

Conceptual Structure of Mothers' Needs for Grandmothers' Childcare Support and Development of Measurement Tools in Japan

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Background

In Japan, grandparents are an important support system for parents raising their children. Hence, there is a need for projects to improve grandparents' ability to support child-rearing and for indicators to evaluate such projects. However, there is a lack of knowledge about what these projects should be based on.

Aim of the study

The study examined mothers' needs related to grandmothers' knowledge and skills regarding childcare support by developing a conceptual structure, and verified this structure's reliability and validity as a measurement tool.

Methods

A self-administered questionnaire survey was conducted on mothers raising infants aged under four years. Excluding those who met the exclusion criteria such as single-parent families, 410 mothers were included in the analysis, and validation and confirmatory factor analyses were conducted. This study was approved by the Ethical Review Committee of the author's institution.

Results

Three factors and 18 items were extracted as factors comprising the conceptual structure of needs related to grandmothers' childcare support. The overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient was sufficient with high internal consistency. The goodness of fit of the model met the statistically acceptable level and construct validity was confirmed.

Conclusions and implications

The structure of needs related to grandmothers' childcare support was clarified and could be quantified. The results can be used as indicators to evaluate the support methods and projects for public health nurses to improve their ability to support childcare by grandparents.