Reviewer’s report

Title: Explaining Differential Item Functioning focusing on the crucial role of external information – An example from the measurement of adolescent mental health

Version: 1 Date: 05 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Jianghua He

Reviewer's report:

In this revision, the author modified some contents, for example adding some details about the polytomous Rasch model.

Unfortunately, these changes doesn't resolved the major issue of the original version, that is, it is not well written to serve its purpose of demonstrating the application of an existing method of identifying and resolving DIF based on an example.

The background in reviewing the literature about DIF is fairly weak. Note item response theory is only one of the methods of addressing DIF. The current manuscript depends heavily on the author's previous two manuscripts (reference 6 and 10) for both methods and contents.

An clear explanation of DIF and its impact for research based on a more comprehensive literature review would be helpful.

Using plain language to address the main issue and provide step by step instructions might be more helpful than listing statements.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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