

Prosocial Activities

Year 15

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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Citations

Instruments

Caprara, G.V., Steca, P., Zelli, A., & Capanna, C. (2005). *A new scale for measuring adult's prosocialness*. *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*, 21(2), 77-89.

Reports

Rains, C. (2010). *Prosocial Activities* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site: <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Sources

Raw: C15BS

Scored: PSA15

I. Scale Description

The Prosocial Activities measure was developed to gauge a subject's involvement in activities outside of work or school. There are 17 items on the measure. The first three questions concern religious activity, items 4 through 8 concern a subject's involvement in non-religious activities such as a social club or organized sports, items 9 through 15 gauge civic volunteer participation (i.e. membership in a political, environmental, or human rights organization). Subjects may choose from a scale where 1 = never, 2 = once in the past year, 3 = a few times in the past year, 4 = monthly, 5 = weekly, and 6 = daily. Item 16, "are you registered to vote," has two response options: yes and no. Item 17, "how often have you voted in an election," has 5 response options: never, once, twice, 3-4 times, and more than 4 times. There is a skip pattern noted for items 16 and 17.

II. Report Sample

These analyses were conducted on the second and third cohorts for the high risk control sample (n = 214) and the normative sample (n = 229) for the fifteenth year of the study. Ninety- three records were missing for the complete measure. Thirty-six records from the control sample were missing (7 from Durham, 14 from Nashville, 3 from Pennsylvania and 12 from Washington) and 78 records from the normative sample (14 from Durham, 30 from Nashville, 13 from Pennsylvania and 21 from Washington) were missing.

III. Scaling

Four scales were created for this measure. Scales were created by taking the mean for each set of variables for a given scale. The first scale, Church Participation, contains items 1 through 3. Non-religious Participation, another scale, contains items 4 through 8. The Civic Volunteer Participation Scale includes items 9 through 15. Finally, a Total Social Participation scale was created to include all of items 1 through 15. Cronbach alphas for all of the scales showed a high level of reliability.

IV. Recommendations for Use

The scales exhibit a high degree of reliability in measuring whether a subject is involved in activities outside of school or work. Two scales were slightly skewed in a positive direction: Church Participation and Total Social Participation. The Civic Volunteer Participation Scale was more strongly skewed in a positive direction.

V. Scale Means and SDs

Variable	Label	N	Mean	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
psa15CHP	Church Participation - Year 15	426	1.7840376	0.9273172	1.0000000	6.0000000
psa15NRP	Non Religious Participation - Year 15	437	2.1123570	1.1267120	1.0000000	5.4000000
psa15CVP	Civic Volunteer Participation - Year 15	435	1.3129721	0.5020022	1.0000000	4.7142857
psa15TSP	Total Social Participation - Year 15	437	1.6866267	0.6500958	1.0000000	4.3571429

VI. Scale Correlation and Reliability

	Church Participation	Non-Religious Participation	Civic Volunteer Participation	Total Social Participation
Church Participation	1.0000	0.3640	0.3493	0.6306
Non-Religious Participation	0.3640	1.0000	0.6170	0.9148
Civic Volunteer Participation	0.3493	0.6170	1.0000	0.7909
Total Social Participation	0.6306	0.9148	0.7909	1.0000

Summarization of inter-item reliability is shown in the table below. Scales with-in the sample group show an adequate level of inter-reliability within each subscale. The Church Participation subscale shows the highest level of inter-reliability while the Non-Religious Participation subscale shows the lowest.

Subscale	Cronbach's Alpha
Church Participation	0.8548
Non-Religious Participation	0.7707
Civic Volunteer Participation	0.7936
Total Social Participation	0.6478

Appendix
(Scoring program removed)