

Development and Validation of an Instrument to Measure University Students' Attitudes toward Traditional Knowledge

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ABSTRACT Traditional knowledge includes intellectual inventories of local biological resources, animal breeds, and local plant species. This knowledge has been used for centuries by indigenous and local communities under local customs and traditions. Attitudes toward traditional knowledge are very important to the development, transmission and transformation of this knowledge. An extensive review of the literature on attitude toward traditional knowledge research also indicated that there are no instrument that can provide valid and reliable data on students' attitudes toward traditional knowledge. For this reason, this study deals with the development and validation of an attitude scale toward traditional knowledge. Data gathered from 396 university students provided evidence for the validity and reliability of the new instrument which consists of 17 attitude items on a four point likert type scale. Detailed information on development and validation process of the instrument is provided. It is believed that the instrument will serve as a valuable tool for both instructors and researchers in environmental education, ecology and ethnobotany to assess students' attitudes toward traditional knowledge.