

SDQIII[®]

Self Description Questionnaire III

OUTLINE

The SDQIII (Marsh, 1992) is designed to measure multiple dimensions of self-concept for college students and other adults. As was the case with the SDQII, the SDQIII evolved from the original SDQ instrument, the SDQI. In keeping with its companion scales, the SDQIII comprises a multidimensional structure that is firmly rooted in the Shavelson et al. (1976) theoretical model of self-concept. It differentiates itself from the other two scales, however, with respect to (a) number of subscales, (b) number of items, and (c) number of response-scale points. More specifically, the SDQIII is designed to measure self-concepts related to eight nonacademic areas (Physical Ability, Physical Appearance, Peer Relations – Same Sex, Peer Relations – Opposite Sex, Parent Relations, Emotional Stability, Honesty/Trustworthiness, and Spiritual Values/Religion), four academic areas (Verbal, Mathematics, Problem Solving, and General – Academic), and a single global perception of self (General – Self).

The SDQIII instrument was originally designed for use with late adolescents and young adults (16-25 years of age). Marsh (1992) cautioned that although the instrument may be suitable for younger respondents, the reading level may be inappropriate; use of either the SDQII or SDQI may be more appropriate. He also noted that the SDQIII may be used with adults older than 25. However, users should be aware that the instrument does not tap into many important elements of adult lives.

Summary

The SDQIII is currently the most extensively validated self-concept measure available for use with adults. Following the same research strategy as that related to the other SDQ scales, this past decade has seen the SDQIII undergo rigorous extensive testing to establish its psychometric soundness as a measure of self-concept.

References

- Marsh, H. W. (1992). *Self Description Questionnaire (SDQ) III: A theoretical and empirical basis for the measurement of multiple dimensions of late adolescent self-concept. An interim test manual and research monograph*. Macarthur, New South Wales, Australia: University of Western Sydney, Faculty of Education.
- Shavelson, R. J., Hubner, J.J., & Stanton, G. C. (1976). Self-concept: Validation of construct interpretation of test scores. *Review of Educational Research*, 46, 407-441.

*** Please note that the SELF Research Centre does not provide statistical support to researchers who use this instrument.**