

PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF THE SCALE OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS SEXUALITY ATSS IN YOUNG PERUVIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract - The general objective of the present research is to determine the psychometric properties of the ATSS (Attitudes Towards Sexuality scale) in Peruvian university students. The research design was basic and instrumental. The sample comprised 310 participants of both sexes (men and women), aged between 16 and 36, who were pursuing a university degree. The results obtained in the exploratory factor analysis demonstrated acceptable fit indices, and the reliability of the instrument calculated using the internal consistency method was found to be adequate ($\alpha > 0.60$). The psychometric characteristics of the inventory have been confirmed, thus enabling the generation of new knowledge and the development of tests that validate and expand its dimensions, particularly in the domain of human sexuality. This facilitates a more profound comprehension of the psychological components involved in decision-making, which, in turn, influences attitudes and sexual behavior.

Keywords: Sexuality, attitudes, validity and reliability.

La presente investigación tuvo como objetivo general hallar las propiedades psicométricas de la escala de actitudes hacia la sexualidad ATSS en estudiantes universitarios peruanos. El tipo de investigación fue básica y con un diseño instrumental, la muestra empleada fue de 310 participantes de ambos sexos (hombres y mujeres), con edades entre los 16 a 36 años, quienes se encuentran estudiando una carrera universitaria. Los resultados obtenidos en el análisis factorial exploratorio expusieron índices de ajuste aceptable, referente a la fiabilidad del instrumento calculado mediante el método de consistencia interna seña lo ser adecuada ($\alpha > 0.60$). Se ha confirmado que el inventario tiene características psicométricas sólidas, lo que autoriza la creación de nuevos conocimientos y pruebas que validen y amplíen sus dimensiones, especialmente en el ámbito de la sexualidad humana, fomentando un entendimiento más profundo de los aspectos psicológicos involucrados en la toma de decisiones, lo cual a su vez repercute en las actitudes y comportamiento sexual.

Palabras clave: Sexualidad, actitudes, validez y confiabilidad.

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary context, there has been an observed increase in sexual activity among young people, which has been attributed to the limited data to which they have access. This phenomenon has been associated with an increase in sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancies (Moreno, 2022). Despite the perennial controversies surrounding discussions on sexuality, it remains the responsibility of parents to educate and guide their children on this subject. Consequently, this approach enables young individuals to circumvent potential pitfalls that could compromise their well-being or even result in perilous consequences. However, many parents elect to refrain from addressing issues related to eroticism, instead preferring to avoid these topics altogether. This can result in young people seeking information from alternative sources, such as friends, television, social networks, and so forth (Tapia, 2021).

The concept of sexuality is regarded as a deeply personal experience, inextricably intertwined with the fundamental human need for intimacy and privacy. The text addresses the individual, exploring social implications concerning sexual and interpersonal relationships, in addition to biological aspects. Concepts

pertaining to sexual behavior are intricate, multifaceted, and influenced by a variety of cultural, social, and religious factors. It is imperative to acknowledge and embrace the heterogeneity in individuals' cognitive processes and behavioral manifestations concerning sexual conduct (UNESCO, 2018).

According to Lorayco and Patilla (2020), the average duration of sexual activity for women is approximately 17 years, whereas for men it is approximately 14 years. A significant proportion of the young population embarks on their sexual journey without foreseen preparation. The mean number of male sexual partners for women is approximately four, while the mean number of female sexual partners for men is approximately seven. The birth rate is 3.3 children in rural areas and 2.3 children in urban areas. The current number of teenage pregnancies among adolescents aged 15 to 19 years old is 13.9%, and the percentage of school dropouts due to pregnancy is 88.6%. These statistics indicate that the country has the highest school dropout rate in South America. It has been determined that 99.7% of women of reproductive age are aware of at least one method of contraception (Bauer et al., 2020).

Moreover, young people encounter various obstacles, including cultural barriers, discriminatory policies, and inadequate infrastructure, which hinder their ability to develop in a safe and healthy manner. The issue of sexual well-being presents a multifaceted challenge, necessitating a comprehensive approach that encompasses educational initiatives, enhanced access to healthcare services, policy modifications, and the restructuring of social structures. The provision of essential instruments and resources to young individuals has been demonstrated to engender substantial enhancements in their overall health and well-being (Quispe, 2020).

According to reports from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), approximately 340 million sexually active individuals contract a sexually transmitted infection annually, with half of these cases occurring among the youth population. Consequently, 67% of young people have been engaged in sexual activity since the age of 16, and approximately 500 individuals contract sexually transmitted infections daily, with more than 50% of these cases involving young people (PAHO, 2022). A considerable number of young individuals are oblivious to their sexual inclinations due to a lack of awareness, shyness, and a general disinclination to engage in sexual activities (Surita, 2021).

The advent of technology has precipitated a paradigm shift in the attitudes of young people toward sexuality, culminating in a 55% prevalence of unfavorable attitudes. This phenomenon has engendered profound societal changes, manifesting in altered sexual behaviors and a paucity of sexual expression (García, 2020). A significant proportion of the population is comprised of young people, with an average age of sexual debut of 15 to 17 years for women and 16 to 17 years for men. Consequently, 12.5% of women aged 15 to 19 have experienced at least one pregnancy, 9.9% are currently mothers, and 2.6% are first-time mothers. A similar trend is observed in the pregnancy rate among adolescents aged 15 to 19, which stands at 67.5%. These demographic experiences an annual incidence of more than 115,000 pregnancies, resulting in approximately 362 maternal deaths per 100,000 pregnancies. Additionally, the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among this age group is noteworthy, with approximately one in twenty young people being affected. Therefore, it has been determined that 4,444 young people have become one of the demographic groups that require basic medical attention in Peru (Campos, 2020).

The situation is of public health concern. Therefore, it is imperative to raise awareness among young people regarding issues of human sexuality. It can be posited that an adolescent's comprehension of and sentiments toward sexuality are molded by their personal history and the knowledge they glean independently, with some information being imparted at an early stage in the family environment by a relative with a certain degree of erudition. In the United States, there is an absence of educational programming on human sexuality that is primarily targeted towards various school levels and incorporates the involvement of teachers and parents. In the absence of such a program, there is a risk of observing irresponsible and risky behaviors regarding physical and emotional sexual health at this stage (Salazar, 2021).

According to the literature, it is imperative to implement an instrument that can assess the perspectives on eroticism in young students in the city of Tarapoto. It is also essential to ascertain its psychometric advantages to evaluate its validity and reliability. It is imperative to acknowledge the adaptations implemented in Spain, which have yielded favorable outcomes, thereby substantiating the instrument's capacity for adaptation to diverse environments. However, the absence of tools to measure the variable or any other similar one in the city suggests a lack of importance in evaluating problems related to human sexuality.

The formulation of the research problem is as follows: The objective of this study is to ascertain the psychometric values of the ATSS scale of attitudes in young university students.

The underlying rationale for this study is to substantiate its theoretical and practical relevance. This study aims to enhance the existing body of knowledge concerning attitudes toward sexuality among young university students. It offers valuable and accurate information to the scientific and educational community. By

addressing a matter of significant pertinence and providing reliable and valid data, the research employs scientific knowledge in a manner that will have a positive impact on the pedagogy of sexuality and the well-being of university students.

The practical relevance of the research is significant, as it not only deepens the knowledge of current issues related to youth sexuality but also provides timely and truthful reviews with techniques adapted to the local reality and recognized. Those interested in measuring attitudes towards sexuality can use the instrument provided by this research, which has proven validity and reliability for the district. The results obtained from this study provide a foundation for the development of strategies that aim to support young university students. Moreover, social justification addresses a contemporary issue related to the knowledge and attitudes of young university students regarding sexuality. The objective of this initiative is to provide valuable information to the scientific and educational community, thereby clearly benefiting young people by optimizing their perspectives and knowledge. In addition, the initiative aims to help young people consider relevant options that promote their general well-being and progress.

The overarching objective of the research is to ascertain the psychometric evidence of the ATSS attitude scale in young university students in Tarapoto, 2024. The initial specific objective is to ascertain content validity through expert judgment. The second specific objective is to identify the construct validity through factor analysis, and the third specific objective is to identify the reliability of internal consistency.

This segment references psychometric studies conducted internationally on attitudes toward sexuality, among other subjects. The objective of the research conducted on the scale was to ascertain its psychometric characteristics. The present study is grounded in the 14-item ATSS by Fisher and Hall, yet it has been augmented by Ruibal et al. (2005). This expansion has resulted in a comprehensive instrument comprising 28 questions, which draws upon the conceptual framework of true attitude or denial (liberal or conservative) directed towards several fundamental facets of sexuality. The study sample comprised 4,910 students from the first to the fifth cycle of various degree courses at the University of Vigo. The age range of the participants was from 17 to 52 years. The 28-item ATSS was administered during school hours. The findings indicate that the items exhibit substantial differences between positive and negative attitudes, and they demonstrate sufficient homogeneity. The scale demonstrated an internal consistency coefficient of .84. The scale's validity is indicative of its effectiveness.

The research by Ocaña et al. (2019) was conducted in Mexico with the objective of investigating the psychometric characteristics of the scale adapted to Spanish (TMMS-24) using a sample of 3,270 individuals of different genders, considered to be between 17 and 23 years old. Bartlett's test of degrees of freedom, with a p-value of <.000, was utilized to confirm the feasibility of the model through confirmatory factor analysis. The reliability indices for the attention factor were determined to be 0.857, for the clarity factor, 0.899, and for the repair dimension, 0.846, which was deemed to be sufficient.

Bello et al. (2015) sought to underscore the development and reliability of an instrument designed to assess sexual perception. The process was executed in two distinct studies, with each study contributing to different aspects of the development and validation of the instrument. In the Colombian Caribbean region, a group of 965 individuals aged 11 to 19 participated in a pilot test comprising 150 questions, which was subsequently narrowed down to 78. The Protection Attitude Scale demonstrated a Cronbach's alpha of 0.93, while the Abstinence/Delay Attitude Tool exhibited an alpha of 0.88, along with a total correlation exceeding 0.6. The test on beliefs classified with relative guidelines demonstrated Cronbach's alpha of 0.98, indicating a substantial degree of internal consistency. It also exhibited fair equality to reciprocities greater than 0.66, with a mean of 3.79 and a standard deviation of 1.08. The instrument designed to evaluate subjective notions and norms about reproductive sexuality in men is a valuable tool for evaluating and improving programs aimed at promoting sexual satisfaction in this demographic group.

Bonilla and Rivas (2020) developed a scale on romantic love myths (SMRL) designed and validated with a sample of 1,168 university students. The instrument's utility in future research and educational programs is twofold: first, it will serve to address and dismantle prevailing myths surrounding the concept of love; and second, it will promote a healthier and more realistic understanding of love. To validate the underlying structure of the data set, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis techniques were employed as statistical methods. The examination encompassed four distinct models: single factor, independent, correlated, and bifactorial. The effects provided suitable safety factors and demonstrated the unidimensionality of the SMRL. The study's inclusion of favorable quantitative characteristic materials facilitates the examination of beliefs about romantic love in Spain.

Scandurra et al. (2020) theorized that their interest was based on a hierarchical social system that privileges heterosexuality and the gender binary. The present study addressed these aspects by evaluating numerical typologies on heteronormative attitudes and statements (HABS). This instrument assesses fundamental and binary convictions concerning gender, in addition to associated normative behaviors. In the aforementioned study, 574 cisgender, heterosexual individuals belonging to sexual and gender minorities participated, aged between 18 and 77 ($M = 34.66$, $SD = 11.13$). Participants were recruited for a cross-sectional online survey. The type of components (HABS) aligns sufficiently with the Italian model; however, a review of specific components is necessary to enhance their reliability. Moreover, the observed correlations and differences between groups underscore the significance of heteronormativity in diverse psychological and social contexts, and the necessity for additional research to promote a more inclusive society.

Álvarez et al. (2022) conducted a psychometric study on machismo, utilizing tests that evaluate analogous characteristics such as sexism and sexual roles. The objective of this study was to generate psychometric evidence using quantitative procedures of an instrumental and representative nature. The questionnaire was administered to 351 Colombian university students. The mean age of the participants was 22 years ($SD = 2.98$). An exploratory factor analysis was subsequently employed to verify the components of the questionnaire, thereby providing confirmatory evidence in support of the initially proposed model. The empirical evidence indicated that the instrument exhibited unidimensionality, accompanied by adequate internal reliability and a satisfactory degree of goodness of fit ($\alpha = 0.87$; $\omega = 0.87$; $TLI = .97$; $CFI = .98$; $GFI = .98$; $RMSEA = .08$). Furthermore, the study revealed minimal adaptation, yet its reliability and ease of adjustment evaluations were constrained. Consequently, the indicators of reliability and construct validity of EMS-12 and EMS-12R demonstrate their suitability for use in the university community.

Research conducted within the national context has yielded pertinent information regarding the validity and reliability of psychometric instruments. In regard to the research conducted by Álvarez and Sandoval (2020), the objective was to evaluate the effectiveness and precision of the instrument employed to assess the perception of sexuality in Trujillo. The researchers surveyed 500 individuals between the ages of 60 and 90, who were members of various social groups of older adults in the locality. It was demonstrated that the initial model of the test necessitated certain modifications to better align with the sexual attitudes of older adults. Furthermore, discrepancies were identified between the CASV Lima and Colombia studies. A subsequent analysis revealed a multitude of discrepancies in the sexual attitudes of the elderly.

Carranza (2023) stated that the objective of the present research was to ascertain the quantification characteristics of the Gaudibility scale in young people in the province of Otuzco. The evaluation was executed using the applied type and an instrumental design on 359 female and male secondary school students. The results of the AFC reflect a distribution of five extensions with statistical effects that support the validity and reliability of the instrument. Its administration can be used to calculate social construction in a reliable way. On the total scale, the alpha reliability is 0.73, and the omega reliability is 0.75. The Cronbach's alpha values for the dimensions range from 0.42 to 0.66, while the McDonald's omega values range from 0.52 to 0.70. The study's findings substantiated the reliability and validity of the test.

Paredes (2020) conducted a study to analyze the characteristics of the psychometric inventory of expression about state of anger (STAXI2) in individuals who have received martial and police education in the city of Trujillo. The study sample comprised a total of 649 participants, including both men and women. The psychometric properties were subsequently analyzed after applying the STAXI2 inventory. The findings indicate that the inventory demonstrates precision and deductive reasoning based on data obtained through expert criteria, thereby achieving importance, clarity, and correspondence of the instrument according to the item test procedure. In this procedure, items with $r > .20$ were considered valid. The fit is satisfactory (GFI and $CFI > .90$), according to the results of the confirmatory factor analysis. The original inventory, which comprised six dimensions, was reduced to four factors. The value of $\alpha = .83$ indicates that the reliability of the instrument is deemed acceptable due to the presence of internal consistency. The concept of homogeneity was found to be a unifying factor, contributing to the overall significance of the work. The scales were meticulously crafted at regular intervals.

Self-efficacy is a critical variable in the development of elective social actions concerning abnormal behavior. In a study by Anicama et al. (2022), the general self-efficacy scale was employed to adjust a variety of locations around the world. The objective of the study was to obtain numerical evidence regarding self-efficacy, with a sample size of 1,100 students. The findings revealed that the distribution was normal and that the coefficients of reciprocity between the test items exceeded 30. The test items exhibited an unidimensional type with a common factor ($\chi^2/df = 4.465$; $GFI = .974$; $CFI = .973$; $TLI = .964$; $RMSEA = .056$; $SRMR = .0273$; $AIC = 191.329$), indicating an appropriate fit. Furthermore, inverse correlations were identified between the test

of tension in the face of communicable diseases and the social anxiety test for adults. The present study corroborates the psychometric validity and reliability of the instrument in university students Lima.

Chapoñan (2020) sought to analyze the quantitative components that facilitate the evaluation of the questionnaire's validity and reliability in measuring distorted thoughts about women and the use of power. The study employed the technique with subjective choice of participants, selecting 282 male university students between 16 and 38 years of age ($M=19.24$, $SD=3.25$). The data from the confirmatory factor analysis demonstrated that the one-dimensional factor structure exhibited acceptable fit indices, while the reliability was automated by the reliable measurement procedure ($\alpha > 0.70$). It is concluded that the inventory possesses adequate psychometric characteristics, thereby enabling the extension of other knowledge and the addition of new validity tests.

Despite extensive research, no studies have been identified that address local psychometric research based on the variable, and even fewer focus on the ATSS scale of attitudes toward sexuality.

The theoretical underpinnings elucidated in numerous research studies underscore the significance of the study. Sexual responsibility has been demonstrated to contribute to an individual's overall well-being, facilitating the attainment of satisfaction and pleasure. Furthermore, it has been observed to promote autonomy and self-esteem, while concurrently reducing the potential for adverse outcomes. It is imperative to approach the subject of sexuality from a positive and respectful perspective, ensuring that sexual experiences provide satisfaction and security and are free from pressure, emotional manipulation, persuasion, and the use of force. The concept of sexuality can encompass a variety of dimensions, including thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, and attitudes. However, these dimensions are not necessarily experienced or expressed concurrently or in a uniform manner. The overall well-being of individuals is inextricably linked to their sexual well-being (Quispe, 2020).

Diaz et al. (2018) underscore the significance of sexuality, as articulated and substantiated, in order to comprehend how individuals conceptualize, experience, and perceive sexuality. Erotophilia has been demonstrated to have a positive impact on bodily and emotional well-being. Conversely, eroto phobia has been associated with mental health concerns. Attitudes, therefore, are the result of the interaction between statements, emotions, intentions, and tendencies. These components can vary significantly between individuals and influence their self-perception. These attitudes are shaped by a combination of beliefs, feelings, and intentions, and their influence on sexual behaviors is a subject of considerable research interest (see, e.g., Vamos et al., 2020).

Libido is closely associated with the organism and its sexual apparatus, which primarily function to reproduce and perpetuate the species, thereby ensuring the survival of the individual over time. The sexuality of all human beings is fundamental and manifests itself through values, behaviors, myths, and social relationships. The concept under discussion is associated with human sexuality, the experience of pleasure, the establishment and maintenance of trust, eroticism, the process of procreation, and the presence of an erotic disposition. A multifaceted interplay of emotional, biological, economic, social, and cultural factors is implicated in the phenomenon (Calero, 2017).

According to Silva et al. (2018), the development of youth is contingent upon their perception of sexuality. In the event that the perception is favorable, the youth seek to acquire knowledge and comprehend the pivotal elements that will facilitate enhanced performance. Conversely, if the perception is unfavorable, it will exert various consequences on psychosocial development.

Sexuality constitutes an integral and fundamental aspect of human identity, developing throughout the entirety of an individual's life. The precise definition of the concept is open to debate; however, there is a broad consensus that it constitutes a distinctive and intricate dimension involving the articulation of our desires, needs, emotions, and reflections concerning pleasure, love, attraction, and intimacy (García & Godino, 2019).

According to Rojas (2019), sexuality constitutes a significant component of strength and quality of life, exerting a pervasive influence on diverse facets of our existence. It is imperative to acknowledge the significance of sexuality as an integral component of human existence and to prioritize initiatives that promote holistic well-being. As posited by Bustamante (2022), human sexuality is theorized as a pivotal component of our developmental trajectory, spanning from birth to death. This component comprises a multitude of dimensions, including but not limited to personality, biological sex, sexual behavior, enjoyment, reproduction, intimacy, and sexual preference. Throughout the course of life, these dimensions interrelate and evolve, exerting influence on and being influenced by the personal and social experience of each individual.

The intricate characterization of human sexuality gives rise to numerous inquiries and emotional responses, particularly among adolescents and young adults. It is imperative that young individuals are furnished with valid and contemporary information to facilitate informed and healthy decision-making regarding their sexual lives. Given the varied manifestations of this phenomenon across individuals' developmental trajectories, the necessity for comprehensive education in this domain becomes evident. It is imperative to underscore the biological characteristics that delineate individuals as male or female. This includes aspects such as sexual organs, chromosomes, and hormones (Hidalgo, 2018).

According to Pérez (2019), attitudes can also influence the manner in which young people perceive and respond to risky situations, such as sexual violence or harassment. A propensity towards empowerment and respect for oneself and others is conducive to the development of a sense of ease in soliciting assistance and safeguarding oneself in perilous circumstances. Discrimination, xenophobia, machismo, and homophobia persist as salient issues in contemporary culture, underscoring the pervasive influence of societal norms over individual perspectives.

The notion of autonomy serves as the foundation for continuous learning, particularly in the context of contemplating the potential outcomes of actions among young individuals. However, this vision can result in behaviors that compromise personal rectitude and value. The conceptualization of sexual conservatism-liberalism as a continuum posits that individuals occupy a spectrum ranging from a conservative perspective to a liberal one regarding sexuality.

This continuum reflects a spectrum of attitudes and beliefs regarding the experience and expression of sexuality. Individuals with a conservative orientation often adhere to the belief that human sexuality ought to be subject to stringent regulation by social, cultural, or religious norms. They may regard sexual activities outside of marriage, sexual diversity, and other expressions of sexuality as inappropriate or immoral (Ruiz, 2019). Therefore, it is imperative to approach the subject of sexuality with a conscious and reflective attitude, recognizing that decisions and actions in this domain have a substantial impact on one's own life and that of others. The promotion of comprehensive sexual education and open communication regarding these issues has been demonstrated to be effective in the prevention of adverse consequences and the facilitation of a healthy and fulfilling sexual experience (Long, 2019).

Miller et al. (2018) posit that perspectives on sexuality are comprised of three elements: cognitive, affective, and behavioral. The extent of their interconnectedness corresponds directly to the degree of entrenched perspective, which, in turn, renders modification increasingly challenging. The following section will provide a detailed explanation of each of these elements. The cognitive structure of an individual encompasses all their perceptions, beliefs, and knowledge concerning their attitude. The term "sexuality" is defined as the set of ideas associated with eroticism. The concept of affective structure encompasses an individual's positive or negative self- and other perception. This phenomenon of polarization manifests in a spectrum ranging from acceptance to rejection of the issues encompassed within life plans. Ultimately, the behavioral structure is influenced by a myriad of factors, including personal experience, customs, education, and values. Furthermore, these reactions can exhibit a range of intensity levels, ranging from a slightly favorable response to a negative one (Salas, 2019).

In the context of Paredes's (2019) theoretical framework, attitudes are defined as predispositions that influence an individual's behavior and perception of external stimuli in real-life contexts. The manner in which an individual responds to an unanticipated event is of paramount importance, as not all individuals respond identically when confronted with unexpected situations. This variability in responses underscores the capacity of human beings to either surmount or confront these circumstances.

The sexual attitude of young people is defined by their actions and behaviors in the context of their sexuality. This concept can be understood as a manifestation of their unique way of being or behaving, which may be characterized as positive or negative. This phenomenon can also be regarded as a form of social motivation for behavior. This phenomenon is shaped by the diverse experiences of each adolescent, who, as social beings, learn to emulate the behaviors of those around them (Salinas, 2018). The relationship within the family unit is of particular importance, as it is here that adolescents learn to differentiate between family treatment and treatment with other people without emphasizing them verbally.

Attitudes are formed and maintained in various contexts, with their development being influenced by the social environment, peers, family, and culture. A substantial body of research has demonstrated that these attitudes exert a considerable influence on sexual behavior. Furthermore, the prevailing morality of each era has consistently influenced attitudes toward sexuality. Consequently, the promotion of comprehensive sexological

education that addresses issues of sexual and gender diversity is imperative to foster understanding and respect for all individuals, irrespective of their orientation (Díaz, 2016).

The research examined two constructs: conservatism and liberalism. According to Molina (2017), members of the conservative pole posit that human sexuality ought to be governed and constrained, whereas members of the liberal pole subscribe to the notion that it should be autonomous, genuine, and unreserved.

Conversely, the author Sánchez (2017) posits that the function of conservatism and liberalism is derived primarily from sociopolitical commitments that prioritize traditional or progressive verdicts on various aspects of sexuality. This notion is predicated on the mental aspect of qualities, from which subsequent attitudes are derived. The liberal notion is not synonymous with promiscuity or a lack of morality; it is based on the idea that sexuality is a natural and legitimate aspect of humanity, which must be respected and protected.

According to Vilet and Galán (2021), the liberal stance prioritizes the pursuit of pleasure, encompassing diverse expressions such as tenderness, procreation, and communication. This stance is characterized by its rejection of puritanical morality, advocating for the promotion of a culture that is more respectful and positive. The neutral stance is characterized by a lack of commitment and a tendency toward equivocation, steering clear of taking sides or expressing unqualified judgment. In contrast, individuals who adopt a neutral stance may be perceived as indecisive and adaptable, as opposed to offering an opinion or expressing disagreement. The conservative stance is characterized by its opposition to sexual practices deemed unconventional, including divorce, premarital sexual activity, and homosexuality. This perspective regards sexuality as a static and moralistic construct, closely associated with procreation and the institution of marriage.

The emotional life of everyone is influenced by their attitudes. The manifestation of recurrent reactions is indicative of an individual's prevailing attitude, frequently manifested in an overt manner. The learning process is influenced by various factors, including heterosexuality. Asexuality is defined as a sexual orientation that does not imply an attraction to people of any gender, differentiating it from homosexuality, which is the attraction between people of the same sex. Bisexuality, in contrast, encompasses the attraction to people of different genders. This orientation does not necessarily entail an inability to experience sexual or emotional pleasure (Borghetti, 2018).

Conversely, the myths and prohibitions surrounding sexual orientation are rooted in a shared foundation: the prevailing societal taboo surrounding sex continues to elicit fear, uncertainty, and rejection of the unknown. The propagation of taboo-related information is characterized by its potential to engender significant uncertainty, thereby impeding the establishment of a genuine and objective comprehension of the pertinent issues. This phenomenon can give rise to the propagation of confusion and stigmatization surrounding what is considered normal. The objective is to address issues related to sexual behavior from a preventative perspective rather than a provocative one. At times, individuals may be held accountable for not meeting their own expectations (Vásconez, 2020).

Self-eroticism is defined as autonomous sexual pleasure experienced in the absence of another person, achieved through self-stimulation, such as genital rubbing. This phenomenon can influence fantasy, as the mind can evoke memories and imaginary characters to produce a sexual response (Paredes, 2020).

METHOD

The research undertaken was of a fundamental nature, with the objective being to augment knowledge and comprehension of the data collected during events pertaining to sexuality in its various dimensions. The present study explores psychometric characteristics and utilizes a non-experimental design, without manipulating the variable studied (Hernández et al., 2014).

Conversely, the research approach employs a quantitative methodology that encompasses measuring, observing, and analyzing numerical data to discern patterns, establish causal relationships, and substantiate empirical evidence (Ñaupas et al., 2014).

We engaged in a collaborative effort with an instrumental design, taking into account the contributions made by Ato et al. (2013). The focal point of instrumental inquiry lies in the evaluation of the reliability and validity of psychological instruments, including tests and questionnaires, irrespective of their novelty or translation. This

approach eschews a experimental paradigm, seeking instead to elucidate the instruments' capacity to measure and detect salient psychological variables.

The following is a conceptual definition: Attitudes, as defined by social psychologists, are social actions that an individual manifests through their behavior. They constitute a lasting system of evaluation, which can be both positive and negative, encompassing emotions, feelings, and the inclination to act for or against social goals (Mena, 2018). Operational definition: In the context of sexual predisposition in young people, the emphasis is placed on the valuation of the feelings, emotions, and behaviors exhibited by the subject.

Dimensions: The initial dimension is conservatism, defined as a restrictive and rigid approach to sexuality. This approach has the potential to generate feelings of guilt and dissatisfaction by repressing or denying sexual thoughts and desires. The second dimension is liberalism, which refers to people with an unrestricted attitude towards sexuality, flexibility in sexual beliefs, and relaxed norms (Recoba, 2019).

Indicators: The following topics are addressed: places frequented by nudists, caresses, and intercourse outside of marriage. The following subjects are discussed: abortion, contraceptives, and intercourse with affection. The following topics will be examined: homosexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, and the freedom of the individual in the context of sexual behavior. The following subjects will be examined: pornography and prostitution. The following topics will be discussed: masturbation, fantasies, and sex education. A discussion of contemporary youth responsibility, autonomy, and perspectives. The scale of measurement employed in the test is ordinal (Jiménez and Salazar, 2020).

The population is defined as the set of objects that are the focus of study and that possess common characteristics and meet specific criteria. The study encompassed approximately 1,000 university students. A non-random sample of 310 university students was selected for this study, comprising a diverse demographic of men and women between the ages of 16 and 34, with a majority falling within the 18-to-34 age range (34.6%) and 19-to-34 age range (29.2%), and representing various academic degrees. The objective of the study was to collect data from a sample that reflected student diversity (Gunther et al., 2023).

The inclusion criteria considered in the research were as follows: university students between the ages of 18 and 25, regular attendance at the academic semester, gender (male and female), and students willing to complete the instruments. The exclusion criteria considered in the research included students who had been disqualified, students who did not attend classes, students with behavior problems, and students who did not answer the instrument in its entirety (Ventura and León, 2017).

The prevailing methodology entailed the acquisition of reliable and valid information from the subjects evaluated. The researcher employed the psychometric technique, which is an integral component of the psychological evaluation process. The survey was the method used, and numerical data was effectively obtained from this process. The methods employed for the collection of information functioned in an organized manner, ensuring the measurement of data according to the established objective (González, 2018).

The Attitudes Towards Sexuality Scale (ATSS) was developed by Fisher and Hall (1988). The initial version comprised 14 items, whereas the revised version utilizes a Likert scale, incorporates 28 items, and ranges from 1 to 5, thereby facilitating enhanced precision in the evaluation process. The test is composed of 28 items, with scores ranging from 28 to 140. Fourteen items are direct and based on the original scale, while the remaining 14 are indirect and were added in the revised version (López, 2005). This configuration enables a more comprehensive and meticulous evaluation of sexual attitudes. In the national context, the instrument lacks records of adaptation and reliability. However, studies have been published in Spain and Venezuela that validate its adjustment and reliability, suggesting that it is useful in other countries.

The correction process entails the conversion of reverse items into direct items, followed by the aggregation of all the scores. This process enables the calculation of a cumulative score. The interpretation of this score in the evaluation process facilitates the determination of an individual's ideological inclination, specifically as it relates to their affiliation with a particular reference group. This, in turn, enables the drawing of inferences regarding their beliefs and values concerning sexuality. The highest possible score on this scale is indicative of a liberal mindset, while lower scores are associated with a conservative perspective (Ruibal et al., 2005).

Scores ranging from 28 to 65 are indicative of conservative sexual attitudes, while scores between 66 and 102 are associated with moderate attitudes, and scores from 103 to 140 represent liberal attitudes. The aforementioned scale comprises 28 items that address a variety of subjects. Among the factors it contains are topics such as nudity, sexual relations outside of marriage, abortion, and the rights of homosexual individuals. The discussion further delves into the concept of individual autonomy in sexual decision-making, the role of sex education, and the concept of personal responsibility. Furthermore, subjects such as pornography, prostitution, and sexual fantasies are addressed. Finally, the opinion of young people on freedom, responsibility, and sexuality is evaluated (Ruibal et al., 2005).

The analysis method employed in this study encompassed the use of information from reliable and prominent sources, including articles from distinguished journals, doctoral theses, and psychometric studies.

This approach was undertaken to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the data utilized in this study. As the problem was also analyzed, a variable was selected, and information was generated to improve understanding of gaudibility through studies and theories. The collective opinion of five judges was sought, and they concurred that the content was pertinent to the items on the scale used to determine the validity of the content. The reliability of the instrument was evaluated through an exhaustive analysis, using Cronbach's alpha coefficient to measure the degree of relationship between the items on the scale. Furthermore, the statistical software programs SPSS version 25 and JAMOVI were utilized to assess the internal structure, thereby ensuring the attainment of precise and trustworthy outcomes concerning the coherence and consistency of the scale.

The ethical principles guided the research process, with respect for all instructors being prioritized in all locations where the study was conducted. It is imperative to underscore that this characteristic is associated with the contemplation of participation in the research endeavor. The work was characterized by an ethical and transparent approach to the treatment of information, demonstrated by the exhaustive citation of various sources and authors in each database and journal consulted. Each study was meticulously reviewed, and the cited information was accurate to ensure that it had not been altered or manipulated in any way. This approach ensured the integrity and reliability of the findings presented. This academic practice, which respects intellectual property, provided a solid foundation for developing conclusions and recommendations (APA, 2017).

Prior to the collection of data from the population under study, informed consent was obtained from the participants, thereby ensuring their comprehension and acceptance of the research. Furthermore, the autonomy of individuals to decide on their participation was acknowledged, and their responses were made anonymous to safeguard their privacy. The participants completed the questionnaires on university campuses during class hours, which facilitated their accessibility and reduced the possibility of bias in data collection (Colegio de Psicólogos, 2017).

RESULTS

TABLE 1 Aiken's V validity data

Items	V of Aiken	Confidence intervals (95%)	
		<i>Lower CI</i>	<i>Higher CI</i>
1	1.00	0.86	1.00
2	1.00	0.86	1.00
3	1.00	0.86	1.00
4	1.00	0.86	1.00
5	1.00	0.86	1.00
6	1.00	0.86	1.00
7	1.00	0.86	1.00
8	1.00	0.86	1.00
9	1.00	0.86	1.00
10	1.00	0.86	1.00
11	1.00	0.86	1.00
12	1.00	0.86	1.00
13	1.00	0.86	1.00
14	1.00	0.86	1.00
15	1.00	0.86	1.00
16	1.00	0.86	1.00
17	1.00	0.86	1.00
18	1.00	0.86	1.00

19	1.00	0.86	1.00
20	1.00	0.86	1.00
21	1.00	0.86	1.00
22	1.00	0.86	1.00
23	1.00	0.86	1.00
24	1.00	0.86	1.00
25	1.00	0.86	1.00
26	1.00	0.86	1.00
27	1.00	0.86	1.00
28	1.00	0.86	1.00

Note: own elaboration

An interdisciplinary team of expert university lecturers, with more than 10 years of experience and doctorates in their respective fields, evaluated the quality of the items. These evaluators considered the items' connection, notability, and clarity. The V Aiken index was employed to assess the inter-judge consensus. This approach enabled the quantification of the level of consensus among the experts, thereby confirming the reliability and dependability of the evaluation. The analysis revealed that the items were comprehensible and readily applicable to the study sample.

TABLE 2 Prueba de Esfericidad de Bartlett y coeficiente de Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin

Prueba de esfericidad de Bartlett y KMO

<i>Approx. Chi – Square</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>KMO coefficient</i>
2419	<.001	0.768

Note: Own elaboration

The subsequent exploratory factor analysis yielded the following result: Bartlett's test of sphericity demonstrated that the utilization of factor analysis is justified, as the result (Approx. Chi-Square = 2419, Sig. <.001) signifies statistical significance. Furthermore, the KMO coefficient indicates that factor analysis is both profitable and justified.

TABLE 3 Factorial loads of the model.

Items	Factors						Singularity
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
P1							0.696
P2							0.856
P3		0.525					0.687
P4	0.333	0.369					0.754
P5		0.407		0.342			0.608
P6			0.439				0.742
P7			0.635				0.541
P8	0.757						0.503
P9	0.537						0.608
P10			0.481				0.602
P11			0.543				0.638
P12	0.433					0.311	0.637
P13							0.752
P14	0.687						0.391
P15		0.715					0.372
P16				0.348			0.557
P17	0.569						0.508
P18						0.596	0.503
P19	-0.318	0.438					0.600
P20				-0.314			0.573
P21				0.693			0.475
P22						0.357	0.674
P23					0.558		0.534
P24					0.731		0.433

Items	Factors						Singularity
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
P25				-0.643			0.487
P26							0.878
P27		0.373					0.805
P28					-0.382	0.315	0.639

Note. The 'Minimum residual' extraction method was used in combination with an 'oblimin' rotation

The analysis procedure considered the 28 items, the majority of which exceeded a loading of 0.30, thereby highlighting the minimum criteria established for acceptance and suitability. The model is consistent with an unifactorial or one-dimensional school.

TABLE 4 Model Adjustment Measures

CI 90% of the RMSEA			Exact fit test			
RMSEA	Lower	Higher	SRMR	CFI	TLI	χ^2
0.0906	0.0850	0.0962	0.0949	0.900	0.920	1187

Note: The Jamovi Project

The values obtained in table 5 are part of the confirmatory factor analysis on CFI and TLI must exceed the value of 0.80. The indices of fit to the model are observed in the table. Likewise, it can be seen that the CFI value is at the recommended value of 0.90. The model presents 6 factors with 28 items obtained favorable results according to the established ranges. Exact chi-square of 187. Therefore, this model provides a good fit.

TABLE 5 Confidence index

Scale Reliability Statistics

	Cronbach's alpha	ω McDonald's
ATSS	0.625	0.672

Note: Reliability; α : Alpha coefficient; ω : Omega coefficient.

The results in table 4 show the reliability indices of the scale. In general, the total alpha (α) and omega (ω) are relatively high, with values of 0.62 and 0.67, respectively. Cronbach's values range from 0.42 to 0.66, while McDonald's values range from 0.52 to 0.70, suggesting that reliability is moderate to high, but can be improved.

DISCUSSION

The research accomplished its primary objective, providing substantial psychometric evidence of the scale of attitudes towards sexuality in a sample of university students, thereby fulfilling the specific objectives set. The discussion of the study is detailed according to the implications of the results. The decision was made to assess the psychometric properties of the ATSS scale of attitudes toward sexuality in university students. Adolescents encounter a myriad of sentiments and expressions related to their sexuality. Their cultural milieu and sociodemographic characteristics exert a substantial influence on their inclinations toward conservatism, moderation, and liberalism. Attitude, therefore, can be defined as the willingness to act. Furthermore, attitude is a multifaceted concept that can be analyzed in its three fundamental aspects: cognitive, affective, and conative. In the context of propensity, tendency, and purpose, the latter is predominantly pertinent for research purposes (García & Godino, 2019).

The diverse contributions of various authors, examined in the study, underscore the significance of validating a psychometric instrument to assess attitudes toward sexuality, encompassing its dimensions of conservatism and liberalism. Attitudes, as part of the socialization process, are influenced by knowledge, sociocultural contexts, and the perception of the family. These factors may explain the variations observed in previous research. These discrepancies can be attributed to differences in education and access to sexual and reproductive health services for young people. In this regard, the necessity to fortify comprehensive sexuality education, engaging the family, educational institutions, the community, and health professionals, is underscored. This approach is not only conducive to the cultivation of knowledge; it is also instrumental in the development of attitudes and values that contribute to responsible sexual practice (Bustamante, 2022).

The study employs a rigorous methodological approach based on psychometrics to evaluate the versatility of the adapted instrument on attitudes toward sexuality. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient is a statistical method used to assess the reliability of the adaptation process. This coefficient enables the interpretation of results with a high degree of reliability, leading to the generation of knowledge that is both accurate and unquestionable (Anicama et al., 2022).

In consideration of the validity of the content of the ATSS scale of attitudes toward sexuality, the results obtained indicate that the Aiken coefficient is 1. This finding suggests that the test demonstrates correspondence in the clarity component among the five experts who examined it. Additionally, the percentages obtained in the coherence and relevance components are 100%. Therefore, the data obtained are sufficiently robust to substantiate the scale's content validity. This assertion is corroborated by the findings of Ruibal et al. (2005), who reported the items to be homogeneously reliable and valid in their application, as indicated by the results of their research. The expert technique employed in this study validated the results obtained in the original instrument, thereby confirming that the language and terms used in the examination are comprehensible for the sample population under study, in this case, young university students. This process enabled the evaluation of the instrument's coherence and clarity, thereby establishing its reliability and its suitability as a selective examination for the university population at large. Consequently, it was substantiated that the instrument is an efficacious means of measuring the variable under scrutiny, thereby augmenting confidence in the ensuing results (Gunther et al., 2023).

According to Hernández (2020), expert evaluation is a common method of verifying content quality. Experts make direct observations and provide a qualitative rating. In contemporary research, the Aiken coefficient is a widely employed metric for assessing content validity. This coefficient quantifies the degree of agreement between expert judges, with items exhibiting a coefficient value greater than 0.80 being deemed valid. The study evaluated items with satisfactory results for their application, taking into account the perspective of each expert. It is imperative to consider the significance of fundamental concepts and factors within the novel context to ensure the reliability of research outcomes. The items should reflect the definitions and domains of the original authors but adapted to the new population and its culture. Instruments that are not correctly adjusted have the potential to cause problems and result in inconsistent or unreliable data.

As posited by Bonilla and Rivas (2020), this approach confers upon construct validity a degree of relevance that is indispensable to the evaluation of the instrument. This is due to the fact that it pertains to the extent to which the instrument can represent and measuring the specific theoretical concept of the research in question. From a scientific standpoint, this is regarded as the paramount form of validity, as it serves to ascertain whether an instrument is accurately measuring the intended construct. The conceptual framework of the instrument delineates the parameters and objectives of the study. Construct validity is determined by evaluating the instrument's internal structure, ensuring that the dimensions or factors are accurately reflected. Consequently, it can be determined that the instrument is accurately measuring each factor and each question.

Paredes (2020) asserts the pivotal role of factor validity, a technique that systematically assesses items based on their factor loadings. Moreover, it is imperative to validate the newly developed scale by correlating it with other instruments that have already been validated within the same field. This validation should be

complemented by opposing groups, item-test correlational, and experimental validation. Conversely, the objective of factor analysis is to validate the accuracy of the original study's findings, ensuring that the items are accurately measuring their intended constructs. Upon thorough analysis, it has been confirmed that most of the items exhibit reliability and are associated with specific dimensions. However, it has been observed that certain items do not conform precisely to the dimensions specified by the instrument's designers. This phenomenon may be attributed to various factors, including the necessity for a more substantial sample size to ensure the precision of the items in relation to the dimensions, or the absence of a prior factor analysis of the original instrument. It is conceivable that the dimensions were generated by employing alternative methodologies, such as the segmentation and aggregation of components according to the theoretical framework employed during their development, rather than exclusively through factor analysis. Additionally, the research was conducted with a diverse sample of students from multiple universities, a factor that may have influenced the outcomes given the potential for disparate university cultures and intellectual habits. This phenomenon can exert a substantial influence on the outcomes, as social pressures are profoundly salient and have the capacity to influence individuals' cognitive processes and behaviors (Martínez, 2012).

The subsequent objective was to ascertain construct validity through factor analysis of the scale of attitudes towards sexuality (ATSS) in young people. The exploratory factor analysis was employed as it was a standardization study. Bartlett's test of sphericity indicated that exploratory factor analysis is a suitable method, as the approximate value of the chi-square statistic (2419) is statistically significant ($p < 0.001$). This finding suggests that the covariance matrix is not spherical, thereby validating the implementation of exploratory factor analysis to identify patterns in the data. Conversely, the KMO coefficient yielded commendable results, and the measure of sampling adequacy was evident in the 28 items on the scale. The ultimate objective of the confirmatory factor analysis is to verify the administration of the study in question, thereby demonstrating the reliability and relatedness of the items to the dimensions of the study. It has been determined that certain items do not align with the dimensional parameters established by the instrument. The underlying causes of this deviation may be attributed to a variety of factors. In the analysis, a multifaceted approach is employed, encompassing the consideration of statistical criteria, sociological interpretation, theoretical references, and the principles of coherence and simplicity. The ability to group dimensions objectively according to natural patterns in the data is paramount for identifying significant relationships and hidden structures (Henson and Roberts, 2006).

Factor analysis enabled the evaluation of the adjustability of the values obtained to the original results, thereby suggesting that all the items in the test function collectively to measure the balance of thoughts in pleasurable situations. In a similar vein, the instrument does not necessitate any additional reconfiguration, as it preserves its original structural configuration of six factors and 28 questions. This finding underscores the test's capacity to adapt to varied contexts, thereby negating the necessity for adjustments through the implementation of a correlated analysis. In summary, the result of the exploratory factor analysis confirms that the test remains true to its original purpose and can be used with confidence in different situations (Barajas et al., 2021).

In the confirmatory factor analysis, the scale's suitable values are determined according to the extended model. The rejection values (RMSEA, SRMR) indicate that the values were successfully adjusted to the scale. Furthermore, it has the capacity to comprehend the aggregate number of items that the scale evaluates, thereby facilitating the adoption of a responsible sexuality that encompasses self-care and consideration for others. Furthermore, individuals possess the autonomy to pursue their own personal development without the constraints of external influences. In the context of various psychometric investigations, the necessity of conducting a confirmatory factor analysis is not imperative. Preserving the structure of the scale based on the six factors of study is imperative so that the test can be adapted to a variety of contexts. This information can be found in the studies by Blázquez et al., 2021.

Conversely, the study by Álvarez et al. (2022) employed confirmatory factor analysis to assess the questionnaire's components, thereby substantiating the initially proposed model. The evidence demonstrated the unidimensionality of the instrument, along with satisfactory internal reliability and goodness of fit. Furthermore, the model demonstrated minimal adaptation. Consequently, the indicators of reliability and construct validity of EMS-12 and EMS-12R demonstrate their suitability for use in the university community. In relation to the study by Paredes (2020), it is noteworthy that the investigation emphasizes the psychometric properties that were examined following the implementation of the STAXI2 inventory. The findings indicate that the inventory demonstrates precision and deductive reasoning based on data obtained through expert criteria, thereby achieving importance, clarity, and correspondence of the instrument according to the item test procedure. In this procedure, items with $r > .20$ were considered valid. The fit is satisfactory (GFI and CFI $> .90$), according to the confirmatory factor analysis, and the reliability is substantiated by internal firmness.

Another method for evaluating the reliability of an instrument is internal consistency. This objective is realized through the measurement of the relationship between items or questions on a scale and their capacity to assess the same construct. In the event that the items demonstrate strong intercorrelation, a determination of

sample homogeneity can be made. Some common procedures for calculating reliability include Cronbach's coefficient, which is specifically used for Likert scales. This method was implemented, and an analysis was conducted to assess the coherence between the items. This analysis was used to determine the precision and consistency of the instrument in its measurement (Carranza, 2023).

According to Manterola et al. (2018), the reliability of a measuring instrument refers to the precision and accuracy of the process, that is, the extent to which the results are consistent and reproducible in different contexts and populations, and do not vary over time. This phenomenon persists under the condition that identical measurement conditions are employed, thereby ensuring reliability and confidence in the obtained results. Conversely, the research conducted by Ocaña et al. (2019) posits that the reliability of an instrument is contingent upon the consistency of results obtained through multiple evaluations. In essence, this concept pertains to consistency and coherence within test scores. That is to say, if a test is administered multiple times, the results should exhibit minimal variation. Reliability is comprised of two fundamental components: stability, defined as the instrument's capacity to generate comparable outcomes across various instances, and internal consistency, assessed through the variability or range of variation between scores. These were applied and obtained in the psychometric analysis of the research.

Another objective was to verify the internal reliability of the ATSS scale of attitudes toward sexuality in university students using Cronbach's alpha procedure. This procedure was used to evaluate the internal consistency and reliability of the items. The scale obtained a score of 0.625, indicating its suitability for use and demonstrating acceptable internal reliability. In a similar vein, research has demonstrated a correlation between reliability and the percentage of McDonald's ω , which attained a score of 0.672. When projecting what was emphasized in the results, a score of more than 6 was generally obtained. The utilization of this approach is imperative to ascertain the consistency of the items over time and to comprehend the significance of their inclusion in the scale. Confirmatory and exploratory factor analysis are employed as methodologies to substantiate the validity of the construct. Statistical technique was employed to assess the distribution and stability of the instrument in order to conduct this research. Consequently, a rigorous methodology was employed to conclude this research, thereby ensuring the reliability and authenticity of the results. These results effectively validate the effectiveness of a psychometric instrument as a tool for measuring attitudes towards sexuality (Barraza and Barraza, 2018).

CONCLUSION

This study makes a significant contribution by providing a valid, reliable assessment tool adapted for university students and similar populations, paving the way for future research in psychology and providing new knowledge about human sexuality. The study is also relevant as it can inspire future knowledge about responsible sexuality, programs, and strategies for behavior modification. The scale developed can be applied in different contexts, including family, work, and professional life, which will allow for better analysis and understanding of the variable learned and its impact on the daily life of individuals.

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