PORTUGUESE VERSION OF THE INVENTORY OF FUNCTIONAL STATUS - FATHERS (IFS-F): VALIDATION STUDY

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Portuguese version of the Inventory of Functional Status - Fathers (IFS-F): Validation study

- **Background**
  - Postpartum
  - Infant care
  - Personal care
  - Family responsibility
  - Community responsibility
Background

Paternal functional status is defined as:

- A multidimensional concept that encompasses the continuation of or increase in the man’s usual household, social and community, childcare, personal care, occupational, and educational activities during pregnancy and the postpartum, and his assumption of infant care responsibilities during postpartum.

(Tulman, Fawcett, Weiss, 1993, p.276)
Objective: to validate the Inventory of Functional Status-Fathers (IFS-F) to the Portuguese version, showing its reliability and validity, adapted to first-time fathers in the postpartum period.

Methods: The development of the Portuguese version of IFS-F followed two directives

(a) the linguistic and cultural adaptation to Portuguese language and

(b) the psychometric study of this version, comparing it with the original.
Methods:

- IFS-F (7 dimensions - 51 items in a 5 point likert scale)
- The Portuguese version of the IFS-F (used 6 dimensions related to postpartum), was applied to an accidental non probabilistic sample of 204 first-time fathers from a Health Centre, after the approval of the ethic committee.

- (inclusion criteria: read and write; pregnancy, delivery and postpartum of the partner without complications; childbirth of a term new born).
Results: The test-retest of the inventory has a high temporal stability;
- The observed values of the coefficient $\alpha$ ranged from 0.332 to 0.753 internal consistency similar to those found by the authors (Tulman, Fawcett and Weiss, 1993).

Comparison of psychometric properties of IFS-F and its dimensions in the original and Portuguese version

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>$\alpha$ global Portuguese version (Mendes, Coelho and Rodrigues, 2010)</th>
<th>$\alpha$ global original version (Tulman, Fawcett and Weiss (1993))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic activities</td>
<td>0.550</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and community activities</td>
<td>0.332</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care activities to the newborn</td>
<td>0.753</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care activities</td>
<td>0.629</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational activities</td>
<td>0.678</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational activities</td>
<td>0.528</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results:

First-time fathers showed better functional status:
- professional activities,
- community and social activities and housekeeping

First-time fathers showed poorer functional status:
- educational training,
- care of newborns and personal care activities

Older first-time fathers tend to show better functional status at the level of household activities;

The functional status is partially influenced by employment status.
Results:

This study concludes that the functional status of first-time fathers:

- partially influenced by the father’s age and employment situation.
- isn’t affected by the father’s studies, residence, marital status or by the prenatal care.
Conclusion and implications for clinical practices:

- the Portuguese version (IEF-P) adapted to the neonatal period lead us to consider:
  - This instrument very useful to define the functional status of the first-time fathers in the specific evaluation dimensions, becoming right to the planning of family care in the post partum;
  - Its utility as a guidance to health professionals to evaluated and to promote a healthy involvement of fathers during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum of their partners.
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Bibliography


Thank you for your attention