

### **Abstract**

**Objective:** Risk behaviors are the potentially harmful behaviors that can have adverse and irremediable consequences for individuals. This study also aims to construct and validate a high-risk behaviors scale. **Method:** A survey research method was used for the conduct of this study. The 15-34-year-old youths of Tabriz constituted the statistical population of this study. The results of this study indicated that the construct validity of risk behaviors has been confirmed in 98 items and 12 factors, including violence and aggression, risky driving, arbitrary use of drugs, suicide, online diversions, poor nutrition, lack of exercise, addiction to virtual networks, cigarette & tobacco smoking, alcohol drinking & drug use, unsafe sex, and gambling. The average variance extracted for all the dimensions was higher than 0.4, which demonstrates the appropriate internal validity of the measurement model. In addition, the reliability values of all the dimensions were obtained higher than 0.6, which is acceptable. **Conclusion:** The positive values of the shared index of all dimensions represents the quality and overall fit of the reflective measurement model of risky behaviors.

**Keywords:** risk behaviors, youth, validation, confirmatory factor analysis, measurement model

## **Construction and Validation of High-Risk Behavior Scale Application with Smart-PLS Software (Case of 15-34-year-old youths of Tabriz)**

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## Introduction

One of the social harms that seriously has threatened the family health and, consequently, the community's health, and in recent years, it has been considered as one of the most important problems in the community by healthcare organizations, law enforcement and policy makers as one of the existing problems in society due to rapid social changes, is the prevalence of risky behaviors among the various social classes, especially young people. Many believe that the youth period is a very critical period in which the risk factors in this era, in addition to the threat to individual life, can have adverse effects in the community as well their mental and social health. (Sa'adati, 2017). Young people are a very distinct group of people who, in the similar age group, are exposed to a variety of risky experiences and behaviors depending on the variety of individual conditions (Miles, 2013).

Despite activities in the past three decades, risky behaviors have progressively increased globally. According to the World Health Organization, the world's direct tobacco-related deaths are estimated at 2.7 million people a year, and this figure for Iran is about 50,000 (Barfi, 2015). On the other hand, official statistics of the country's addicts has stated 2 million people, with the average age of 18 years old, and the rate of drug use in Iran over the past 20 years has been more than tripled the population growth (Atatdokht and Porzor, 2016). Alcohol use is also rising today, with the consumption average age declining from 17 years to 14 years and about half of the youth drink alcohol (Hollen, 2014). Illicit sexual behavior is also a serious threat to individual and social health. By 1992, almost two and a half million people around the world died of AIDS, and 19.5 million people were diagnosed HIV positive. British statistics show a great increase in the prevalence of illicit sex transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, which shows a high prevalence of risky sexual deviations (Murphy, & Bennett, 2012). The suicide problem, despite many advances in various social, cultural and other fields, has a growing trend and also has adverse family and social consequences, as about 30,000 people commit suicide each year and the number of suicide victims is more than murder rate (Holmes and Holmes, 1392). Iran's Ministry of Health also reported at least 13 suicide cases per day, with an average age of 29 years. According to experts, the rate of suicide has tripled between the ages of 24 and 15 in the past 40 years (Porkhaton, 2014).

Considering risky behaviors among the youth and attempts for recognition and prevention since the late 1980s has begun in United States and has grown exponentially among other societies. Since 1991, the United States has designed and implemented a national program called "The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)" that assesses nine categories of risky behaviors -including violence, suicide, carelessness in driving, tobacco use, alcohol and drugs, risky sexual behaviors that are likely to develop AIDS or sexually

transmitted diseases, unhealthy nutrition behaviors, and lack of physical activity and exercise (Soleimaniya, 2005).

Generally, risky behaviors are divided into two groups. The first group includes behaviors that endanger the health of the individual themselves, and the second group is dedicated to the behaviors that threaten the health and well-being of other people in the community. One of the most dangerous behaviors threatening others can be anti-social behaviors such as robbery, aggression, escape from school, and sexual behaviors. One of the most dangerous behaviors that a person is at risk of which, is alcohol use, smoking and insecure sexual behaviors (Romiani, 2012 and Mohammadi, 2011). In another category, there are cases of smoking, alcohol use, drug use, using harmful substances and psychedelics, risky behavior, antisocial behavior, risky driving, early and unsafe sex, and eating disorders as most important risky behaviors (Bonino, Cattelino, & Ciairano, 2005).

Risky behaviors are behaviors that cause harm to the individual and the community (Zuckerman, 2006). The social stress theory of John Rhodes discusses the interaction and the relationship between stress, attachments, adaptive skills, and specified risk sources for drug use. According to this model, the probability of drugs use by a young person is considered as a function of unequal stress levels by these three variables (Ahmadi Jam, 2012). Fishbein & Ajzen emphasize the role of beliefs in the occurrence of risky behaviors. They are considered as the main reason for the person's tendency to risky behaviors, his expectations and interpretations about these behaviors; therefore, the characteristics and personality traits of a person and his relationship with peers who have risky behaviors are effective on cognitions, assessments and decisions of the youth about risky behaviors (Petraitis, Flay, Miller, Torpy, & Greiner, 2009).

According to environmental and social theory, the role of friends, parents, family structure and school environment is effective in developing risky behaviors. According to the aforementioned theory, parents and family have a significant influence on the attitude of risky family members, especially young people. A person may learn the occurrence of risky behaviors by observing and imitating parents' behavior. Jessor & Jessor in the analysis of risky behaviors, referred to the relationship between personality and social factors, and considered the occurrence of these behaviors arising from interpersonal and environment interactions. (Sa'adati, 2017). According to Jessor & Jessor, people may perform risky behaviors such as drugs, alcohol use and insecure sexual activity to be approved by their friends, be independent of their family, feel the social growth and maturity, and cope with stress and anxiety. Also, the negative outcomes of risky behaviors can threaten many growth-related issues and seriously impede youths from playing social roles (Valencia & Cromer, 2013).

He believes that one should be aware of the potential consequences of risky behaviors, and not just consider its health and living implications. According to

Jessor & Jessor, since the community accepts some of these behaviors from adults, but prohibits adolescents and young people from these behaviors, some young people may consider these behaviors as fundamental issues and in fact, they are a symbol of sophistication and the transition to adulthood (Flay & Miller, 2001).

In a study, Valencia & Cromer (2015) concluded that the experience of domestic violence, inappropriate sociability, low level of parental perception, low parental supervision, disputes in the family, and the presence of peers have a significant effect on the occurrence of risky behaviors (Drunk driving, drunk exercises, smoking, alcohol use, drugs use, delinquency) of the studied case. The results of the study of Wongtongkam, Ward, Day, & Winefield (2014), showed that there was a positive correlation between deviant peers and alcohol and drugs use. Also, the relationship between social participation (religious, scientific and educational activities) with drugs use is negative. The results of the research by Chanakira, O'Cathain, Goyder, & Freeman (2014) suggest that the social context of academic lifestyle through alcohol use, appropriate opportunities, reduced monitoring, individual and cultural differences (religion, attitude towards gender, social expectations, social class) has an effective role in providing sexual risk. The results of Simoes & Matos (2012) showed that negative life events (experiences of violence and conflict in the family, deviations in the family, the presence of deviant peers), and social and emotional qualities (support, trust, cooperation and communication, empathy, self-awareness and self-efficacy) have a significant relationship with risky behaviors. Also, there was a positive relationship between negative life events and risky behaviors, and the type of relationship between social and emotional qualities was also negative.

Quintiliani, Allen, Marino, Kelly-Weeder, & Li (2010) in a study on 1463 female students aged 18-22 years old in the United States University showed that among a variety of risky behaviors including: drinking, smoking, and not using contraceptives during sexual intercourse, nearly about 65% have experienced two types or more risky behaviors (Boustani, 2012). Joseph's findings revealed that AIDS-related illnesses are the main cause of the death of young women aged 25 to 34 years in the United States and are the third leading cause of death in the age group of 15-19 years. Also, UK study results showed that almost half of teenagers aged 16 and 17 experienced at least one illicit sex during the past one year (Murphy & Bennett, 2012).

Findings of Asadpour's research (2016) suggest that the tendency towards risky behaviors (smoking, fast food consumption, alcohol and drugs use) among the university students was moderate and the prevalence of risky behaviors among them was lower than moderate. The results of Rashid's research (2015) showed that experiencing of (hookah, smoking, sex, beating outside the home and experience of alcohol use) were the most prevalent risky behaviors among adolescents. The findings of the study of Molayi, Jani and Hashemi (2014), indicated that in male students, the mean of tendency to alcohol use was the

lowest and the average of the tendency towards the opposite sex had the highest level. In female students, the average of the components of sexual behavior was the highest level and the mean of the tendency to alcohol was the lowest. In this regard, one of the effective factors in reducing and preventing the risky behaviors of youth is identifying and studying the basic components of these behaviors. On the other hand, the regulation and design of measures for measuring the indigenous culture of the society to assess risky behaviors is one of the basic necessities of social science and psychology research. Given that the tools for assessing risky behaviors have not been considered by researchers so far, and the existing tools have not been comprehensive and they include only some of the components of risky behaviors, thus making a comprehensive and valid tool in this field would be necessary and the present study is also trying to compensate for this shortcoming through the Second – Order Confirmatory Factor Model. In fact, by using these types of models and testing them based on empirical data, we can find some evidences based on evaluating the validity of the scale defined by the researcher, so one of the main goals of the application of confirmatory factor models is constructing scientific standards from scientific aspects. In this research, the researchers attempt to build and validate a comprehensive scale for assessing risky behaviors using second-order confirmatory factor models.

## **Method**

### **Statistical population, statistical sample and sampling method**

The present study is survey based on data collection and is a cross-sectional in terms of time period and is an applied design in terms of purpose. The statistical population includes 579694 young people aged 15-34 years old in Tabriz city. Of these, 50 were randomly selected for data collection.

### **Instrument**

The data collection instrument is a researcher-made questionnaire on risky behaviors. The items of this structure were designed based on a Likert scale and at the rank assessment level. Risky behaviors are assessed in 12 factors including violence and aggression (4 items), risky driving (5 items), self-medication (4 items), suicide (7 items), Internet deviations (8 items), unhealthy nutrition (5 items), Inadequate movement (3 items), addiction to virtual networks (8 items), smoking and hookah use (14 items), alcohol and drug use (19 items), illicit sex (13 items), gambling (8 items). For data collection, the Smart-PLS software was used.

### **Results**

In the present study, to estimate validity, the questionnaire of risky behaviors, the content and construct validity were used. The content validity emphasizes the extent to which the referents determine the various aspects of the concept. An agreement on the content validity of a measure ultimately depends on the

conceptual definition that is designed to test it. On the other hand, the construct validity of the risky behavior questionnaire is evaluated through the second-order confirmation factor analysis technique using Smart-PLS software. The main objective of the confirmatory factor analysis is to determine the power of a predetermined factor model with a set of observed data. In other words, this method determines whether the number of factors that were measured is consistent with what was expected based on theory and theoretical model. In fact, it examines the degree of conformity and consistency between theoretical construct and empirical structure (Habib- Pour and Safari Shali, 2009). Structural Equation Modeling with a variable-based approach or partial least squares approach is the second generation of structural equation methods. Unlike the covariance approach, this approach has less dependence on the sample size, the level of measurement of variables, and the normal distribution of distributed data. In this approach, the structural part that shows the relationships between the hidden variables and the measurements section, which indicates the relations between the hidden variables with its items, are used in both the formative models model and the reflective model (Mohsenin and Esfidani, 2014). )

In order to measure the risky behaviors variable in this study, twelve factors (first-order hidden variables), including violence, risky driving, self-medication, suicide, virtual deviance, unhealthy nutrition, inadequate movement, addiction to virtual networks, smoking and hookah use, Alcohol and drug use, illicit sex, gambling, with 98 items are used based on Likert scale and at the rank assessment level. The results of the second-order confirmatory factor analysis indicate that the absolute value of the factor load of each of the observable variables corresponding to the hidden variable of that model is higher than 0.4 and is at an acceptable level. In order to evaluate the internal validity (convergent) model, the average variance extracted is used. For this index, the minimum acceptable value according to Magner and colleagues is 0.4 (Davari and Rezazadeh, 2013). The index for all aspects of the risky behavior structure was above 0.4, meaning that the hidden variables could explain above 40% of the observed variance, and therefore the convergent validity of the present model is confirmed. In order to test the fit and quality of the reflective measurement model of the present study, CV-Communality (CV Com) is used. This index is in fact the ability of the path model to predict the observed variables through their corresponding hidden variable values. The positive values of this indicator show the suitable quality of the reflective measure (Mohsenin and Esfidani, 2014). The values obtained for the CV-Communality are all positive and therefore the quality of the measured model is confirmed.

To estimate the reliability of the hidden variables of the reflective measurement model of the present study, Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability (Delville-Goldstein) are applied. The results of Cronbach's alpha indicate that the coefficients for all hidden variables in the measurement model are higher than 0.6 and are acceptable. Due to the superiority of composite

reliability, compared to the Cronbach's alpha, to examine the internal consistency of the measurement model, this index was also used. The results of the composite reliability index for all hidden variables in the model are higher than 0.7 which is acceptable and appropriate and indicates the appropriate reliability of the model. The composite reliability obtained for the structure of risky behaviors is also 0.930 (Table 1).

**Table 1: Results and Components of Factor Analysis of Items and Reliability Coefficients of Each Dimension of the Risky Behavior**

<i>Risky behavior dimensions</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>Factor loading</i>	<i>AVE</i>	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Composite reliability</i>	<i>CV Com</i>
Violence	Breaking and throwing glass and other things	0.781	0.691	0.853	0.899	0.687
	Damage to the property of others	0.886				
	The humiliation and threat of others	0.890				
Self- Risky driving medication		0.761	0.582	0.822	0.873	0.582
	Destruction of public facilities in the city	0.659				
	Not fastening seat belt while driving	0.840				
	Driving at unauthorized speed	0.762				
	Unauthorized and dangerous overtaking	0.770				
	Use of mobile while driving	0.773				
	Lack of attention to driving symbols	0.483				
	Self-medication of sleeping pills	0.692				
	Self-medication of anti-depressant drugs	0.783				
	Self-medication of sex-related drugs	0.716				
Suicide	Self-injection of ampule	0.842	0.774	0.952	0.959	0.765
	Suicidal ideation	0.863				
	The threat to suicide	0.919				
	Suicide attempt	0.878				
	Harming yourself while committing suicide	0.872				
	Suicidal intention	0.887				
	Providing suicide tools	0.896				
Internet pornography (virtual sex)	Sharing your suicide thoughts	0.917	0.777	0.959	0.965	0.776
		0.883				
	Membership in virtual networks with obscene and immoral content	0.905				
	Visit non-ethical and pornographic websites	0.863				
	Send porn photos and movies in internet	0.829				
	Demand for inappropriate photos and pornographic films in internet	0.812				
	View porn photos and movies	0.920				
Unhealthy nutrition	Publication of private messages and information of others in internet	0.918	0.412	0.700	0.713	0.403
	Demand for sex in internet	0.850				
	Having sex in internet	0.490				
	I'm very fond of red meat .	0.509				
	I refrain from using too much salt.	0.604				
	I refrain from using too much sugar.	0.604				
	I refrain from using fried foods.	0.643				

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<i>Risky behavior dimensions</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>Factor loading</i>	<i>AVE</i>	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Composite reliability</i>	<i>CV Com</i>
Inadequate use of cyber space	I'm fond of fast food.	0.662	0.666	0.846	0.853	0.625
	I walk every day	0.756				
	I practice several times a week.	0.994				
	Exercise is part of my life's plans.	0.820				
	I can not control using virtual networks.	0.904	0.745	0.949	0.958	0.744
	Even when I'm not online, messenger networks occupy my mind.	0.900				
	Mostly I'm online.	0.660				
	I prefer working in virtual networks to my family.	0.946				
	When I am not online, I feel bad.	0.886				
	Activity in virtual networks has disrupted my social life.	0.905				
Using cigarette and hookah	I don't eat food because of visiting virtual networks.	0.851				
	Activity on virtual networks has disrupted my sleep.	0.819				
	Smoking is enjoyable.	0.922				
	By smoking, I forget all my pains and sufferings.	0.812				
	If they give me cigarette in a family gathering, I don't say NO.	0.879				
	In my opinion smoking is not a problem.	0.884				
	I sometimes smoke for fun.	0.874				
	In most amusements with friends, I also smoke	0.892				
	To achieve relaxation, cigarette is the best.	0.855				
	By smoking, you feel young and happy.	0.954				
Alcohol and drugs use	Using hookah is enjoyable.	0.962	0.769	0.948	0.972	0.751
	By using hookah, I forget all my sufferings	0.938				
	If they give me hookah in a gathering, I don't say no.	0.931				
	In my opinion, using hookah is not a problem.	0.972				
	In my opinion, the hookah is not a problem.	0.950				
	Sometimes I use hookah for fun.	0.884				
	In most entertainment with friends, I use hookah.	0.879				
	Drinking Alcohol makes us happy.	0.843				
	Drinking wine is enjoyable	0.851				
	By drinking wine, I forget all my pains and sufferings.	0.912				
	If they give me wine in a family gathering, I don't say NO.	0.854				
	If you don't overdrunk, drinking wine is not a problem.	0.921				
	When I am with my friends, we usually drink.	0.799				
	Sometimes I have some drinks for fun.	0.806				
	In order to relax, drinking wine is the best.	0.792				
	Drinking wine makes us happy and young.	0.739				
	Unlike drugs use, wine doesn't harm the body.	0.902				
	Drinking wine in family gathering and marriage ceremonies is good.					



**Table 1: Results and Components of Factor Analysis of Items and Reliability Coefficients of Each Dimension of the Risky Behavior**

<i>Risky behavior dimensions</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>Factor loading</i>	<i>AVE</i>	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Composite reliability</i>	<i>CV Com</i>
<b>Illicit sex</b>	Drugs use makes us happy.	0.908	0.690	0.958	0.963	0.688
	Drug use is enjoyable.	0.811				
	With the use of drugs, adolescents are having problems and pains in life.	0.905				
	If they give me drugs in parties, I don't say NO.	0.749				
	When I am with my friends, I usually use drugs.	0.792				
	Sometimes I use drugs for fun.	0.721				
	To achieve calm, drugs are the best.	0.663				
	It is wrathful to use drugs at least once.	0.818				
	Premarital sex increases the awareness and experience of people	0.769				
	Premarital sex is essential to find the right person to marry.	0.859				
	I would love to have sex with someone I do not know.	0.708				
	Today it is not necessary to keep your virginity before marriage.	0.821				
	Before marriage, one must experience a lot of sexual relationships.	0.901				
	Today, extra-marital sex is not a problem.	0.859				
	Having sex with a person rather than your spouse is good for its variety.	0.899				
	There is no problem sometimes that you have sex with someone other than your wife.	0.872				
	You can sometimes have sex with an unknown person for fun.	0.658				
	Among my friends, there are those who have sex with the opposite sex.	0.853				
	I am inclined to sex with the opposite sex (other than the spouse).	0.915				
	I am ready to have sex with various people.	0.712				
<b>Gambling</b>	In an out-of-wedlock relationship, you must use a condom.	0.742	0.714	0.924	0.939	0.709
	Gambling is not a problem for me.	0.659				
	Gambling is a pleasure for me.	0.711				
	In most amusements with my friends, we also do gambling.	0.812				
	Many times in our gambling and bets, we insult each other.	0.679				
	I have been blamed for gambling.	0.682				
	I've borrowed several times to gamble.	0.789				
	We have sold something for gambling.	0.802				

**Table 1: Results and Components of Factor Analysis of Items and Reliability Coefficients of Each Dimension of the Risky Behavior**

<i>Risky behavior dimensions</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>Factoring load</i>	<i>AVE</i>	<i>Reliability</i>	<i>Composite reliability</i>	<i>CV Com</i>
<i>risky behavior</i>	-	-	0.527	0.980	0.930	0.400

To estimate the discriminant validity(divergence) of the model, the Fornell & Larcker matrix is used. According to this AVE index, a hidden variable should be more than the correlation of that hidden variable with other hidden variables, which indicates that the correlation of that hidden variable with its observables is greater than its correlation with other variables (Seyyed Abbas Zadeh, Amani Sari Baglou, Khezri Azar and Pashavi, 2012).

**Table 4: Fornell & Larcker Discriminant Validity (Divergence) Matrix**

<i>Constructs</i>	<i>Violence</i>	<i>Risky driving</i>	<i>Self-medication</i>	<i>Suicide</i>	<i>Internet pornography</i>	<i>Unhealthy nutrition</i>	<i>Inadequate movement t</i>	<i>Addiction to internet networks</i>	<i>Using cigarette and hookah</i>	<i>Using alcohol and drugs</i>	<i>Unhealthy sexual intercourse</i>	<i>Gambling</i>
<b>Violence</b>	0.831											
<b>Risky driving</b>	0.436	0.762										
<b>Self-medication</b>	0.550	0.410	0.678									
<b>Suicide</b>	0.832	0.340	0.653	0.879								
<b>Internet pornography</b>	0.447	0.468	0.536	0.418	0.881							
<b>Unhealthy nutrition</b>	0.285	0.166	0.173	0.227	0.320	0.641						
<b>Inadequate movement t</b>	0.241	0.238	0.114	0.147	0.40	0.057	0.816					
<b>Addiction to internet networks</b>	0.765	0.553	0.579	0.760	0.470	0.376	0.241	0.863				
<b>Using cigarette and hookah</b>	0.621	0.412	0.504	0.631	0.534	0.112	0.053	0.441	0.898			
<b>Using alcohol and drugs</b>	0.412	0.483	0.651	0.485	0.672	0.237	0.201	0.418	0.558	0.849		
<b>Illicit sex</b>	0.235	0.480	0.469	0.289	0.757	0.189	0.008	0.278	0.600	0.800	0.83	
<b>Gambling</b>	0.231	0.322	0.255	0.556	0.441	0.379	0.122	0.402	0.281	0.344	0.14	0.82

As shown in the table, based on the results of the Fornell & Larcker matrix, the squared AVE values are higher for all hidden variables (dimensions) found in the below and right houses of the main diameter, so it can be admitted that the latent variables in the present model have more interaction with their observables

than other structures, in other words, divergent validity of the model is suitable and verified.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

Risky behaviors are one of the most important threats to the health of the family and the health of the community. Today, the prevalence of these behaviors, especially among young people, is causing many life, financial, and psychological losses to families, in such a way that risky behaviors are one of the most important and widespread concerns of human society. Considering the young age structure of the country and considering that this social class is one of the most vulnerable sectors of society against risky behaviors, it is evident that any failure in the physical, psychological, and social conditions, resulting in reduced progress in society. Accordingly, the present study was conducted with the aim of constructing and validating a scale to assess the structure of risky behaviors.

The results of the confirmatory factor analysis for assessing the construct validity of the risky behaviors scale showed that the factor loadings obtained from each of the components of the risky behaviors were higher than 0.4 and it was suitable. The value obtained for the average extracted variance index for all dimensions was higher than 0.4 and was acceptable and showed the convergent validity of the measured model. Also, the results of the analysis of the Fornell and Larker matrix showed that the extracted mean variance values for all hidden variables (factors) were greater than the correlation between them. In other words, the divergent validity of the model is also verified. Also, composite reliability coefficients for all components included violence and aggression (0.899), risky driving (0.873), self-medication (0.768), suicide (0.995), internet deviations (0.965), unhealthy nutrition (0.713), inadequate movement (0.883), addiction to virtual networks (0.958), smoking and hookah (0.972), alcohol drugs use (0.985), illicit sex (0.996), gambling (0.939), and finally the risky behavior (0.930) as higher than 0.7, and is suitable and acceptable. The positive values obtained for the CV-Communality also indicate the appropriate quality and fit for the reflective measurement model of risky behaviors.

Generally, it can be concluded that very few studies have been conducted on the construction and validation of risky behaviors. In a study by Zadeh-Mohammadi et al. (2011), seven dimensions the risky behaviors include drugs tendency, tendency to alcohol, tendency to smoking, tendency towards violence, tendency to sexual behavior, tendency toward relationship with the opposite sex and tendency to drive dangerously using factor analysis technique as measurable components. Also, in the research of Diverdinia (2015), risky behaviors include four factors including "drugs use, alcohols use, psychedelics and sexual deviations, Vandalism and robbery, forgery and aggression have been identified and validated and a part of the results of mentioned researches is consistent with the results of the present study. Generally, the studies on risky behaviors have

been mostly about the university and school students in Iran. Also, in most studies, a few components of risky behaviors such as smoking, alcohol, violence and aggression, risky driving have been investigated, and new and prevalent components such as suicide, self-medication, internet pornography, unhealthy nutrition, inadequate movement, addiction to virtual networks and gambling have not been considered. The present study has investigated a combination of risky behaviors in a complete set among young people and it is attempted to build and validate a comprehensive instrument for measuring the incidence of high-risk behaviors among young people. Considering the results of second-order confirmatory factor analysis, this result was obtained and it can be concluded that twelve components can be used to assess risky behaviors in this study among young people.

The results of this study can be useful by applying a scale designed to assess risky behaviors aimed at preventing and reducing this social harm and promote the goals of some organizations such as law enforcement center, welfare organization, family, Media, education, Universities and other institutions related to the subject and it can be used by researchers social sciences, psychology, medical sciences and health fields.

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