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THE FATHER-DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP RATING SCALE

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Summary.—A 9-item scale designed to measure perceived relationships of girls and their fathers is internally consistent (α = .89) and showed clear factor structure.

Recently research has increasingly begun to focus on the role of fathers in the social and emotional development of their children (Amato & Rejac, 1994; Cabrera, Tamis-LeMonda, Bradley, Hofferth, & Lamb, 2000). Children who experience positive relationships with their fathers tend to have better emotional well-being and educational achievement (Nord, Brimhall, & West, 1997; Harris, Furstenberg, & Marmer, 1998). Some of this research has included measuring family relationships while the child has already begun attending college (Kinnaird & Gerrard, 1986). However, the reliability of tests used in these retrospective venues tends to either be low or not established. Therefore, our goal was to develop a test with good internal reliability.

We designed a scale to measure the perceived relationship between girls and their fathers (see Appendix A, p. 214). It consists of two subscales, Closeness of the relationship (4 items) and Amount of time spent together (5 items). Reflective of this school’s population, these women were from diverse ethnic backgrounds (3 African-Americans, 82 Euro-Americans, 3 Asians, 81 Hispanics, and 13 others) and were between the ages of 17 and 25 years (M = 20).

In responses to the Closeness items Cronbach alpha was .91 (Items 2, 5, 7, and 9). In items measuring time spent together Cronbach alpha was .89 (Items 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8). For the nine items as a single overall measure of the Quality of the relationship two findings justified combination. First, Cronbach alpha was .93. Second, a principal component factor analysis of the intercorrelation matrix yielded a single factor that accounted for 68% of the common variance. All items loaded on this factor above .70. Factor loadings and means and standard deviations by items are in Table 1.

The high reliability of our test (and the subscales) compares favorably with estimates for previous tests (.77, Harris, et al., 1998). The fact that our Cronbach alpha is higher than those in prior studies encourages us to see how such aspects of females’ lives as self-esteem, drug use, or sexual activity

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TABLE 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Factor Loading</th>
<th>$M$</th>
<th>$SD$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (time)</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (closeness)</td>
<td>.90</td>
<td>4.33</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (time)</td>
<td>.77</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (time)</td>
<td>.82</td>
<td>2.44</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (closeness)</td>
<td>.79</td>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>1.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (time)</td>
<td>.88</td>
<td>4.15</td>
<td>2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (closeness)</td>
<td>.83</td>
<td>5.04</td>
<td>1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (time)</td>
<td>.80</td>
<td>2.14</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 (closeness)</td>
<td>.76</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

are related to their relationship with their fathers. Although the present study included only women, tests for father-son relationships should retain the same high standards for reliability.

In sum, we developed a highly reliable scale to measure the quality of the relationship between daughters and their fathers. This scale can be useful in identifying other factors related to these relationships.

REFERENCES


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APPENDIX A

Each week did you do something (talk, watch movie or sports event, play a
C. Father the last two years you were in high school?
5–10. C. 11–15 D. 16 or more

you feel to your father your last two years of high school?
C. D E F G very close

As did you and your father spend in conversation each week the last two in high school?
B. 6–10 hours C. 11–15 hours D. 16 or more hours

As a week did you converse with your father your last two years of high

i–10 C. 11–15 D. 16 or more

As was away from home, how much did you typically miss him?
C. D E F G
some a lot

Do you feel that you and your father spent together your last two years of

C. D E F G
some a lot

You enjoy spending time with your father your last two years of high school?
C. D E F G
some a lot

As did you spend with your father each week, the last two years you were in

B. 6–10 hours C. 11–15 hours D. 16 or more hours

Father enjoyed your company your last two years of high school?
C. D E F G
some very much