

Paradigms of Parenting: Intensive Parenting Across Identities Explored



Through Mixed Methodology

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Abstract

Intensive parenting attitudes are a set of beliefs about parenting focused on five themes: essentialism, fulfillment, challenging, stimulation, and child-centered. This construct has been previously studied in White, middle-class mothers, and research on this topic has lacked demographic variety. This study focuses on expanding research to include participants of varying demographic backgrounds, including mothers and fathers, different economic groups, and different racial identity groups. Utilizing a convergent mixed-method design, quantitative, qualitative, and integrative analyses were conducted. Through a confirmatory factor analysis and measurement invariance analyses, a popular intensive parenting measure showed configural invariance across racial groups and scalar invariance across economic groups. Semi-structured interviews revealed how key domains of intensive parenting were described in a racially and economically diverse sample. Integrative analysis findings highlighted how contextual variables played a key role in quantitative and qualitative results. More research is needed to fully understand how to quantitatively measure intensive parenting attitudes for racially minoritized populations.

Method

Participants

- 15 participants were interviewed; 475 participants were surveyed
- Gender: 70.1% cisgender female; 25.1% cisgender male; 1.3% transgender female; 1.3% nonbinary; 1.3% other; 0.8 transgender male; 0.2% chose not to say
- Race/Ethnicity: 41.9% White; 38.7% Black; 13.2% Hispanic; 4.2% Asian; 1.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 1.2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; 0.4% Middle Eastern

Procedures

- Participants were recruited with online postings on social media as well as paper flyers posted in the community.
- Participants filled out an online survey asking demographic questions as well as the questions from the IPAQ.
- From there, qualifying participants engaged in a semi-structured one-on-one interview over Zoom and were asked questions from the IPAQ.
- The interviews were transcribed.

Conclusion

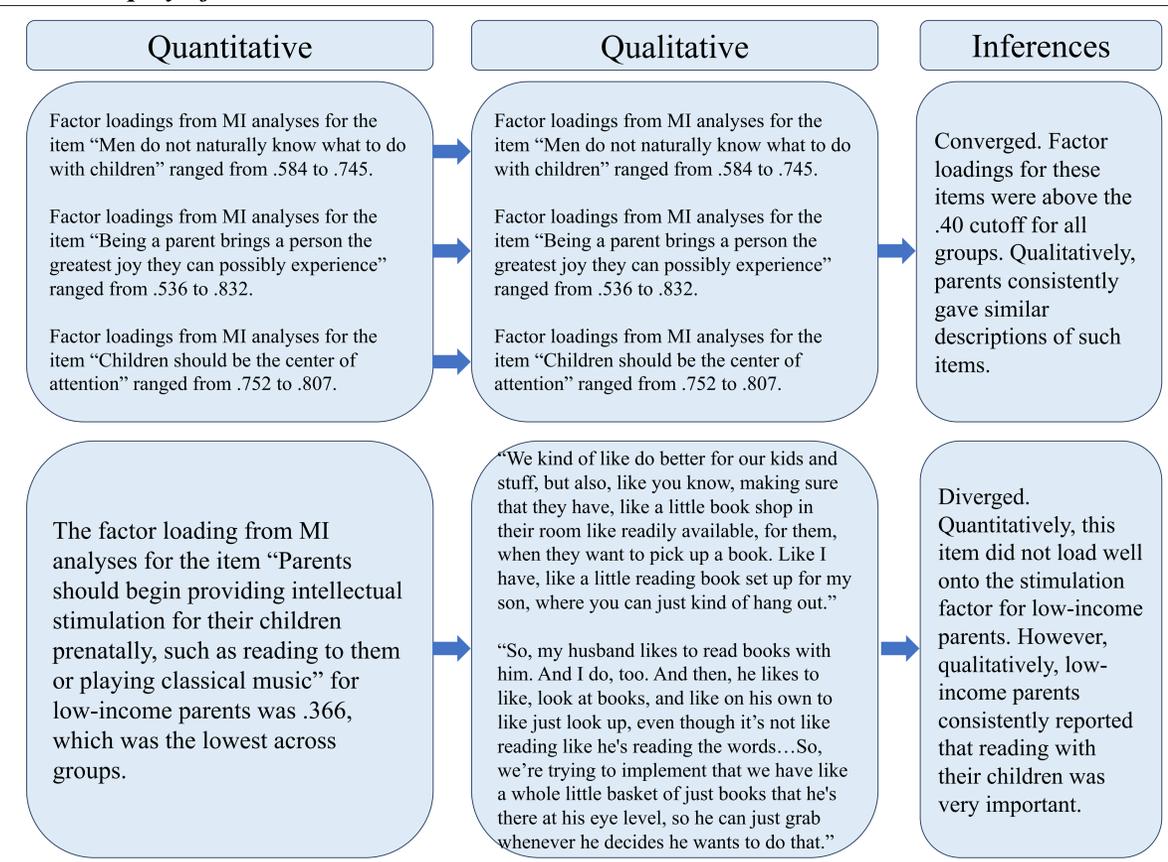
- There is existing literature regarding the impact of intensive parenting on parents' mental health. However, despite this research, there is a lack of research on the effects of intensive parenting in racially and economically diverse groups. In this study, the confirmatory factor analysis did not show adequate model fit. With an alternative model, configural invariance was shown across racial groups and scalar variance was demonstrated for economic groups. Qualitatively, results indicated that intensive parenting seems to be an important concept in a racially and economically diverse sample. The integrative analysis highlighted how contextual variables, such as race and socioeconomic status, influenced participants' responses.

Introduction

- Essentialism is the belief that mothers are innately better at parenting than fathers. Fulfillment mentions the joys, or lack thereof, the participants feel from parenting. Challenging discusses the hardships of parenting. Stimulation is regarding the importance of encouraging reading, play, and other tasks for children. Child-centered discusses putting the child's needs before parents' own needs (Liss et al., 2013).
- The purpose of this study was to employ a convergent mixed-methods design to compare the content validity of the IPAQ to parents' qualitative depictions of the 5 factors of the IPAQ (Liss et al., 2013). Further, with a racially and economically diverse sample of parents, this study aimed to qualitatively determine what, if anything, may be missing from the IPAQ, as it has not yet demonstrated measurement invariance across racial groups (Long et al., 2021).
- There is previous existing literature on intensive parenting, however, there is a focus on the WEIRD population. WEIRD means, Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic. With our project, we have a greater focus on researching non-rich, racial minorities to better grasp how intensive parenting is different across differing populations.

Results

Joint Display of Results



References

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- Long, H., Prikhidko, A., Bendeck, A. C., & Yumusak, S. (2021). Measurement invariance of the intensive parenting attitudes questionnaire across gender and race. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 35(7), 1027-1032. <https://doi.org/10.1037/fam0000889>

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