

Development and Validation of the Adolescent Victimization Perception Questionnaire in Iranian Adolescents

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Victimization has increased in recent decades and is now considered a concerning factor for public health. Adolescents are vulnerable and impressionable, and their early experiences of inappropriate relationships and victimization may potentially create a pattern for their future unhealthy relationships. This study aimed to design and validate a tool to measure the perception of victimization in Iranian adolescents.

Methods and Materials: This descriptive and survey-based study included a statistical population of adolescent students aged 12 to 20 years. The sample was purposively selected and calculated to be 343 participants based on Mueller's formula. The research instrument initially comprised 49 items, which were reduced to 44 items after analysis. Data analysis was performed using exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis methods. The research data were analyzed using SPSS19 and LISREL8.8 software.

Findings: The results of exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the Victimization Perception Questionnaire has five factors: emotional-mental, behavioral (verbal and non-verbal), virtual, sexual, and physical. The validity of this questionnaire was confirmed by experts' opinions. The construct validity of the Victimization Perception Questionnaire was examined using exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. To assess the reliability of the questionnaire studied in this research, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated for the entire test and the five discovered subscales. Accordingly, the reliability coefficients for the overall scale and the five identified dimensions were 0.94, 0.91, 0.84, 0.91, 0.89, and 0.78, respectively.

Conclusion: Based on the results of this study, this scale has appropriate reliability and validity for measuring the perception of victimization in Iranian samples.

Keywords: Victimization perception, validation, victimization, adolescents

1. Introduction

Victimization is one of the negative life events defined as repetitive passive behavior performed intentionally by one or more individuals over time between the perpetrator and the victim (Mei et al., 2021). In essence, victimization refers to exposure to aggressive behavior intended to cause harm, characterized by a power imbalance (Zhu et al., 2022). Victimization is defined by three main features: intentional harm, repetitive behavior, and power imbalance (Ng et al., 2020). Victimization may occur in any relationship, especially in friendships and romantic relationships; victimization in such relationships includes mistreatment and sexual, physical, and psychological violence. Sexual violence, compared to other forms of violence, has specific characteristics. According to some estimates, the rate of physical and psychological aggression in romantic relationships is equal for both men and women. However, on average, women are more often victims of sexual violence than men (Steele et al., 2022).

Victimization can have lasting effects on children and adolescents, persisting into adulthood (Salimi et al., 2019). Adolescence is a developmental period during which various behaviors may endanger an individual's health and pose a threat to their well-being. Adolescents, as one of the vulnerable groups, are exposed to various psychiatric disorders (Halliday et al., 2021; Smokowski & Evans, 2019). Victimization is a common experience for adolescents. Victimization in a relationship during adolescence may lead adolescents to believe that relationships are based on power and control and that mistreatment is a normal part of intimate relationships (Smokowski & Evans, 2019). Previous research indicates that victims, compared to their non-victimized peers, have more mental health and social relationship problems, as well as more negative academic experiences (Evans et al., 2014; Hosseini, 2023). The consequences of victimization are more serious for women and girls (Halliday et al., 2021; Pontes et al., 2021); female victims are in a worse condition compared to male victims, especially in terms of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts (Halliday et al., 2021).

Research shows that victimization has a significant negative relationship with positive emotions and quality of life and a significant positive relationship with negative emotions (Huang, 2021), substance abuse (Pontes et al., 2021), depression (Lotfi et al., 2014; Mei et al., 2021), anxiety, anger (Lotfi et al., 2014), suicidal thoughts (van Geel et al., 2014; Zhu et al., 2022), suicide attempts (van

Geel et al., 2014), and psychological maladjustment (Játiva & Cerezo, 2014). Additionally, the presence of negative characteristics in victims, such as introversion, low self-esteem, low self-efficacy, belief in their own incapability, and lack of assertiveness to defend themselves, gradually leads to feelings of helplessness and hopelessness about their ability to bring about any change in the current situation, providing the basis for repeated future victimizations (Hosseini, 2023). Therefore, appropriate interventions to help victims by increasing empowerment and enhancing the ability to cope with bullying behaviors, and consequently reducing victimization, are necessary.

Given the importance of victimization in adolescence, this issue is a major concern for developmental psychology experts, particularly those focusing on adolescence, as well as other stakeholders. Identifying its dimensions is highly significant. The importance of understanding the dimensions of victimization has led to the development and validation of tools in this field, such as the Adolescent Peer Relations Instrument (APRI) (Parada, 2000), which includes two main components: bullying and victimization, each with three subcomponents: verbal, social, and physical; the Child Abuse Self-Report Scale (CASRS) developed for Iranian students, based on four dimensions of neglect, sexual, physical, and emotional abuse by Mohammadi Khani et al. (2003) (Mohammadkhani et al., 2003); the Online Victimization Scale (OVS) for adolescents, comprising three subscales: general, sexual, and racial (Tynes et al., 2010); the Workplace Victimization Perception Questionnaire (Sasso, 2013); the Persian version of the Bullying and Victimization Scale, including four dimensions: verbal, social, physical, and other methods (Rezapour et al., 2013); the Sexual and Physical Harassment Questionnaire, based on a two-dimensional structure of visual-verbal and physical harassment (Vega-Gea et al., 2016); the Adolescent Bullying Victimization Scale (Harbin et al., 2019), which includes three dimensions of direct, indirect, and value-based victimization; and the Adolescent Bullying and Cyberbullying Scale, examining victimization through 20 items covering four dimensions: physical, verbal, relational, and virtual (Thomas et al., 2019); the Emotional Abuse Questionnaire (EAQ) (Momtaz et al., 2022), which includes six dimensions: verbal abuse, emotional rejection, excessive control, insufficient authority, high expectations, and intimidation.

Reviewing and examining the tools developed for measuring victimization shows that most studies have focused on identifying limited dimensions of victimization

(such as victimization in school and among peers), and most of the conducted studies have overlooked the dimensions of victimization in today's world (such as the emotional and mental dimensions of victimization or victimization in virtual spaces) and have relied on a traditional and limited definition of victimization. Additionally, the tools developed in domestic studies do not comprehensively cover all dimensions of victimization for adolescents, and given cultural differences, it is not possible to simply use foreign tools to measure victimization.

Considering the above, it seems that the existence of a domestic tool based on internal concepts and theoretical studies is necessary to meet the needs of researchers. Moreover, any intervention to reduce victimization requires understanding the phenomenon, and an appropriate tool can facilitate understanding of victimization and determine the effectiveness of interventions in the target community. Therefore, the main issue of this research is to design and validate a Victimization Perception Questionnaire for adolescents. Consequently, this study investigates the validity and reliability of the Victimization Perception Questionnaire for adolescents.

2. Methods and Materials

2.1. Study Design and Participants

This research employed a cross-sectional survey method. To construct and validate the Victimization Perception Questionnaire for adolescents, a combination of researcher-made scales and existing studies in this field was used. The statistical population of this study included adolescents aged 12-20 years living in Tehran. There is no general agreement on the necessary sample size for factor analysis and structural models; however, many researchers agree that a minimum sample size of 200 participants is required. In exploratory factor analysis, 10 to 20 participants are needed for each variable, with a minimum sample size of 200 being defensible (Kline, 2023). Based on the above and using Mueller's formula, 7 participants were considered for each item, resulting in a total of 343 participants selected purposively from the statistical population. Accordingly, after identifying virtual channels related to adolescents and class groups, the questionnaire link (created on the Persal website) was provided to the participants. The criteria for inclusion were complete consent and voluntary participation, being a student, being in adolescence (12 to 20 years old), and exclusion criteria included inaccuracy in responding due to response bias, not residing in the target

geographical area, and not being in the adolescent age range. The ethical considerations of this study included: providing all participants with written information about the research at the beginning of receiving the questionnaire link and allowing participation only if they wished; ensuring participants that all information is confidential and used for research purposes only; and not recording participants' names to respect privacy.

2.2. Measures

2.2.1. Victimization Perception

This questionnaire was designed based on a review of psychometric indicators and includes 44 items and 5 dimensions (emotional-mental with 11 items, behavioral (verbal and non-verbal) with 11 items, virtual with 10 items, sexual with 6 items, and physical with 6 items). The scoring scale of this tool was designed based on a four-point Likert scale ranging from very high to very low. The reliability of this scale, based on Cronbach's alpha coefficient, was calculated as 0.94 for the overall construct and from 0.78 to 0.94 for its subscales. The content (face) validity of this questionnaire was confirmed by experts, and its construct validity was confirmed through exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis.

2.3. Data analysis

For statistical analysis, exploratory factor analysis was used, and responses were analyzed using SPSS19 and LISREL8.8 software.

3. Findings and Results

Descriptive findings showed that out of a total of 343 participants in the study, 161 were girls (46.9%) and 182 were boys (53.1%). Based on age, 24 participants were under 15 years old (7%), 189 participants were aged 15 to 16 years (55.1%), 105 participants were aged 16 to 18 years (30.6%), and 25 participants were over 18 years old (7.3%). The validity of the Victimization Questionnaire was initially confirmed using content validity based on the opinions of several psychologists and psychometrics experts. The construct validity of the Victimization Questionnaire was examined using exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis methods.

Exploratory factor analysis was conducted on the Victimization Questionnaire with 49 items. The initial results of the principal component analysis for this

questionnaire indicated that after removing 5 unsuitable items due to inappropriate factor loadings, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy was 0.95, and Bartlett’s test of sphericity was 10557.747, which was significant at the 0.001 level. Therefore, given the high KMO value and the significance of Bartlett’s test, the

correlation matrix and sample size were appropriate for conducting exploratory factor analysis. The identified dimensions in the questionnaire, along with the eigenvalues and the variance explained by each dimension, are presented below.

Table 1

Variance Index and Eigenvalues

Factor	Total Variance (%)	Cumulative Variance (%)	Eigenvalue
1	37.99	37.99	16.72
2	11.52	49.52	5.07
3	5.49	55.01	2.41
4	3.64	58.65	1.61
5	3.57	62.22	1.57

Based on [Table 1](#), the principal component analysis with varimax rotation was used. Statistical characteristics indicated that the eigenvalue of five factors was greater than

one, and these factors could explain approximately 62% of the total variance of the victimization variable.

Table 2

Rotated Component Matrix

Item	Emotional-Mental	Behavioral	Virtual	Sexual	Physical
Q5	0.72				
Q2	0.71				
Q7	0.71				
Q6	0.69				
Q9	0.68				
Q3	0.68				
Q8	0.66				
Q4	0.66				
Q11	0.62				
Q10	0.62				
Q1	0.61				
Q2		0.75			
Q3		0.75			
Q4		0.74			
Q5		0.71			
Q1		0.68			
Q6		0.63			
Q10		0.59			
Q8		0.55			
Q7		0.53			
Q11		0.50			
Q9		0.38			
Q5			0.79		
Q8			0.77		
Q6			0.70		
Q4			0.70		
Q7			0.69		
Q2			0.67		
Q3			0.61		
Q4				0.76	
Q5				0.75	
Q1				0.74	

Q2	0.73	
Q6	0.65	
Q8	0.60	
Q3	0.57	
Q7	0.56	
Q10	0.53	
Q10		0.79
Q4		0.78
Q6		0.75
Q2		0.75
Q3		0.74
Q1		0.57

Based on [Table 2](#), the exploratory analysis showed that the factor loadings for 5 items were not adequate, and they were removed from the model. Thus, the factor loadings for Q6 (Have you ever faced a painful situation where others treated you less than you deserved?), Q14 (Have you ever been forced to do things you didn't want to do because of threats?), Q15 (Have you ever been hurt by false rumors or lies spread about you by others?), Q40 (Have you ever received text messages with sexual content against your will?), and Q43 (Has anyone ever sent you offensive and shameful messages in virtual spaces?) were not satisfactory, as any item with a factor loading less than 0.3 should be removed from the questionnaire. Thus, the identified factors in the Victimization Questionnaire comprised 11, 11, 7, 9, and 6 items respectively, with the factor loadings for each item in intersection with the relevant identified factor shown in [Table 2](#). Based on the content measured by each dimension, the identified factors in the Victimization Questionnaire were named as follows: emotional-mental, behavioral (verbal and non-verbal), virtual, sexual, and physical.

Based on [Figure 1](#), the fitted model for confirmatory factor analysis of the Victimization Questionnaire in standard coefficients was confirmed. The findings of the confirmatory factor analysis supported the exploratory factor analysis results, indicating a five-factor structure of

victimization, as the obtained standard coefficients for all questions were calculated to be above 0.3.

Based on [Figure 2](#), since the obtained t-value for all items related to all dimensions of the Victimization Questionnaire was above 1.96, all items have the necessary validity for inclusion in the questionnaire. Any item with a t-value above 2.38 confirms its validity for measuring the relevant factor, which is true for the items in the Victimization Questionnaire. Overall, the results of the confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the five-dimensional structure of the Victimization Questionnaire has the necessary validity. After confirming this model, the fit indices were examined.

The root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) is a fundamental fit index in structural equation modeling. If it is less than 0.1, the model fit is confirmed. In the present study, given that the RMSEA was 0.067, the model fit was confirmed. The second index, chi-square divided by degrees of freedom, was 2.38, confirming the fit as it was less than 5. Additionally, when the values of the Standardized Fit Index, Comparative Fit Index, Incremental Fit Index, Relative Fit Index, and Goodness of Fit Index are equal to or greater than 0.9, the model fit is confirmed. Based on [Table 3](#), all these indices in this model were above this value (0.96, 0.97, 0.97, 0.97, and 0.91, respectively). Therefore, the overall fit of the Victimization Questionnaire model is confirmed.

Figure 1

Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Victimization Questionnaire Dimensions in Standard Coefficients

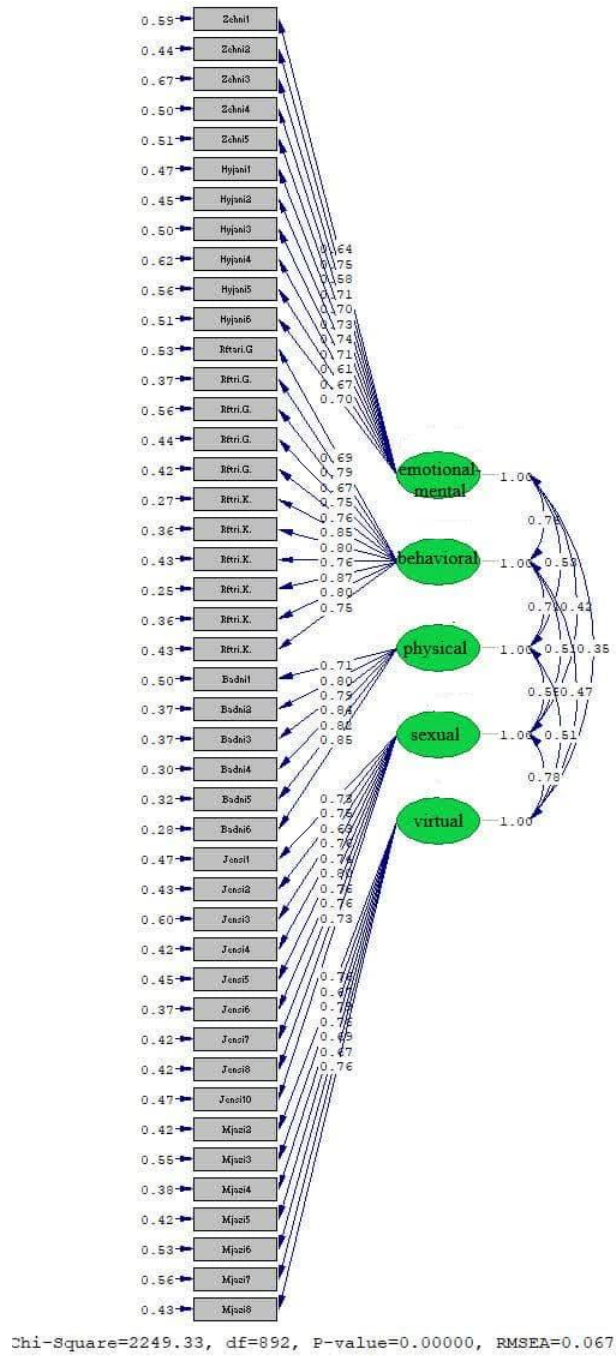


Figure 2

Confirmatory Factor Analysis of the Victimization Questionnaire Dimensions in Significance Coefficients

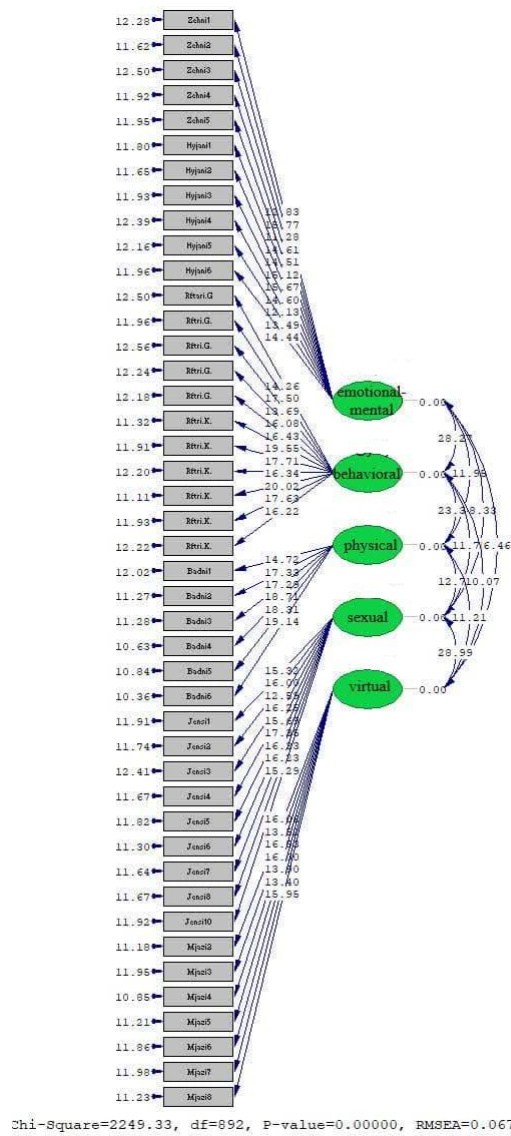


Table 3

Model Fit Indices for the Victimization Questionnaire

Fit Index	Index Value	Fit Status
RMSEA	0.067	Acceptable
Standardized Fit Index	0.96	Acceptable
Comparative Fit Index	0.97	Acceptable
Incremental Fit Index	0.97	Acceptable
Relative Fit Index	0.95	Acceptable
Goodness of Fit Index	0.91	Acceptable
Chi-square/DF Ratio	2.38	Acceptable

To assess the reliability of the questionnaire in this study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated for the entire test and the five discovered subscales. Accordingly, the

reliability coefficients for the overall scale and the five identified dimensions were 0.94, 0.91, 0.84, 0.91, 0.89, and 0.78, respectively.

Table 4

Norms of the Victimization Questionnaire Based on Z and T Scores

Raw Score	Z Score	T Score	Raw Score	Z Score	T Score	Raw Score	Z Score	T Score
86	1.36	63.62	44	-0.26	47.36	2	-1.89	31.09
88	1.44	64.39	46	-0.19	48.13	4	-1.81	31.87
90	1.52	65.17	48	-0.11	48.91	5	-1.74	32.56
92	1.60	65.98	50	-0.03	49.68	6	-1.66	33.34
94	1.67	66.72	52	0.05	50.45	10	-1.58	34.19
96	1.75	67.49	54	0.12	51.23	12	-1.50	34.97
98	1.83	68.26	56	0.20	52.01	14	-1.43	35.74
100	1.91	69.05	58	0.28	52.78	16	-1.35	36.52
102	1.99	69.82	60	0.36	53.55	18	-1.27	37.29
104	2.07	70.60	62	0.43	54.33	20	-1.19	38.06
106	2.15	71.38	64	0.51	55.10	22	-1.12	38.84
108	2.23	72.16	66	0.59	55.87	24	-1.04	39.61
110	2.31	72.94	68	0.66	56.65	26	-0.96	40.34
112	2.39	73.72	70	0.74	57.42	28	-0.88	41.16
114	2.47	74.50	72	0.82	58.20	30	-0.81	41.94
116	2.52	75.28	74	0.90	58.97	32	-0.73	42.71
118	2.60	76.06	76	0.97	59.75	34	-0.65	43.48
120	2.68	76.84	78	1.05	60.54	36	-0.57	44.26
122	2.76	77.62	80	1.13	61.29	38	-0.50	45.03
126	2.84	78.40	82	1.21	62.07	40	-0.42	45.81
128	2.91	79.16	84	1.28	62.84	42	-0.34	46.58

Based on Table 4, the norms of the Victimization Questionnaire were obtained based on standardized T scores with a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 10. In this formula, T is the standardized score of the calculated Z scores for the raw scores obtained from participants' responses, which is based on the following formula: $T = 10Z + 50$. To determine the level of victimization, cut-off points were determined based on the scores obtained in this test. For this purpose, four groups of individuals were identified based on the calculation of quartiles of the T scores. The first group consisted of individuals with T scores less than 42 and were called the mild victimization experience group according to the Victimization Questionnaire scale. The second group obtained T scores between 42 and 48 and were called the moderate victimization experience group. The third group consisted of individuals with T scores from 48 to 57, named the significant victimization experience group, and the last group with T scores below 57 was named the severe victimization experience group according to the Victimization Questionnaire scale.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The aim of the present study was to develop and validate a tool to measure the perception of victimization among adolescents, tailored to the socio-cultural characteristics of

Iran. For this purpose, 343 adolescents residing in Tehran were purposively sampled. The results of the factor analysis revealed five factors: "emotional-mental," "behavioral," "physical," "sexual," and "virtual." The findings presented in Table 1 indicated that the sample adequacy test was highly satisfactory, demonstrating that the selected sample was adequate for the study. Next, the results of the scree plot test in Figure 1 and the evaluation of the eigenvalues of the dimensions in Table 2 showed that these factors explained 62% of the total variance in the perception of victimization.

Subsequently, confirmatory factor analysis was used to verify the results of the exploratory factor analysis. According to the results, and the calculation of the t-value for all questions in all dimensions, the exploratory factor analysis was confirmed. Furthermore, the appropriateness of the fit indices indicated a good fit for the victimization perception measurement questionnaire. The content validity of the scale was confirmed by experts. The construct validity of the Victimization Questionnaire was examined using exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis methods. The reliability of the tool, based on Cronbach's alpha coefficient, was 0.94 for the overall scale and 0.91, 0.84, 0.91, 0.89, and 0.78 for the five identified dimensions, respectively. Based on the results of this study, this scale has appropriate reliability and validity for measuring the perception of victimization among Iranian samples.

A review of previous research on victimization revealed that most tools developed in this area have focused on identifying limited dimensions of victimization, such as school victimization, and have relied on traditional and limited definitions of victimization. No tool was found domestically that comprehensively examines the psychological (emotional-mental), behavioral, physical, and sexual dimensions of victimization among adolescents while also including both real-world and virtual victimization. However, some dimensions identified in this study have been assessed in previously developed tools, aligning the results of this study with previous research findings.

The findings of this study on the perception of victimization indicated that the identified dimensions and factors encompass many different aspects and components of victimization as described in previous theories and studies. Thus, the developed questionnaire can be considered as encompassing a set of components identified in previous theories and research (Harbin et al., 2019; Mohammadkhani et al., 2003; Momtaz et al., 2022; Parada, 2000; Rezapour et al., 2013; Sasso, 2013; Thomas et al., 2019; Vega-Gea et al., 2016).

Data analysis showed that the emotional-mental dimension is one of the aspects of victimization perception that has not been widely addressed in both domestic and international victimization research. However, some studies have addressed the emotional aspect of victimization and mistreatment, supporting the findings of Mohammadkhani et al. (2003) and Momtaz et al. (2022). Examples of emotional-mental victimization perception include being humiliated, feeling powerless, experiencing mental distress, and experiencing negative emotions such as anger and hatred (Mohammadkhani et al., 2003; Momtaz et al., 2022). Explaining this finding, it can be said that recognizing the prevalence and occurrence of emotional forms of violence and abuse is probably very difficult because this type of abuse is often the most hidden (Lombard & McMillan, 2013). One study found that the most commonly experienced form of emotional abuse is "mockery," reported by nearly half of the girls and one-third of the boys (Lombard & McMillan, 2013). Overall, from the perspective of those who have been victims of intimate partner violence, psychological abuse inflicts the most pain and damage both in the short and long term (Hayes & Jeffries, 2015). The effects of this type of victimization are profound; without self-esteem, individuals do not feel validated. When someone, especially someone we value highly, demeans our spirit, sometimes recovery never occurs (Murray, 2009).

Over time, emotional abuse can damage a victim's self-esteem, leading to feelings of worthlessness or believing they deserve the abuse (Markovics, 2012).

Another result of the present study is the extraction of the behavioral dimension of victimization perception as the second dimension, which includes verbal and non-verbal behaviors. Victimization can occur directly through behaviors such as threatening and name-calling, or indirectly through actions such as spreading rumors and social exclusion (Ng et al., 2020). The behavioral dimension of victimization includes cases such as being ignored, being teased (either through behavior or verbally using nicknames). The prior findings (Parada, 2000; Rezapour et al., 2013; Thomas et al., 2019; Vega-Gea et al., 2016) support this finding. One study found that this type of victimization is very common in relationships, with more than a third of girls reporting that their intimate partners yelled at them or called them derogatory names, and 35% stating that they were told negative things about their appearance, body, friends, or family (Lombard & McMillan, 2013).

The physical dimension is the third aspect of victimization perception. This dimension includes cases such as being pushed, beaten, injured, and experiencing severe pain due to hostile behavior by others. Previous studies' findings align with the results of this research (Parada, 2000; Rezapour et al., 2013; Thomas et al., 2019; Vega-Gea et al., 2016). Explaining this finding, it should be noted that physical abuse is the most familiar form of abuse, including physical violence against another person, such as slapping, pushing, choking, kicking, and punching. Physical abuse rarely stops with one attack. In fact, this type of abuse often increases over time, and the attacks may become more violent (Markovics, 2012). Research has shown that girls generally suffer more from severe violence and physical abuse than boys (Lombard & McMillan, 2013). Among the harms of exposure to physical abuse are the development of future abusers or victims, as well as causing terror, shame, and violent anger in the individual. People affected by physical abuse tend to be aggressive toward others, have difficulty in their relationships, and show very little ability to empathize with others. Studies also indicate that significant neurological damage can occur due to head injuries during physical abuse (Engel, 2005).

The sexual dimension is one of the aspects of victimization perception mentioned in both domestic and international victimization research, identified as the fourth dimension in this study. This dimension includes cases such

as being sexually touched, being forced to engage in sexual behaviors, having photos or videos with sexual content taken of the individual, and having forced sexual intercourse. Previous studies' findings align with the results of this study (Mohammadkhani et al., 2003). Sexual abuse occurs when an individual forces another person to engage in sexual behavior. Such behavior may include inappropriate touching, sexual intercourse, or unwanted sexual contact. Sexual abuse can occur within the family, romantic relationships, and friendships (Markovics, 2012). Like other types of abuse, sexual abuse not only causes victims to suffer from low self-esteem but also leads to other harms such as emotional and psychological problems, as well as a strong tendency to express anger through inappropriate social methods. If sexual abuse occurs at a younger age, it may lead to specific problems. Survivors of sexual abuse experience chronic issues in their future relationships, particularly in their ability to establish intimate emotional and sexual relationships with others (Engel, 2005). Sexual assault, which includes a range of behaviors from unwanted contact to full rape, has risen alarmingly and leads to numerous harmful consequences for victims and society. Although primary prevention efforts targeting potential offenders are critical, to date, primary prevention efforts alone have not been effective in reducing sexual assault. Sexual assault prevention will be effective if it is comprehensive and addresses multiple risks and protective factors for perpetration and victimization experiences (Edwards & Sessarego, 2018).

The virtual dimension is the fifth and final dimension of the Victimization Perception Questionnaire identified in this study. This dimension includes cases such as receiving violent messages in virtual spaces, being insulted and mocked online, and having one's secrets and private information exposed on the internet. Previous studies have also addressed this dimension (Tynes et al., 2010). Explaining this finding, it can be said that nowadays, victimization occurs in both real and virtual spaces. With the advancement of technology and the increasing use of the internet, individuals may also be victimized online. Cyberbullying is often recognized as a subset of traditional bullying occurring in a new context (the internet) (Arató et al., 2022). This type of bullying, similar to traditional bullying, occurs using mobile phones (calls and text messages) and social media with the intent to harm others, humiliate, or threaten others in a repetitive and hostile manner (Ng et al., 2020; Vismara et al., 2022). In this type of bullying, an individual who possesses power overtly

abuses their greater power and attempts to intimidate the other person through aggression (Hellfeldt et al., 2020). Research in the field of virtual victimization indicates that this type of abuse is positively associated with negative outcomes such as depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and overall lower levels of well-being (Hellfeldt et al., 2020; Martínez-Monteagudo et al., 2020).

5. Limitations & Suggestions

Overall, victimization has widespread impacts, occurring in various contexts and different relationships. Different studies have addressed various dimensions of victimization. The importance of addressing these components suggests that the presented questionnaire identifies components that, in addition to considering all aspects of victimization perception in adolescents, can offer a new structure for understanding this concept. From the definitions and concepts related to victimization, it seems that this construct has a culture-dependent nature. Therefore, cultural considerations were taken into account in the development of this questionnaire, achieving a kind of compatibility and coherence between this questionnaire and Iranian culture, as confirmed by experts. Additionally, this tool can be appropriately used by researchers for conducting research activities. By identifying different dimensions of victimization perception, specialists and counselors can determine an individual's status and use it to enhance their abilities.

Among the applications of the Victimization Perception Questionnaire for adolescents is its usability in schools and mental health clinics. Using this tool in the school environment at the beginning of each academic year can provide school officials and counselors with important information about students. This likely provides specific information to school authorities about the prevalence and types of victimization among their students, allowing them to consider implementing interventions tailored to the students' needs identified using this tool. In future research on victimization, this tool can be used before and after interventions aimed at reducing victimization and as a means to help design interventions and assess their impact on victimization perception. Additionally, mental health professionals can use the Victimization Perception Questionnaire for adolescents during assessments to provide a more comprehensive range of treatment for adolescents.

This study has several limitations. Firstly, the participants in this research were adolescents residing in Tehran, which

reduces the generalizability of the findings. Therefore, it is recommended that this research be conducted on various samples, both normative and non-normative, on a broader scale. Additionally, conducting this research in other provinces of the country can make the use of this scale more valid and reliable.

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Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

Declaration of Interest

The authors of this article declared no conflict of interest.

Ethics Considerations

The study protocol adhered to the principles outlined in the Helsinki Declaration, which provides guidelines for ethical research involving human participants.

Transparency of Data

In accordance with the principles of transparency and open research, we declare that all data and materials used in this study are available upon request.

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Authors' Contributions

All authors contributed equally.

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