Attitudes toward Parenthood Scale

The purpose of this survey is to assess your attitudes toward the role of parenthood. Please read each item carefully and consider what you believe and feel about parenthood. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements. After reading each statement, select the number that best reflects your answer using the following scale:

1  2  3  4  5  6  7
Strongly Disagree Strongly Agree

1. Parents should be involved in their children's school.
2. I think children add joy to a parent's life.
3. Parents attending functions such as sporting events and recitals of their children help build their child socially.
4. Parents are responsible for providing a healthy environment for their children.
5. When you become a parent, your children become your top priority.
6. Parenting is a job.
7. I feel that spending quality time with children is an important aspect of child rearing.
8. Mothers and fathers should share equal responsibilities in raising children.
9. The formal education of children should begin at as early an age as possible.

Scoring

After assigning a number to each item, add the numbers and divide by 9. The higher the number (7 is the highest possible), the more positive your view and the stronger your commitment to the role of parenthood. The lower the number (1 is the lowest possible), the more negative your view and the weaker your commitment to parenthood.

Norms

Norms for the scale are based upon twenty-two male and seventy-two female students attending Valdosta State University. The scores ranged from 3.89 to 7.00, and the average was 6.36 (standard deviation [SD] = 0.65); hence, the respondents had very positive views. There was no significant difference between male participants' attitudes toward parenthood (mean [M] = 6.15; SD = 0.70) and female participants' attitudes (M = 6.42; SD = 0.63). There were also no significant differences between ethnicities.

The average age of participants completing the Attitudes toward Parenthood Scale was 22.09 years (SD = 3.85), and their ages ranged from 18 to 39. The ethnic composition of the sample was 73.4 percent white, 22.3 percent black, 2.1 percent Asian, 1.1 percent American Indian, and 1.1 percent other. The classification of the sample was 20.2 percent freshmen, 6.4 percent sophomores, 22.3 percent juniors, 47.9 percent seniors, and 3.2 percent graduate students.

Source: Mark Whatley, PhD. The Attitudes toward Parenthood Scale. 2004. Department of Psychology, Valdosta State University. Information on validity and reliability may be obtained from Dr. Whatley (mwhatley@valdosta.edu). The scale is reprinted here with permission of Dr. Whatley. Other uses of this scale by written permission only from Dr. Whatley.
Attitudes toward Transracial Adoption Scale

Transracial adoption is the adoption of children of a race other than that of the adoptive parents. Please read each item carefully and consider what you believe about each statement. There are no right or wrong answers to any of these statements, so please give your honest reaction and opinion. After reading each statement, select the number that best reflects your answer, using the following scale:

1  2  3  4  5  6  7
Strongly      Strongly
Disagree      Agree

1. Transracial adoption can interfere with a child’s well-being.
2. Transracial adoption should not be allowed.
3. I would never adopt a child of another race.
4. I think that transracial adoption is unfair to the children.
5. I believe that adopting parents should adopt a child within their own race.
6. Only same-race couples should be allowed to adopt.
7. Biracial couples are not well prepared to raise children.
8. Transracially adopted children need to choose one culture over another.
9. Transracially adopted children feel as though they are not part of the family they live in.
10. Transracial adoption should occur only between certain races.
11. I am against transracial adoption.
12. A person has to be desperate to adopt a child of another race.
13. Children adopted by parents of a different race have more difficulty developing socially than children adopted by foster parents of the same race.
14. Members of multiracial families do not get along well.
15. Transracial adoption results in “cultural genocide.”

Scoring

After assigning a number to each item, add the numbers and divide by 15. The lower the score (1 is the lowest possible), the more positive one’s view of transracial adoptions. The higher the score (7 is the highest possible), the more negative one’s view of transracial adoptions. The norming sample was based upon thirty-four male and sixty-nine female students attending Valdosta State University. The average score was 2.27 (SD = 1.15), suggesting a generally positive view of transracial adoption by the respondents, and scores ranged from 1.00 to 6.60.

The average age of participants completing the scale was 22.22 years (SD = 4.23), and ages ranged from 18 to 48. The ethnic composition of the sample was 74.8 percent white, 20.4 percent black, 1.9 percent Asian, 1.0 percent Hispanic, 1.0 percent American Indian, and one person of nonindicated ethnicity. The classification of the sample was 15.5 percent freshmen, 6.8 percent sophomores, 32.0 percent juniors, 42.7 percent seniors, and 2.9 percent graduate students.

Source: Mark Whatley, PhD. 2004. The Attitudes toward Transracial Adoption Scale. Department of Psychology, Valdosta State University. Information on validity and reliability and permission to use this scale may be obtained from Dr. Whatley (mwhatley@valdosta.edu).