

Does a model of father involvement developed with American fathers also fit Brazilian fathers?

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Abstract. To examine cultural influences on fathering, we compared American and Brazilian models of father involvement, using the Inventory of Father Involvement, completed by 200 Brazilian fathers. Results indicated similarities concerning fathers' perceptions of involvement in tasks related to the present, and differences concerning their long-term expectations for their children.

INTRODUCTION

- **Father involvement:** important for children's lives and for the parents' own wellbeing¹
- **In Brazil:** no published studies reporting the development of a psychometric measure of father involvement^{2, 3}

important for: (a) cross-cultural comparisons
(b) evaluation of intervention programs for fathers



The Inventory of Father Involvement (IFI)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mother support | 8. Discipline and teaching responsibility |
| 2. Providing | 4. Time and talking together |
| 3. Attentiveness | 5. School encouragement |
| 4. Praise and affection | 6. Reading and homework support |
| 9. Developing talents and future concerns | |

- Dimensions with adequate internal consistency⁴



The Brazilian version of the IFI

Paschoalick (2008)⁶; (2009)⁷

1. Cross cultural adaptation of the IFI → IFI-BR
2. IFI-BR: Internal consistency (global score) $\alpha = .89$

Santis (2015)^{5,8}

3. IFI-BR: External validity

Correlations with measures of child and adult development

Objective

Father involvement American = Brazilian ?



Compare IFI and IFI-BR

- Internal consistency
- Internal structure

METHOD



Participants → 200 Brazilian fathers

- Fathers' age: $M = 39.5$ ($SD = 7.42$)
- N. of children: $M = 1.9$ ($SD = 0.84$)
- Target child: between 5 and 10 years old

Measures

- Sociodemographic questionnaire
- Inventory of Father Involvement – Brazilian version: IFI-BR →
 - 26 items
 - father self-evaluates the quality of his involvement (0, "very poor" to 6, "excellent")
 - Alpha = .89⁷

Data analysis procedure

1. Normality and item discrimination

2. Internal structure

3. Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA)

Acceptable: $\alpha > .60$

American structure

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Internal consistency (IFI-BR)

F1 - F8⁴: $\alpha = .65$ to $.82$ ✓

F9 - Developing talents and future concerns ✗

CFA (IFI-BR)
8 factors (23 items)

Factor excluded

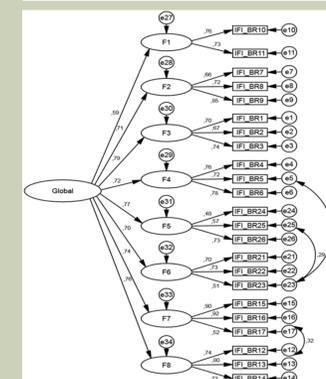


Table 1. Reference Values and Adjustment Indices for the Eight-Factor Model of the IFI-BR

	Factor weights	χ^2/df	CFI ¹	RMSEA ²	SRMR ³
Reference values	> .40	< 5	> .90	< .08	< .08
IFI-BR	≥ .59	1.86	.901	.066	.067

¹ Bentler Comparative Fit Index (CFI)

² Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA)

³ Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR)

- **American and Brazilian fathers:** different views of children's talent development → Explore paternal behaviors related to long-term child-development goals.
- **IFI-BR:** a new tool for making advances in research and intervention work with fathers, in Brazil, that can be articulated with findings obtained using the IFI.

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