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Measurement Scale Fact Sheet

Index of Marital Satisfaction (IMS)

The Index of Marital Satisfaction, or IMS, scale was designed to measure the degree, severity, or magnitude of the problem a spouse or partner has in a partner relationship. The IMS does not measure or characterize the dyadic relationship as a single entity but measures the magnitude of marital discord or dissatisfaction that is felt or perceived by one partner. It is, therefore, possible, indeed common, to find that one partner will have a high IMS score while the other partner will have a lower score.

It is difficult to make an empirically valid distinction between the concepts of marital dissatisfaction and marital discord, and for purposes of evaluating or interpreting the IMS score, these two concepts are equated. The IMS must not be treated as a marital adjustment measure. A couple might have a good marital adjustment in the sense that they have arrived at some satisfactory arrangements for living and working together. Such couples may nonetheless display a high degree of marital discord or dissatisfaction.

Score Interpretation

This scale produces scores that range from 0 to 100. For all practical purposes the scores can be regarded as true ratio scale values.

Cutting Scores

This scale has two clinical cutting scores. The first is a score of 30. Clients who score below 30, assuming accurate intended responses, can be presumed to be free of a clinically significant problem in this area. Clients who score above 30 can be presumed to have a clinically significant problem in this area.

The second cutting score 70. Clients who achieve scores this large or larger are nearly always experiencing severe distress. When distress reaches this level, there is a clear possibility that some form of violence could be considered or used as a means of dealing with problems in this area. The therapist or counselor should not assume that violence is in the offing. However, it is a distinct possibility, and it should be investigated by the service provider.

Reliability

The scale consistently achieves an Alpha coefficient of .90 or larger.

Validity

This scale has been investigated with respect to content, construct, factorial, and known groups validity. It nearly always achieves validity coefficients of .60 or greater.

Readability Statistics

Flesch reading ease: 77; Gunning's Fog Index: 8; Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 5.

References

The following references provide the currently available research evidence concerning the psychometric characteristics for this measure.

Hudson & Glisson, 1976; Hontanosas, et. al., 1979; Murphy, Hudson, & Cheung, 1980; Nurius, 1983; Cheung & Hudson, 1981; Hudson, Harrison, & Crosscup, 1981.



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IMS

INDEX OF MARITAL SATISFACTION

Name _____

Date _____

SAMPLE

This questionnaire is designed to measure the degree of satisfaction you have with your present marriage. It is not a test, so there are no right or wrong answers. Each item is scored by circling a number from 1 to 7.

- 1 = None of the time
- 2 = Very rarely
- 3 = A little of the time
- 4 = Some of the time
- 5 = A good part of the time
- 6 = Most of the time
- 7 = All of the time

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1. _____
 2. _____ My partner treats me badly.
 3. _____
 4. _____ I feel that I would not choose the same partner if I had it to do over again.
 5. _____
 6. _____ I feel that our relationship is breaking up.
 7. _____ My partner really doesn't understand me.
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____ Our life together is dull.
 11. _____
 12. _____ My partner does not confide in me.
 13. _____
 14. _____ I feel that I cannot rely on my partner.
 15. _____
 16. _____
 17. _____
 18. _____ I feel that I should never have married my partner.
 19. _____
 20. _____ Our relationship is very stable.
 21. _____
 22. _____ I feel that I no longer care for my partner.
 23. _____
 24. _____
 25. _____ I feel there is no excitement in our relationship.