by using internal consistency reliability was calculated with Cronbach's alpha and the coefficient was 0.873 showing strong reliability. Overall, based on the satisfactory reliability and validity, this study shows that commitment to exercise questionnaire serves as a suitable measuring tool for the future research.

Keywords: commitment, exercise, validity, factor analysis, reliability

1. Introduction

Exercise has advantageous effects on different physical and mental aspects, and would also delay aging process (Gillespie et al., 2009). Considering many physical and mental benefits like cardiovascular function improvement, reinforcing muscles and body balance (Buchner, Beresford, Larson, LaCroix, & Wagner, 1992), boosting self-esteem and total life enhancement quality, small number of participants in exercising as the general health interferer is the major limitation to physical activities(Tiedemann, Sherrington, & Lord, 2011). Therefore, participation of people from different social backgrounds in physical and sport-like activities has been emphasized as a matter of interest for sports science experts. Commitment is an important concept which nowadays is been viewed for studying. (Wilson et al., 2004).

By manifesting positive thinking and also planning hopeful psychology and commitment theory, frequent educational, investigational, and remedial interferers has been done to study its effects on the other aspects of the positive features(Snyder, Cheavens, & Michael, 2005). Commitment is a sense of dependency and fixation to a particular behavior which shows the perseverance and persistence of an individual to keep on doing his or her participation in that behavior. The sport commitment as a psychological structure exhibits an individual's desire to take part in ongoing sport activities and reflects some individual motivational forces for participation and insistence on continuing this behavior (Sousa, Torregrosa, Viladrich, Villamarín, & Cruz, 2007).

The concept of the research of Scanlan et al., (1993) by using the theoretical foundations of commitment in systematic and social behavior and the commitment usage in sports areas, led to the suggestion of sport commitment model.

Sport Commitment model is designed based on theoretical framework of Commitment and explanation of how athletes continue their exercises (Scanlan, Russell, Beals, & Scanlan, 2003; Sousa et al., 2007). In this model, five major factors have been established as the determining components which have been derived from Social Exchange Theory, Kelley's model of interpersonal relationship and Rusbult's investment model (Scanlan, Simons, Carpenter, Schmidt, & Keeler, 1993; Sousa et al., 2007). These components are: sport enjoyment, personal

investment, social constraints (peer pressure), involvement alternatives and participation opportunities (Andrew, 2004; Scanlan et al., 1993; Sousa et al., 2007). Scanlan, after nearly 25 years, amended his Sport Commitment Questionnaire. This questionnaire administered to two separate heterogeneous samples of athletic teenagers.

The new sport commitment model was presented in seven sources which five of them was related to the major model including sport enjoyment, valuable opportunities (previously was known as participation opportunities), other priorities (previously was known as involvement alternatives), personal investments, peer pressure, and the two left sources related to the new model including social support and desire to excel (Scanlan, Chow, Sousa, Scanlan, & Knifsend, 2016).

Weiss, Kimmel, and Smith (2001) have presented a model for commitment to exercise in which sport enjoyment is introduced as a mediator and a key factor. According to the exercise commitment mediator model, any factor which leads to an increase in individuals' pleasure and interest in physical activities and sport can motivate the individual to continue the activity (Wilson et al., 2004).

Breakman (1987) suggested that the identity of commitment is a combination of both functional and obligatory components. In other words, individuals are stuck in their attempts because they want so and are also obliged to do so. In particular, individuals can be actively committed to both functional and obligatory components in any second, while these levels possibly can vary or fluctuate (Brickman, Sorrentino, & Wortman, 1987). Both enthusiastic and imposed commitment manifests functional and obligatory components. In sport commitment model, the indirect support of distinction between enthusiastic and imposed commitment can be clearly observed in controlled and independent motivations which are correlated with self-determination theory. Self-determination can be observed when individuals are up to performing a behavior with their full control over it. In this manner, the individual takes part in behaviors in which he or she finds them meeting his or her natural beliefs and values. Research has shown that organized self-determining behaviors (in areas like education, career and sport) provide mental health in everybody's life, whereas being convinced or inevitable are the outcomes of controlled motivations (Edward L Deci & Ryan, 2008).

Pasman and Thompson obligatory exercise model is designed in order to investigate exercise obligation and would aid psychological experts to assess individual's problem in excessive and obsessive compulsion to exercise In this model, three factors have been assigned as major and determining components which areas: frequency and intensity of exercise, negative emotionality and preoccupation with exercise (Ackard, Brehm, & Steffen, 2002). Considering different genders, there were different reasons for obligatory exercise. For women the incentive was to maintain the appearance and for men, physical readiness and health were the motivational ideas (Furnham, Badmin, & Sneade, 2002).

One way for a better comprehensive understanding of commitment to exercise concept is to investigate elements and components which have been assigned for commitment to exercise. A coherent scale with the ability to evaluate the multi-dimensional concept of commitment to exercise has not yet been designed. The related measurements in this area including Scanlan exercise commitment (1993, 2016), more likely assess athletes' commitment to exercise. Pasman and Thompson's 20-item questionnaire (1988) was also designed to measure the obligatory exercise and the problem of obsessive exercising (Brehm & Steffen, 1998). Considering the fact that low participation rate in exercise as general health interference is the major limitation in physical activities (Tiedemann et al., 2011), constructing a test with a capability of multiple components evaluation which is also able to assess commitment to exercise, has its own essential importance. According to the theoretical principles and research findings, the main purpose of this study was to provide a highly reliable and valid instrument within the area of commitment to exercise.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Research Method

The current study in terms of functional aim and manner of data collection is a descriptive correlational study.

2.1 Participants

The population of the current study was the total 635 employees with more than 10 years of work experience working in administrative sections of Isfahan Steel Company including both men and women. Then, 235subjects were selected using stratified random sampling and in accordance with the Morgan table (Krejcie& Morgan, 1970), However, 210 participants ultimately returned their completed questionnaires. Given that the required sample in factor analysis study has been suggested 5 to 10 subjects for each question and since the preliminary scale consisted of 35 questions, therefore the 210-subject-sample seemed adequate. Finally, 210 subjects (90 women and 120 men) with the mean age of 41, standard deviation of 3 and the domain of 33 to 49 years (with 95 percent

confidence interval) were considered as the study samples.

2.2 Instruments

Constructing and validating the commitment to exercise questionnaire was designed by reviewing the theoretical foundations and considering the features of promising individuals to exercise. The theoretical foundations were emphasizing the usage of components in questionnaire which include fascination to exercise, frequency and intensity of exercise, reinforcer and barriers. These factors are based on theory of health belief model (Becker, 1974), transtheoretical model (Richard, Christina, Deborah, Rubio, & Kennon, 1997) theory of planned behavior (TPB) (Ajzen, 1991) and self-determination theory (E. L Deci & Ryan, 1991). Relying on theoretical foundations, the primary questionnaire was designed. This tool was pretested and given to some subjects and sports psychology experts to judge the theoretical foundations and composing style, so that face and content validity could be examined before the major utilization. For investigating the content validity of questionnaire, content validity ratio and content validity index were computed 0.88 and 0.87 respectively which shows that the content validity of Iranian exercise commitment questionnaire is sufficient. Also their comments on rewriting, dropping, adding, and amending the items were applied.

This questionnaire was designed in 5-item Likert Scale from 1 (never) to 5 (always) and was administered to the research sample. The four components of this questionnaire are as follows:

- Fascination to exercise: Fascination was first innovated and described by Csikszentmihalyi (2000). According to his definition, the fascination experience possibly can appear in any condition in which executing the activity is essential. Researchers have found evidences indicating that fascination occurs while different activities like exercising takes place (Engeser & Rheinberg, 2008). Items 3, 6, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 measure fascination to exercise.
- 2) Frequency and intensity of exercise: When some people begin a particular activity, their next trouble is maintaining and sticking to the plan. This problem can be explained with frequency and intensity of exercise. Research has shown that sticking to exercise is negatively correlated with intensity of the exercise. When the exercise time is long or intense, the joy and happiness, caused by exercising, will gradually fade away (Lamb, Bartlett, Ashley, & Bird, 2002). Items 1, 2, 5 and 9 measure the frequency and intensity of exercising.
- 3) Barriers: Despite the personal and social advantages of exercising, many will avoid exercising. Sallis et al., (1990) identified 17 potential factors preventing individuals from exercising. Some of these factors can be pointed out as: shortage of time and money, being far away from the living location, injuries, bad weather, lack of energy and motivation (Vaez Mousavi & Mosayyebi, 2011). Items 10, 15, 20 and 21 measure the barriers.
- 4) Reinforcing Factors: Many reasons can motivate people; therefore one proper way to motive individuals is to emphasize different benefits of exercising. When people intend to start a particular activity like exercising, they can be motivated by internal and external incentives (Marcus et al., 2000). Items 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 19 and 22 measure the Reinforcing factors.

In this study, Scanlan's commitment to exercise questionnaire (1993) has been used for investigating convergent validity. This questionnaire is a 26-item Likert questionnaire with five-level grading style from strongly agrees to strongly disagree. The commitment to exercise questionnaire is constructed with five subscales which its titles are: sport enjoyment, involvement alternatives, personal investments, peer pressure, and participation opportunities. Every individual's commitment to exercise questionnaire was measured and confirmed in Mir Hosseini et al., research (2011), and also Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was reported 0.70.

2.3 Procedure

After clarifying the goals of the study, establishing needed coordination with steel company authorities, the instructions were given and the necessity and importance of correct answering were explained. Then, the questionnaires were distributed among the staffs in each administrative sections of company and staffs were asked to answer them. Although time limitation for answering the questionnaire was not specified, the needed time for responding did not exceed 25 minutes. To ensure that subjects' answering process is taking place accordingly and correctly, colleagues and researchers were supervising at the administration location during the whole process. Additionally, there was no obligation executed for participation in research process.

2.4 Statistical Methods

The statistical methods used in this study were descriptive and inferential. For calculating central tendencies and

variability, descriptive method was used; also inferential methods like exploratory factor analysis were used as a method to identify constructing factors of commitment to exercise. Then for acquiring more precise fitness of objective matrix loadings, confirmatory factor analysis was conducted.

3. Results

After investigating the content validity of the questionnaire with the help of the experts in this field, validity of the questionnaire was investigated (shown in Table 1) by using major component method of factor analysis. After conducting the exploratory factor analysis for five times, 10 items were omitted because of improper factor loading. Eventually, the final version of commitment to exercise questionnaire with 25 items was identified and named according to below mentioned explanation of the results in four dimensions.

Table 1. Test results of Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett, stage five as a license for implementing factor analysis

Sample adequacy ratio		0.769
Test results	The approximate ratio in chi-square test	1214.186
	df	300
	Level of Significance	0.0001

According to Table 1, the factor analysis sample was a decent sample. If sample adequacy ratio amount is more or equal to 0.5, the concordance between data is appropriate for factor analysis, and the 0.769 amount is exhibiting desirability and profitability of the sample volume for factor analysis. Bartlett's test ofsphericity2, measures the theory in which matrix evaluates the observed concordance in populations with discordant variables. The amounts which are smaller than 0.05 shows the level of significance in which the factor analysis is properforits data. In other words, besides sample adequacy ratio, conducting factor analysis based on the studied subjects would also be justifiable.

Components	The special amount	Percentage of explained variance	The cumulative percentage of explained variance	
1	3.456	22.325	22.325	
2	1.487	13.519	35.845	
3	1.365	13.409	48.354	
4	1.117	10.155	58.409	

Table 2. Special values and variance percentage of derived variables

According to Table 2, four factors with special value which is more than one could be derived before rotation which in total, explains 58.409% of a questionnaire's variance. Such data showed that the major amount of matrix variance can be explained by four components and the other factors have little impact on explaining the variance.

In the next level, the primary statistical index was implemented by major component method using Varimax rotation; items were rotated so that they can manifest more factor loadings on elements. After conducting the exploratory factor analysis for five times, 10 items were omitted because of improper factor loadings, and at the end, the final version of for five times commitment to for five times questionnaire with 25 items was identified and named in four dimensions according to the below mentioned explanation of the results.

0.700

Fascination to exercise items	Amount
3- When I do not exercise, I feel regret and guilty.	0.665
6- I feel so energetic and happy after one set of exercising.	0.661
11- If I quit exercising, it will have some negative effects on my health.	0.610
14- I believe whenever I planned for exercising, I succeeded in doing that.	0.619
16- I exercise because of my inner desire, not anyone else's motivations.	0.689
17- I like exercising outdoor.	0.600
18- I feel proud of myself because I have regular exercising compared to my peers.	0.569
23- I spend money on my exercise equipment and cloth.	0.643
24- I daydream about my fitness which is the fruit of my exercise.	0.604
25- I ponder about my exercise schedule.	0.666
Reinforcer Items	
4- My best friend likes exercising.	0.674
7- Whenever I have been recommended to exercise by my doctor, friend and etc. I tried to do so.	0.720
8- I encourage my friends to exercise.	0.659
12- I have important people (spouse, child and friends) in my life who believe I should exercise.	0.664
13- Important people in my life (spouse, child and friends) manage their schedule in a way that matches my exercise schedule.	0.634
19- Exercising is an opportunity to hang out with my friends.	0.670
22- I try to find a friend or a companion in sports venues.	0.597
Frequency and Intensity Items	
1- I exercise every day.	0.750
2- I exercise at least three days a week.	0.642
5- If I miss one day of my exercise schedule, I try to make it up on other day.	0.723
9- I have specified a particular time for exercising.	0.650
Disturber Factor Items	
10- Sometimes I miss my exercise due to the lack of energy or time.	0.670
15- I quit exercising because of different reasons (lack of time, having a career, family issues, bad weather and insecurities).	0.650
20- I miss my exercise sessions due to the daily life issues.	0.690

Table 3. Results of the factor analysis of the commitment to exercise questionnaire by the use of the main elements and Varimax rotation

Table 3 has shown the relationship between items and factors. The matrix result of the rotated factors showed that this group of items, measures the commitment to exercise in four dimensions which are: fascination to exercise, reinforcer factors, frequency and intensity and Barriers. These results confirmed the validity of the construct as a four-dimension tool for evaluating and measuring the individuals' commitment to exercise.

21- I believe whenever I miss some of my exercise sessions, I experience some troubles starting a new schedule.

3.1 Confirmatory Factor Analysis

The output of the LisrelSoftware equal to 1.6 for the chi-square of the $df(\chi'/df)$ which is mentioned inTable 4. The fact is that this amount is less than 2, and the presence of this ratio and the other results are mentioned in Table 5, that all of them are the output of LisrelSoftware, are vividly stating and emphasizing the decent fitness of the model.

Table 4. goodness of fit index

The Index Name	The Standard Index Amount	The Index Amount in Particular Model	Conclusion	
Chi square	-	427.99	Decent model fitness	
P value	Bigger than 0.05	0.504	Decent model fitness	
GFI (Goodness of Fit Index)	Bigger than 0.9	0.93	Decent model fitness	
AGFI (Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index)	Bigger than 0.9	0.90	Decent model fitness	
NFI (Normed Fit Index)	Bigger than 0.9	0.95	Decent model fitness	
CFI (Comparative Fit Index)	Bigger than 0.9	0.95	Decent model fitness	
RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation)	Smaller than 0.1	0.063	Decent model fitness	



Figure 1. Second order factor analysis questionnaire mode

For investigating the significance level of factor analysis coefficients, the significance level test was conducted according to t-value index, and Lisrel software outputs show significance level of each coefficient. Regarding the fact that all coefficients are higher than 1.96, therefore the mentioned model and its coefficients are bearing decent level of significance.



Figure 2. Significant coefficient model of second order factor analysis

For investigating the reliability of the questionnaire by using the SPSS Software, the confidence coefficient amount was calculated, using the internal consistency method (Cronbach's alpha coefficient) which is explained in Table 5. These numbers showed that the questionnaire is trustable and in other words, is sufficiently reliable.

Total amount	Cronbach's	alphacoefficient	Total number of items	Cronbach's dimensions	alpha	coefficient	of	questionnaire
				Frequency an	nd Intensi	ty: 0.721		
0.873			25	Fascination to	o exercis	e: 0.871		
				Reinforcer fa	ctors: 0.7	755		
				Barriers: 0.71	17			

Table 5. Questionnaire Confidence Coefficient

According to the Table 5, the total Cronbach's alpha coefficient amount was 0.873 which states high internal consistency of this scale. Also among the components, fascination to exercise has the highest reliability coefficient which stresses the importance of internal motivation and the pleasure beneath exercising.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The current study was conducted for the sake of constructing and determining the psychological features of Iranian commitment to exercise questionnaire. For constructing this questionnaire, the theoretical history of exercise commitment and the related questionnaires in this field have been analyzed. The extracted factors derived from this study have built the foundations of the initial item scale exactly according to the theory-based models such as health belief model, transtheoretical model, theory of planned behavior and self-determination theory. The similar subject related to this matter was also considered and the improper subjects were omitted; then face and content validity of the questionnaire were confirmed by the experts. In this way, content validity ratio and content validity index were calculated respectively as 0.88 and 0.87 which are sufficient amounts for reliability and validity of the Iranian commitment to exercise questionnaire. Some experts' suggestions considering item clarity were applied in the final preparation before administration. Exploratory factor analysis was utilized for investigating the construct validity. The sample adequacy amount was 0.769 with 99 percent confidence level indicating that the research data has the capability for factor analysis. In addition, after conducting exploratory factor analysis, each component shares or their special value and explanatory variance power of the test were determined; in a way that, four factors with values more than one, have explained 58.409 percent of the total variance which shows that the commitment to exercise questionnaire is a multi-dimensional construct with four factors including: fascination to exercise, reinforcer factors, frequency and intensity of exercise and barriers. For ensuring the results of the exploratory factor analysis to be correct, the confirmatory factor analysis was applied, using Lisrel software. The chi-square of the df was equal to 1.6 and the other indexes derived from outputs of Lisrel software indicated that the fitness is sufficient for the second order factor analysis of the commitment to exercise. The results of this study indicated that the commitment to exercise questionnaire can be used for measuring and evaluating the individuals' commitment to exercise. The factors derived from this study were in harmony with part of the research results of Scanlan et al. they are positively correlated in more than two factors; for instance, in Scanlan's commitment to exercise questionnaire validation, Mir Hosseini et al., (2011) showed that Cronbach's alpha coefficient in sport enjoyment is 0.86 and in peer pressure factor is 0.90 which are positively correlated with fascination to exercise and Barriers in this study(Mirhossayni, Hadavi, & Mozaffari, 2012).

Weiss, Kimmel, and Smith (2001) have presented a model for commitment to exercise in which sport enjoyment is introduced as a mediator and a key factor. The proposed model in this study nearly supports factor combination and multi-dimensional structure of commitment to exercise and its components.

The 20-itemobligatory exercise questionnaire includes dimensions such as: negative emotionality, frequency and intensity of exercise and the preoccupation with exercise (Ackard et al., 2002). According to Pasman & Thompson's questionnaire, Cronbach'salpha coefficient in frequency and intensity factor and preoccupation with exercise respectively was 79% and 68% (Brehm& Steffen, 1998), which are in line with frequency and intensity components in the present study. Regarding the results of the present study, from among the components related to commitment to exercise, the highest average goes to the fascination to exercise index which indicates the importance of inner motivation for exercising physical activities and enjoying that particular activity.

The general conclusion of all findings shows that commitment to exercise includes extensive dimensions; in a way that despite progress in motivation to exercise and the individual's feeling of effectiveness and ability in doing the exercise duties according to the schedule, it also includes other dimensions like fascination to exercise (Csikszentmihalyi, 2000), frequency and intensity of exercise (Lamb et al., 2002), reinforcer factors (Marcus et al., 2000) and barriers (Vaez Mousavi & Mosayyebi, 2011). The literature in sports sciences clearly emphasizes the role of these factors in individuals' commitment to exercise, in a way that sports science experts expressed that the difference between promising individuals to exercise and less promising ones is connected to these factors. Therefore, commitment to exercise questionnaire and its components has decent and desirable validity and reliability; and has the potentials to measure individuals' commitment to exercise. Scanlan's commitment to exercise allows commitment to exercise activities. This questionnaire can measure individuals' commitment to exercise only for the sake of preserving health and its enjoyment, and can also be a helpful aid for psychologists and consolers for interfering the individuals' perspectives in order to make their clients more promising and stick to this vital matter. Besides, in general, these results can be translated towards a general patient population such as evaluating the commitment to cardiac

rehabilitation in heart failure. This study was administered among the staffs in steel company who were 33 to 43 years old, so a close care must be taken for generalizing the findings. Therefore, it is suggested that this scale can be administrated to other populations except steel company staffs, so that establishments for another validation can be available.

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Competing Interests Statement

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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