

A Study of the Intelligence of Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo

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The Coloured Progressive Matrices (CPM) was administered to a sample of Albanian children in Kosovo. The children obtained a British-scaled IQ of 82.

Key Words: Albania, Kosovo, Colored Progressive Matrices, Intelligence

A research program to collect IQs for all nations was initiated by Lynn and Vanhanen (2002) and developed further by Lynn and Vanhanen (2012) and Lynn and Becker (2019). In this research program, national IQs are obtained from intelligence tests and educational attainment tests including the PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment), TIMSS and PIRLS studies adopted as measures of intelligence. National IQs are calculated in relation to a British IQ of 100 and standard deviation of 15 and the IQs of other countries are given in relation to this metric. In the most recent compilation, national IQs are given for 193 countries (Lynn & Becker, 2019, pp. 173-177). The British IQ of Albania is given as 81.75 calculated from PISA data collected in 2000, 2009, 2012 and 2015. No measured IQ data are available from Kosovo, whose population is approximately 90% ethnic Albanian (CIA, 2019). The present paper reports the first study of an IQ for ethnic Albanians available from intelligence tests.

Method

The intelligence of a sample of 150 ethnic Albanian children living in Kosovo (52% girls) was tested with the Coloured Progressive Matrices (CPM) in 2018. All

children spoke Albanian, attended a preschool for 7.2 hours a day and were tested individually on three occasions at the ages of 4.6, 5.0 and 5.7 years. Children participating in the present study were recruited from 20 early childhood education centers in three cities of Kosovo: Prishtina, Mitrovica and Vushtrri. The testing was carried out at their schools by the first author and his students at the University of Pristina in Kosovo “Hasan Prishtina”. The parents of the children had an average monthly income of 626 Euro, which is close to the population average of 678 Euro. The parents can therefore be regarded as representative of the general population. 94 percent of the parents were Muslims.

Results

The results are given in Table 1 and show the children's age, numbers, mean scores and standard deviations on the CPM and IQs according to norms from the British standardization of 2007 (Raven, 2008). The IQs were calculated without a Flynn effect correction because it is not known whether performance on the CPM was rising or declining on the CPM in Britain during the years after 2007.

Table 1. CPM scores (correct answers out of 36) for ethnic Albanian children in Kosovo.

Age	N	Mean \pm SD	British IQ
4.6	136	11.35 \pm 5.38	82
5.0	146	12.80 \pm 5.60	86
5.7	96	16.19 \pm 5.63	95

Discussion

The results give British-scaled mean IQs of 82, 86 and 95 for the three occasions. The average of these is 87.7 and could be adopted as the IQ for Kosovo (or, by proxy, Albania). However, not only the raw scores but also the British-scaled IQs increased as the children took the tests for the second and third times, and these increases are attributable to practice. We consider that they should be discounted and the IQ of 82 obtained in the first testing should be adopted as best estimate of the IQ for ethnic Albanian children in Kosovo obtained in this study. This is virtually identical to the IQ of 81.75 for Albania calculated from PISA studies as noted in the introduction.

References

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