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; i.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 Qualitative Quantitative Inferences Factor loadings from MI analyses for the Factor loadings from MI analyses for the Converged. Factor item "Men do not naturally know what to do item "Men do not naturally know what to do with children" ranged from .584 to .745. loadings for these with children" ranged from .584 to .745. items were above the Factor loadings from MI analyses for the Factor loadings from MI analyses for the .40 cutoff for all item "Being a parent brings a person the item "Being a parent brings a person the groups. Qualitatively, greatest joy they can possibly experience" greatest joy they can possibly experience" parents consistently ranged from .536 to .832. ranged from .536 to .832. gave similar Factor loadings from MI analyses for the descriptions of such Factor loadings from MI analyses for the item "Children should be the center of item "Children should be the center of items. attention" ranged from .752 to .807. attention" ranged from .752 to .807. We kind of like do better for our kids and stuff, but also, like you know, making sure Diverged. that they have, like a little book shop in Quantitatively, this The factor loading from MI their room like readily available, for them, item did not load well when they want to pick up a book. Like I analyses for the item "Parents have, like a little reading book set up for my onto the stimulation should begin providing intellectual son, where you can just kind of hang out." factor for low-income stimulation for their children parents. However, prenatally, such as reading to them "So, my husband likes to read books with qualitatively, lowhim. And I do, too. And then, he likes to or playing classical music" for income parents like, look at books, and like on his own to low-income parents was .366, consistently reported like just look up, even though it's not like which was the lowest across reading like he's reading the words...So, that reading with we're trying to implement that we have like groups. their children was a whole little basket of just books that he's very important. there at his eye level, so he can just grab whenever he decides he wants to do that."

References

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