

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to explore the nature of objective and subjective social economic status for secondary students in Macau. The sample consists of 512 secondary one to six students from 12 schools. There are three types of social economic status scales used: conventional objective, non-conventional (possession) objective and subjective social economic status scales. These scales have been used in previously research with different samples. Comparatively speaking, this study has similar distribution with previous research, but with less missing values because of the co-operations from teachers.

From this study, the correlations among different types of scales are low, but are high within each scale. This indicates the fundamental different in nature of three types of scales.

Conventional objective scales use least number of questions but less reliable. The non-conventional (possession) objective scales are more reliable but have to use many questions. The subjective scales are more convenient and depend only on the subjective feelings of students. However, the subjective scales have the highest correlations with background variables and academic performance of students, and are statistically very significant.

Keywords: social economic status, subjective social economic status scale, objective

social economic status scale