Reviewer's report

Title: Validation of the 10-item Chinese Perceived Stress Scale in Elderly Service Workers: One-factor versus Two-factor Structure

Version: 2  Date: 21 January 2013

Reviewer: Doris Leung

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The research question is well defined but it would be better adding literature on what have been done regarding the factor structure of and the use of PSS on this target population of adult workers in the elderly service.

2. Although a reference was given, a brief account of the data collection procedure such as how the potential participants were contacted and the questionnaires were administered to ensure anonymous and confidentiality should be reported.

3. Overall speaking, the manuscript adheres to standard report of psychometrics but Figure 1 is rather misleading as the correlation between the two latent factors was not shown. In presenting SEM, we give the estimates of all the parameters in the model even they were not statistically significant. In addition, it is better to name Factors 1 and 2 in the results and discussion sections to facilitate interpretation of the results, especially there is a typo when describing the items in the two factors from EFA results (line 3-4, p.12).

4. The discussion and conclusions are mainly supported by the data but the concurrent construct validity seems to be very low in particular for Factor 2 which needs further elaboration. In addition, no discussion and potential reasons were given to the observed low inter-factor correlation in CPSS-10 or PSS-10 in this particular population. The authors should also extent the discussion by comparing the current results to other relevant studies in addition to Leung et al’s study. A ‘zero’ correlation between the two factors has a very important implication: are the two factors really measuring the same construct and should a composite score be created for the construct using scores of two uncorrelated factors?

5. The discussion on gender imbalance is questionable. Imbalanced gender composition should not have an impact on the representativeness of the sample if the target population also has this imbalanced gender composition. The sample might not be representative because it was collected by a convenience sampling. If the authors suspect that gender may be a confounding variable, and hence imbalanced gender composition may have induced selection bias in the results, they should consider performing additional EFAs or even CFAs by gender.
Discretionary Revisions

6. The authors list several studies validating the PSS-10 in other countries but no result on these studies was presented (line 2-3, p.5).

7. The writing is good but the second paragraph regarding the dimensionality of the scale on p.4 is rather strange.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.