The Relationship Closeness Inventory:
Assessing the Closeness of Interpersonal Relationships

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Key Operational Definitions

- Frequency: Number of hours and minutes spent alone with another person during waking hours (range: 0-1,200 min.)

- Diversity: Number of activities from a list of 38 that the pair spends together.

- Strength: The amount of impact (little to very much) one person has on the other's plans.

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Subjects

- Undergraduate students from University of Minnesota.
- Ages: 18-49

- Mean age: 19.38

- Modal participants: 19-20 year-old full-time student who is single.

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Goal

- To develop a test of interpersonal closeness using operational definitions that can be assessed by self-report.

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Method

- Ask students to identify the person with whom they consider them closest.

- Using questionnaires determine closeness according to frequency, diversity, and strength.

- Take individual scores and create an overall index of interpersonal closeness.

- Sum scores and weigh each subscale equally on a 10-point metric.

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Results

- Test-Retest: Paired t-tests showed no significant differences between test 1 and test 2.

- Romantic relationships were closer than friends or family.

- No sex differences

- Negative correlation between longevity and closeness

- Highly significant differences between close relationships and not close relationships

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Results Cont.

- Satisfactory reliability and validity
- A correlation of scores between partners were shown, but not extremely high.

Conclusions

- Closeness is thought to be a major part of relationships and can predict certain behavior.

- This test provides information that spans different types of relationships.

- The RCI should be used in conjunction with other tests, not alone.

Sample Questions

- Identification of person
  - Work: Which of the following best describes your relationship with this person? (Check only one)__ co-worker __ your boss/supervisor __ your subordinate
- Frequency
  - DURING THE PAST WEEK, what is the average amount of time, per day, that you spent alone with X in the MORNING?

Sample Questions Cont.

- Diversity
  - IN the past week, I did the foling activities alone with X: (Check all that apply)
    - __ did laundry
    - __ prepared a meal
    - __ watched TV
- Strength
  - Using the 7-point scale below, please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree by writing the appropriate number in the space corresponding to each item
    - __ X will influence my future financial security
    - __ X does not influence everyday things in my life.

The End
Thanks!

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&

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