AN INVESTIGATION OF PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF THE REVISED FAMILY COMMUNICATION PATTERN (RFCP) SCALE

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Although in the research of pro–environmental behavior there is some evidence that children and adolescent can be important source of positive influence on their parents’ engagement in environment friendly behavior (Ballantyne, Fien, & Packer, 2000), little is known in this field. Thus, it is important to analyze psychological mechanisms of child to parent influence in pro-environmental behavior. Considering aspects of family communication as significant, theoretical construct of Family Communication Pattern (FCP) (McLeod et al., 1972) was analyzed. Research shows that FCP can be related to many individual outcomes including consumption and shopping behaviors (Schrodt, Witt & Messersmith, 2008) which is relevant to environment friendly behavior research. To find out if FCP could be employed to explain child to parent influence in pro–environmental behavior informative and reliable measures are crucial. As not much is known about effectiveness of Revised Family Communication Pattern (RFCP) scale (Ritchie & Fitzpatrick, 1990) in research of pro–environmental behavior, aim of this study is to explore psychometric properties and use possibilities of the scale in sample of adolescents.

Data for this study is taken from the ongoing longitudinal intervention study GOGREEN. Adolescents sample was drawn from intervention piloting stage: $N = 450$ (52% girls), age of adolescents from 14 to 17 ($M=15.24$, $SD=0.64$). Results confirmed two factor structure of RFCP (model fit: $\chi^2 (274) = 470.01$, $\chi^2/df = 1.72$, CFI = .931, RMSEA = .043 [.037-.05]), so constructs of conversation and conformity orientation were confirmed. Cluster analysis revealed that based on different levels of mentioned communication orientation four types of families can be distinguished. Further analysis showed that these families are different in all investigated environment friendly behaviors. Findings highlight that RFCP scale could be used in research of pro-environmental behavior and child to parent influence in particular, so further research is needed.