

An analysis of nomination and rating scales measures of sociometric dimensions by Multitrait-Multimethod (MTMM) procedures

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Abstract.

The purpose of this study was to compare sociometric constructs derived from different methods to test hypotheses bearing on construct validity. Hypotheses are tested within the framework of a multitrait-multimethod (MTMM) design. Our main objective was to answer the question: Do nomination and rating scales measures index the same constructs?

Typically, two methods have been used to measure sociometric constructs. One relies on a nomination procedure whereas the other employs a rating scale approach. Currently, it is not clear whether these two methods provide information about the same underlying constructs or is each technique is suited to index one construct rather than another.

Sociometric data were gathered from 571 children in 20 primary school classrooms in several areas of Madrid. Participants completed a nomination-based questionnaire in which they identified the three classroom peers whom they liked the most and the three they disliked the most. They also completed a rating scale sociometric questionnaire. The social status dimensions were derived from both methods using the usual procedures. We combined the above procedures with behavioural descriptions. The data were analysed by LISREL using several approaches.