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Conceptualizing Hope as a Virtue

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Repository citation: Musherure, Isabella and Turahirwa, Esther, "Conceptualizing Hope as a Virtue" (2023). *22nd Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (2023)*. Paper 27.

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Virtuous Hope and its Measurement: South Africa, Brazil and USA

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INTRODUCTION

- Virtuous hope involves the ardent pursuit of realizing a particular vision of the common good with intention and action, often growing out of adversity, and shaped in relation to other people and the transcendent (Thomas et al., 2022).
- This project started in South Africa with a qualitative study on 13 moral exemplars. The intent was to understand their meaning of hope through lived experiences (Thomas et al., 2022).
- The purpose of this study is to develop a quantitative measure of virtuous hope through collecting samples from South Africa, Brazil, and the United States. This process will develop the measure of hope as a virtue.

METHODS

Based on the data collected, 33 qualitative items were drafted and piloted in 3 different countries and languages.

Samples included in the survey:

- U.S: 400 students from Hope College and 500 Mturk participants
- Brazil: 150 participants
- South Africa: 200 participants

The back-translation process was vital and ensured for construct validity to solidify the same meaning of hope between each country that was surveyed.

ANALYSIS & RESULTS

- After generating the 33 items, a Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was conducted to understand an underlying factor structure that conformed with the qualitative study and theory.

$\chi^2(59) = 137.126, p < .001, RMSEA = 0.060, CFI = 0.958, TLI = 0.945, SRMR = 0.038$

- A reliability analysis of each sub-scale revealed that all of them had good internal consistency across all samples ($\alpha > .70$).
- This CFA broke the list down to 12 items on 4 different subscales: Adversity, Common Good, Encourage, Vision.
- This factor structure was determined based on all 3 samples and was found to be consistent and reliable in South African, American, and Brazilian samples.

NEXT STEPS

- Now all twelve items are being piloted in a test-retest procedure to ensure the construct is relatively stable across time.
- The results of this analysis will contribute to the definition of hope being categorized as a virtue that can be used in a variety of other studies.

STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

- The study did not have consistent sampling methods across the three locations due to different constraints on platforms that allow for payment across cultures and languages.
- A strength of this project is that the 12 items were selected based on the items that worked simultaneously in three languages and cultures.

WHY A NEW MEASURE IS NEEDED

- Snyder's hope theory (2001) has been most prevalent in scholarly articles, but its measures are different from virtuous hope in that it is more focused on individual success and well-being (McMinn, 2017; Scioli, 2020; Thomas, 2022).

Adversity	Common Good	Encourage	Vision
I stay hopeful when I face hardships.	I focus my thoughts on how my goals will help others.	I encourage others to keep pushing ahead.	My vision for the future keeps me going.
I am prepared to deal with hardships to achieve a better future.	I feel hopeful when I help others.	I give others a reason to be hopeful for the future.	It is important to me to hold onto hope.
I am hopeful about the future even though today is hard.	I do things that will improve the future of others.	Part of my life purpose is to give others hope.	I have specific reasons why I believe the future can be better.



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Presented at the Celebration of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity| April 14, 2023

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