

The Strengths and Stressors in Parenting (SSF) Questionnaire - Structural Validity in Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities

Magnus Ivarsson¹, Henrik Danielsson¹, Anna Karin Andersson^{2,3}, Jennifer Gothilander², & Mats Granlund^{3,4}

¹*Linköping University*

²*Mälardalen University*

³*Jönköping University*

⁴*Norwegian University of Science and Technology*

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JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY
School of Health and Welfare



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Why do we need a scale focusing on the impact on the family of raising a child with a disability?

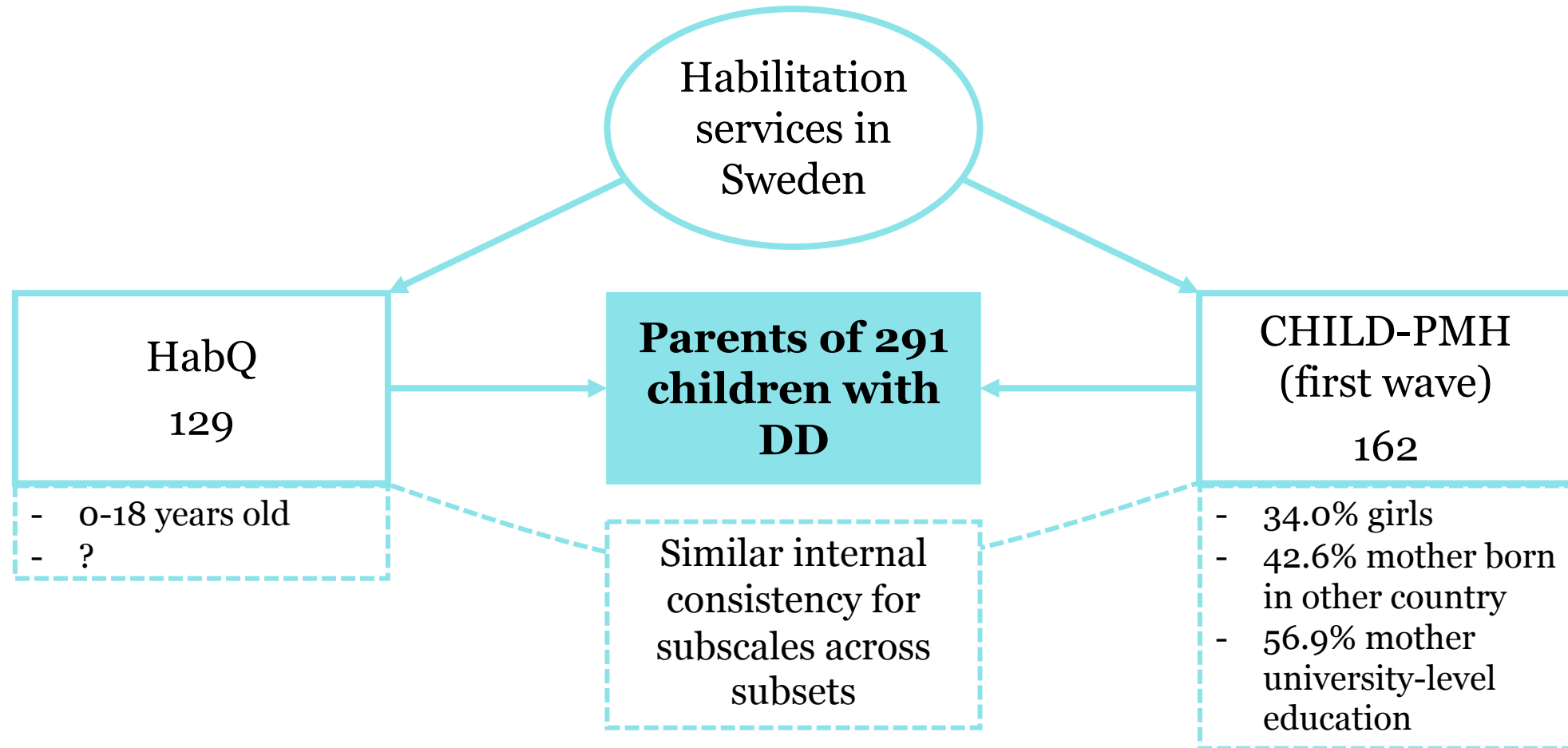
- Family functioning is important for a range of outcomes¹⁻⁴
- Negative emotional impacts on parents is often the only focus⁵⁻⁶
- Lack of Swedish evidence-based scales investigating a broad range of potential impacts
- SSF already in use
- No studies investigating aspects of validity so far
- Aim: to investigate the structural validity and internal consistency of the SSF



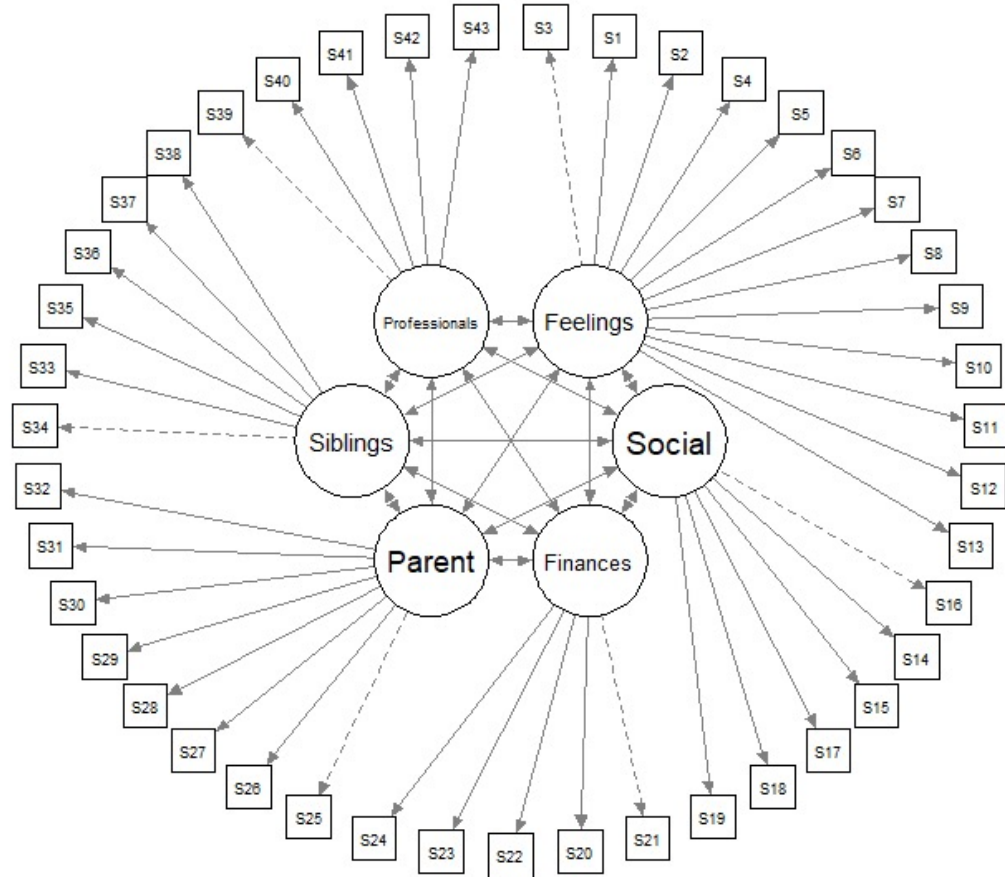
SSF: Further development and cultural adaptation of the family impact questionnaire (FIQ)⁷

Subscale	Negative impact (example)	Positive impact (example)	
Feelings and attitudes about your parenthood (13 items)	<i>Occasionally I am ashamed of my child</i>	<i>My child makes me feel pride and joy</i>	43 items (1=not at all; 2=a little; 3=rather; 4=very much)
Impact on your social life (5)	<i>I do not meet friends as often as I would like</i>	<i>I have made new friends thanks to my child</i>	
Impact on the family finances (8)	<i>The costs for my child is higher compared to those of other children</i>	<i>The childcare allowance provides a good financial supplement</i>	
Relationship to your partner/the other parent (6)	<i>My child causes conflict between us</i>	<i>I get support from my child's other parent</i>	
Impact on siblings (6)	<i>I am worried that I give too little attention and time with the siblings</i>	<i>The other children have matured thanks to their sibling</i>	
Contact with support system and professionals (5)	<i>It is difficult to gain access to high quality support</i>	<i>The professionals around my child work well together</i>	
Stamina and energy			0=no stress; 10=max. stress
Stress in everyday life			0=lethargic; 10=full of energy

Participants



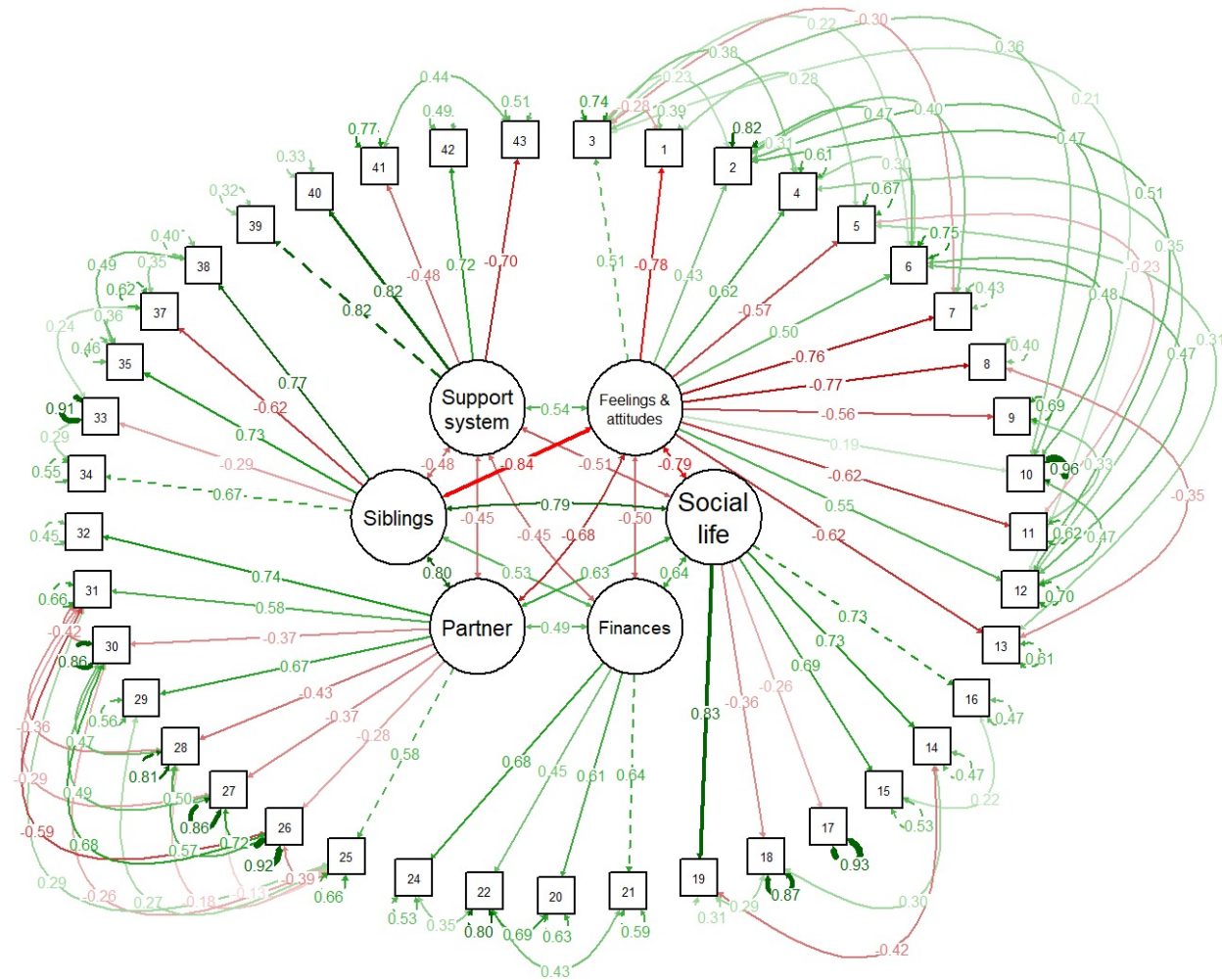
Analyses



- Confirmatory factor analyses
- Intra-factor residual correlations added
- Fit indices considered:
 - CFI (acceptable fit $\geq .95^8$)
 - $SRMR$ ($\leq .08$)
 - $RMSEA$ ($< .06$)
 - χ^2/df (≤ 2)
- Cronbach's α

The final model

- Two items did not contribute significantly to the model and were removed:
 - “The childcare allowance provides a good financial supplement”
 - “The other children have matured thanks to their sibling”
- 56 residual correlations added to final model



Model fit to data ok according to most indices

Table 1. Fit of the model to data.

	χ^2/df	<i>CFI</i>	<i>RMSEA</i>	<i>SRMR</i>
Model	1.75	0.91	0.05	0.078

Table 2. Internal consistency of the subscales.

	Cronbach's α	Interpretation
Feelings and attitudes	0.85	Good
Social life	0.70	Acceptable
Family finances	0.76	Acceptable
Relationship to partner	0.82	Good
Siblings	0.67	Questionable
Support system	0.80	Acceptable

The six-factor model works ok!

- SSF may be a useful tool in different services offering support to families with children with DD

Limitations

- Only one aspect of validity
- Lack of background data in the HabQ subset

Future research

- Other aspects of validity
- Effect of child and family characteristics

References

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Contact: magnus.lvarsson@liu.se

Thank you!