

ASSESSING SELF-EFFICACY IN INFANT CARE: A COMPARISON OF TWO SCALES

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Purpose: Self-efficacy in Infant Care Scale (SICS) was developed with acceptable psychometric properties to assess the degree of Thai mothers' belief in their ability to perform the designated infant care tasks. The purpose of this study was to identify whether the SICS with 6-point rating scale can be used as an alternative to that with 0-100 confidence continuum scale.

Methods: Eligible subjects included 42 mothers with 6 or 9 years of education who took their infants to the well-baby clinic for immunizations at Samutsakorn Hospital. Each mother firstly completed the original scale and then followed by the 6-point rating scale of the SICS. Afterwards, the mothers were asked to indicate which type of the questionnaires was easier to administer.

Results: The reliabilities using Cronbach's alpha of both scales were .95. Correlations between the same items of both response formats of the SICS revealed that only 11 pairs of items demonstrated high magnitudes. Correlations between the same subscales and also between the total scales of both response formats were high but less than .95. Slightly over half of the entire mothers (57%) preferred a 6-point rating scale. Interestingly, 59% of the group with 6 years of education preferred the original scale, compared to only 25% of the group with 9 years of education.

Conclusion: The findings suggest that correlations between the SICS with two different response formats do not reach the criteria for use as an alternative to each other. However, further research is needed in particular to the investigation of the construct validity and comparison between the two scales.

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