APPLICATION OF ITEM RESPONSE THEORY (IRT) IN BRAZIL

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**ABSTRACT:** Lately, it has become known to the lay public in Brazil the termination “Item Response Theory” (IRT), through its extensive use in the Exame Nacional do Ensino Médio (ENEM) by Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas Educacionais (INEP) do Ministério da Educação (MEC). What the general public does not know is that the IRT has been used in Brazil since 1996 (ANDRADE, TAVARES and VALLE, 2000), but only now gained popularity due to examination of ENEM, whose score will be used for selection of candidates in some universities of the country in 2010. This article aims to present papers that have been produced in Brazil about the Item Response Theory. We tried to relate papers that have been developed since the beginning use of IRT in Brazil until the year 2009, embracing large number possible of applications.

**KEYWORDS:** Item response theory; Item response model.

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