COMPASSIONATE LOVE FOR HUMANITY SCALE

Reference:

Sprecher, S. & Fehr, B. (2005). Compassionate love for close others and humanity. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 22*, 629-651.

Description of Measure:

A 21-item measured designed to measure compassionate love for humanity. Compassionate love toward humanity is defined as an attitude toward humanity that involves behavior, feeling, and thinking that focuses on concern, caring, and support for humanity, as well as a motivation to understand and help humanity (strangers) when they are most in need. And, "humanity" is considered anyone who is a stranger (not a close other). Respondents answer each item on a 7-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (not at all true of me) to 7 (very true of me).

Abstracts of Selected Related Articles:

Sprecher, S. & Fehr, B. (2006). Enhancement of mood and self-esteem as a result of giving and receiving compassionate love. *Current Research in Social Psychology, 11*, 227-242.

> Compassionate love may be the type of love that leads to the most social good for those who are its recipients. However, self-benefits may also occur as a result of experiencing compassionate love for others. Three studies were conducted in which people were asked to recall a specific experience of compassionate love and to indicate how they were affected on several dimensions (mood, self-esteem, closeness to others). In Study 1, participants were asked to recall an experience of compassionate love without specification of target. A manipulation of the context of compassionate love (relational vs. non-relational) was included in Studies 2 and 3. A comparison of compassionate love given versus received was also included in Study 3. Overall, the results indicated that people reap many positive benefits of experiencing compassionate love for others. Differences in perceived outcomes to the self based on relational context and role (giver vs. receiver) were also found and discussed.

Krueger, R. F., Hicks, B. M.,& McGue, M. (2001). Altruism and antisocial behavior: Independent tendencies, unique personality correlates, distinct etiologies. *Psychological Science, 12*, 397-402.

> The relationship between altruism and antisocial behavior has received limited attention because altruism and antisocial behavior tend to be studied and discussed in distinct literatures. Our research bridges these literatures by focusing on three fundamental questions. First, are altruism and antisocial behavior opposite ends of a single dimension, or can they coexist in the same individual? Second, do altruism and antisocial behavior have the same or distinct etiologies? Third, do they stem from the same or from distinct aspects of a person's personality? Our findings indicate that altruism and antisocial behavior are uncorrelated tendencies stemming from different sources. Whereas altruism was linked primarily to shared (i.e., familial) environments, unique (i.e., nonfamilial) environments, and personality traits reflecting positive emotionality, antisocial behavior was linked primarily to genes, unique environments, and personality traits reflecting negative emotionality and a lack of constraint.

Penner, L. A., Dovidio, J. F., Piliavin, J. A., & Schroeder, D. A. (2005). Prosocial behavior: Multilevel perspectives. *Annual Review of Psychology, 56*, 14.1-14.28.

Current research on prosocial behavior covers a broad and diverse range of phenomena. We argue that this large research literature can be best organized and understood from a multilevel perspective. We identify three levels of analysis of prosocial behavior: (*a*) the "meso" level—the study of helper-recipient dyads in the context of a specific situation; (*b*) the micro level—the study of the origins of prosocial tendencies and the sources of variation in these tendencies; and (*c*) the macro level—the study of prosocial actions that occur within the context of groups and large organizations. We present research at each level and discuss similarities and differences across levels. Finally, we consider ways in which theory and research at these three levels of analysis might be combined in future intra- and interdisciplinary research on prosocial behavior.

Scale

1.) When I see people I do not know feeling sad, I feel a need to reach out to them.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

2.) I spend a lot of time concerned about the well-being of humankind.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

3.) When I hear about someone (a stranger) going through a difficult time, I feel a great deal of compassion for him or her.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

4.) It is easy for me to feel the pain (and joy) experienced by others, even though I do not know them.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

5.) If I encounter a stranger who needs help, I would do almost anything I could to help him or her.
    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

6.) I feel considerable compassionate love for people from everywhere.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

7.) I would rather suffer myself than see someone else (a stranger) suffer.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

8.) If given the opportunity, I am willing to sacrifice in order to let the people from other places who are less fortunate achieve their goals.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

9.) I tend to feel compassion for people even though I do not know them.

    not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

10.) One of the activities that provides me with the most meaning to my life is helping others in the world who need help.

11.) I would rather engage in actions that help others, even though they are strangers, than engage in actions that would help me.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

12.) I often have tender feelings toward people (strangers) when they seem to be in need.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

13.) I feel a selfless caring for most of mankind.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

14.) I accept others whom I do not know even when they do things I think are wrong.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

15.) If a person (a stranger) is troubled, I usually feel extreme tenderness and caring.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

16.) I try to understand rather than judge people who are strangers to me.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

17.) I try to put myself in a stranger's shoes when he or she is in trouble.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

18.) I feel happy when I see that others (strangers) are happy.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

19.) Those whom I encounter through work and public life can assume that I will be there for them if they need me.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

20.) I want to spend time with people I don't know well so that I can help enrich their lives.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

21.) I very much wish to be kind and good to fellow human beings.

not at all true of me 1   2   3   4   5   6   7 *very true of me*

Scoring

An average score is calculated for all 21 items. Scoring is kept continuous.