

ATTITUDES TOWARD INTEGRATION OF BLIND CHILDREN AND PERSONALITY DIMENSIONS¹

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Handicapped groups have been studied from different disciplines during the last 20 years (i.e. Williams, 1987; Acton and Zarbatany, 1988). Most published studies have taken into account "external" variables, such as sex, age, social status, and the degree of proximity and contact with the handicapped. However, they have forgotten personality dimensions of respondents to attitudinal scales; such personality dimensions play an important role in determining attitudes toward handicapped people (Pelechano, 1987). Our goal in this study is to offer results on the relationships between a set of personality variables and attitudes toward integration of visually handicapped children in an adult sample and within a parameter model of personality functioning.

This parameter model has demonstrated that personality dimensions are organized along two parameters (Pelechano, 1973; 1989): (i) consolidation degree integrated by three levels, situational reactions, intermediate-motivational

factors and basic dimensions of personality and (ii) personal-social parameter, according to the individual or social referent of the isolated personality dimensions/factors. This model allow us to overcome the traditional and maniquean controversy of state versus trait.

METHOD

Participants

n = 225

SEX: male = 66.1%

female = 33.9%

AGE: Less or equal 30 = 43.1%

from 31 to 37 = 28.5%

38 and higher = 28.4%

INCOMES: Low incomes = 25.6%

Middle incomes = 70.9%

High incomes = 3.5%

Instruments

Five questionnaires and an attitudinal scale toward social integration of blind children were used. All of those developed by Pelechano and cols. , in different studies.

*** Attitudinal scale. Five factors:**

ACE1 = Attribution of dimness and malevolence to blind children.

ACE2 = School segregation.

ACE3 = Social devaluation and sexual fear to blind children.

ACE4 = Social acceptance of integration of blind persons.

ACE5 = Tolerance and commiseration in a negative sense.

*** E-N Inventory. Two factors:**

E = Extraversion.

N = Neuroticism.

*** Rigidity.** Three factors:

R1 = Extreme and rigid overvalue of the laboral world.

R2 = Overwork self-demand and contempt of others.

R3 = Overvalue of social norms and rigid observation of duties.

*** Motivation and performance anxiety.** Six factors:

MAE1 = Tendency to "workalcoholic"

MAE2 = Indifference to work and separation between private and laboral world.

MAE3 = Laboral self-demand.

MAE4 = Positive motivation to action. Positive ambition.

MAE5 = Inhibitory performance anxiety.

MAE6 = Facilitating performance anxiety.

*** Locus of control.** Eight factors:

LUCAM1 = External control in social relationships with depressive and fatalistic components.

LUCAM2 = Internal factor of self-confidence and verbal control.

LUCAM3 = External locus of control and situational luck.

LUCAM4 = Internal control in decision making.

LUCAM5 = Self-criticism in work and social interaction.

LUCAM6 = Lack of concern in planning goals.

LUCAM7 = Self-exoneration in failures and distrust.

LUCAM8 = Feelings of lack of self-control.

*** Dogmatism-Antiauthoritarianism.** Six factors:

AUT1 = Maniquean authoritarianism.

AUT2 = Pacifist conservatism.

DOG1 = Dogmatism and xenophobia.

DOG2 = Disenchantment to social world.

ANT1 = Social-laboral planning, with personal independency.

ANT2 = Pacifist conventionalism in group functioning.

RESULTS

The mean results obtained are presented in the following three tables and one figure:

TABLE 1: CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS AMONG ATTITUDINAL FACTORS TOWARD BLINDED INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL-BASIC PERSONALITY DIMENSIONS (RIGIDITY AND DOGMATISM - ANTIAUTHORITARIANISM FACTORS) (N = 225).

	ATTITUDINAL FACTORS				
	ACE1	ACE2	ACE3	ACE4	ACE5
RIG2. Overwork self-demand and contempt of others	.25***	.22***	.11*		.21***
RIG3. Overvalue of social norms and rigid observation of duties				.14*	.14*
AUT1. Maniquean authoritarianism	.29***	.25***	.19**		.22***
AUT2. Pacifist conservatism		.18**	-.12*	.15*	
DOG1. Dogmatism and xenophobia	.32***	.24***			.30***
DOG2. Disenchantment to social world		.13*		.13*	
ANT1. Social-laboral planning, with personal independency		.24***		.18**	
ANT2. Pacifist conventionalism in group functioning	.28***	.27***			.23***

NOTE: ACE1 = Attribution of dimness and malevolence to blind children. ACE2 = School segregation. ACE3 = Social devaluation and sexual fear to blind children. ACE4 = Social acceptance of integration of blind persons. ACE5 = Tolerance and commiseration in a negative sense. (***) $p < .001$; (**) $p < .01$; (*) $p < .05$

TABLE 2: CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS AMONG ATTITUDINAL FACTORS TOWARD BLINDED INTEGRATION AND PERSONAL/SOCIAL PERSONALITY DIMENSIONS. INTERMEDIATE LEVEL OF CONSOLIDATION (LOCUS OF CONTROL). (N = 195).

	ATTITUDINAL FACTORS				
	ACE1	ACE2	ACE3	ACE4	ACE5
LUCAM1. External control in social relationships with depressive and fatalistic components	.24***	.13*			.16*
LUCAM2. Internal factor of self-confidence and verbal control	-.19**		-.17**		-.22***
LUCAM5. Self-criticism in work and social interaction	-.17**	-.15*			-.25***
LUCAM6. Lack of concern in planning goals			.13*		.15*
LUCAM7. Self-exoneration in failures and distrust	-.13*				-.20**

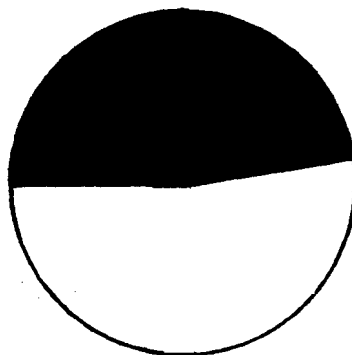
NOTE: ACE1 = Attribution of dimness and malevolence to blind children. ACE2 = School segregation. ACE3 = Social devaluation and sexual fear to blind children. ACE4 = Social acceptance of integration of blind persons. ACE5 = Tolerance and commiseration in a negative sense. (***) $p < .001$; (**) $p < .01$; (*) $p < .05$

TABLE 3: CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS AMONG ATTITUDINAL FACTORS TOWARD BLINDED INTEGRATION AND PERSONAL DIMENSIONS. BASIC (N FACTOR) AND INTERMEDIATE (MOTIVATION AND PERFORMANCE ANXIETY FACTORS) LEVELS OF CONSOLIDATION (N = 225).

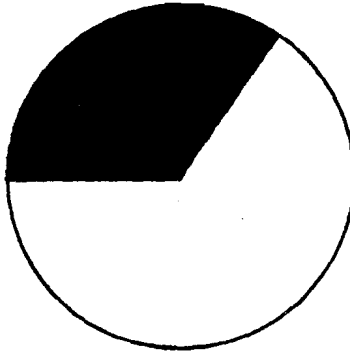
	ATTITUDINAL FACTORS				
	ACE1	ACE2	ACE3	ACE4	ACE5
N. Neuroticism	.13*		-.12*		
MAE2. Indifference to work and separation between private and laboral worlds	.25***	.17**			.17**
MAE5. Inhibitory performance anxiety		.17**			
MAE6. Facilitating performance anxiety		-.13*			

NOTE: ACE1 = Attribution of dimness and malevolence to blind children. ACE2 = School segregation. ACE3 = Social devaluation and sexual fear to blind children. ACE4 = Social acceptance of integration of blind persons. ACE5 = Tolerance and commiseration in a negative sense. (***) $p < .001$; (**) $p < .01$; (*) $p < .05$

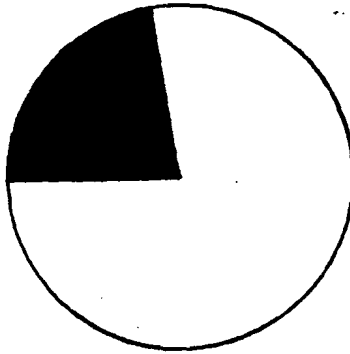
FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE OF SIGNIFICANT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS FOR SOCIAL, PERSONAL/SOCIAL, AND PERSONAL DIMENSIONS, WITH THE ATTITUDINAL SCALE FACTORS.



SOCIAL DIMENSIONS



PERSONAL / SOCIAL DIMENSIONS



PERSONAL DIMENSIONS

CONCLUSIONS

These results can be easily interpreted according to Pelechano's parameter model. In relationship to the consolidation degree, the basic level appears to be more important than intermediate level in determining the social attitudes toward integration of the blind; according to the personal-social parameter, the amount of correlation coefficients increases as personality dimensions approach to the social end of the personal-social parameter, as predicted.

In detail, these results can be summarized as follows: (i) there is a positive and significant relationship between overeffort dimension (rigidity) and a negative attitude toward integration; (ii) there is a similar relationship between negative attitude toward integration and a motivational factor related to apathy and indifference to work; (iii) there is a lack of relationship between multidimensional locus of control and positive attitude toward social integration of the blind; and (iv) there is a positive and significant coefficient between attitude toward school segregation and principialism factor (rigidity).

NOTES

¹. This paper are included in a research supported by grant from the Spanish Blind Persons Organization (ONCE), 1989-1991

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