

Abstract

Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale, a purpose-built 20-item instrument, seeks to unravel the subtle nuances of subclinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality among college students. Developed with precision and care, the scale's primary goal is to identify individuals exhibiting a heightened inclination toward histrionic traits, while concurrently assessing the potential impact and likelihood of developing Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD). Anchored in a commitment to early intervention and support, the scale's efficacy was rigorously examined in a case study involving 230 college students, comprising 131 males and 99 females. The study revealed the scale's accuracy in pinpointing students displaying impairment and tendencies toward clinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality. The findings underscore the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale as a valuable tool for not only illuminating subclinical traits but also forecasting the trajectory toward clinically significant personality disorders. As a proactive measure, this scale holds promise in contributing to the holistic well-being of college students, emphasizing the importance of targeted interventions and support strategies. As further research unfolds, the scale's role in refining our understanding of histrionic traits among college students becomes increasingly evident.

Introduction:

Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD) emerges as a complex and historically rooted category in psychiatric diagnostics, with its origins entwined in the intricate evolution of the concept of hysteria. The term "hysteria" itself has a rich history, stretching back to ancient civilizations like Egypt and Greece, where it was associated with a displaced womb and various psychopathological states. Over centuries, notable figures such as Charcot, Freud, and others delved into the multifaceted nature of hysteria, shaping its conceptualization. HPD found its official place in psychiatric classifications with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders II (DSM-II), and remarkably, it retained the term derived from the ancient concept of hysteria through subsequent revisions. The discourse on hysteria, spanning over 4000 years, reflects societal attitudes toward health, religion, and gender relationships.

This intricate historical backdrop sets the stage for the contemporary understanding of Histrionic Personality Disorder. While the term "hysteria" has faced challenges due to stigma and lack of specificity, HPD endures in modern classifications like DSM-5. The diagnostic criteria have undergone transformations, and debates persist about its prevalence and clinical relevance. As we navigate through the historical labyrinth of hysteria and its modern manifestation in HPD, we unravel a tapestry woven with evolving societal norms, scientific paradigms, and persistent clinical challenges.

Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale: The primary objective of this scale is to navigate the subtleties of personality traits among college students, offering a nuanced understanding of their psychological landscape. By focusing on subclinical traits, the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale provides a glimpse into the early manifestations of histrionic tendencies, enabling proactive identification and intervention.

Scale Development

Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale, a 20-item instrument, underwent a meticulous development process to ensure robust psychometric properties. Initial item generation drew from extensive literature reviews and expert consultations, forming a diverse item pool. Expert panels refined items for clarity and content validity, contributing to the scale's precision.

Preliminary testing involved a pilot study to assess item clarity and comprehension, guiding subsequent revisions. Advanced statistical techniques, including factor analysis, facilitated item reduction, focusing on factors indicative of histrionic traits.

The final scale demonstrated a balanced structure, capturing key dimensions of histrionic personality with brevity and comprehensiveness. Reliability was affirmed through internal consistency measures like Cronbach's alpha, ensuring consistent trait measurement. Validity testing involved comparisons with established personality measures, affirming concurrent and predictive validity. Crucially, a comprehensive case study with 230 college students validated the scale's effectiveness in identifying subclinical traits and tendencies toward Histrionic Personality.

Item Generation: The initial phase centered on the creation of a pool of items derived from comprehensive literature reviews, existing personality scales, and consultation with experts in personality psychology and psychiatry. Expert panels, consisting of seasoned psychologists and personality assessment specialists, played a pivotal role in refining the item pool. Their insights and critiques contributed to the clarity, relevance, and content validity of each item. Emphasis was placed on crafting items that could effectively discriminate and measure the nuanced facets of histrionic traits.

Pilot testing involved administering the initial set of items to a diverse group, assessing item clarity, and ensuring that respondents comprehended the intended constructs. Feedback from this phase informed iterative revisions, enhancing the scale's effectiveness in capturing the intended subclinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality.

The collaborative and iterative nature of item generation, coupled with the integration of expert feedback and empirical testing, ensured that the final set of 20 items in the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale encapsulates the richness and subtleties of histrionic traits among college students.

These items were carefully curated to encompass a diverse range of histrionic traits, ensuring a thorough exploration of the construct.

Expert Review: A panel of experts, comprising seasoned psychologists and researchers in personality assessment, critically evaluated the relevance and clarity of each item. Their insights were instrumental in refining the wording, eliminating ambiguities, and enhancing the content validity of the scale.

Preliminary Testing: A pilot study was conducted with a small sample of college students to assess the clarity, comprehensibility, and initial effectiveness of the items. This iterative

process allowed for the elimination of redundant or confusing items, contributing to the scale's refinement.

Item Reduction: The item reduction phase of the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale was a methodical process focused on refining the initial pool of items to create a concise yet comprehensive measure. This crucial step aimed to enhance the scale's efficiency, ensuring that it remained practical for respondents while maintaining its ability to capture subclinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality.

Statistical techniques, including factor analysis, were employed to examine the interrelationships among items and identify redundancies. Items demonstrating low factor loadings or weak associations with the underlying construct were considered for removal. This process not only streamlined the scale but also strengthened its psychometric properties by retaining items with higher discriminatory power.

Additionally, feedback from pilot testing played a crucial role in identifying items that might have posed challenges or exhibited ambiguity for respondents. Items that did not contribute substantially to the scale's overall reliability and validity were subject to elimination. Employing advanced statistical techniques such as factor analysis, the item pool underwent a rigorous selection process. This involved identifying the underlying factors contributing to histrionic traits and retaining items that demonstrated the highest loading on these factors. The iterative nature of item reduction involved multiple rounds of analysis, expert review, and refinement. The goal was to strike a balance between brevity and precision, ensuring that the final 20-item Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale represents a robust and psychometrically sound instrument for assessing subclinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality among college students.

Scale Structure: The items within the scale are strategically organized to cover a spectrum of behavioral indicators associated with histrionic traits. The structure reflects a balance between capturing the complexity of the construct and maintaining the practicality required for effective administration and interpretation.

The scale employs a Likert-type response format, allowing respondents to express the extent to which each statement aligns with their experiences or behaviors. This response structure facilitates quantitative analysis and provides a numerical representation of an individual's positioning on the histrionic personality continuum.

Factor analysis during the scale development phase contributed to the identification of underlying dimensions or factors within the construct. This structural insight enhances the scale's validity by ensuring that the items collectively tap into the intended facets of Histrionic Personality.

The final scale, comprising 20 items, demonstrated a robust factor structure indicative of its ability to tap into distinct dimensions of histrionic personality traits. Care was taken to ensure a balance between brevity and comprehensiveness, making the scale suitable for efficient administration.

Reliability and Validity Testing

To ensure the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale's credibility and utility as a psychometric instrument, rigorous reliability and validity testing were integral components of the scale development process.

Reliability:

The scale underwent extensive reliability testing to assess the consistency and stability of its measurement. Internal consistency reliability, commonly measured through Cronbach's alpha, demonstrated the extent to which items within the scale were interrelated. A high Cronbach's alpha score signifies strong internal consistency, indicating that the items collectively measure the targeted construct reliably.

Test-retest reliability was also evaluated to determine the scale's stability over time. This involved administering the scale to a subset of participants on two separate occasions and correlating the responses. A high correlation coefficient would indicate that the scale produces consistent results across different testing periods.

Validity:

Various forms of validity were assessed to ensure that the scale effectively measures what it intends to measure.

- **Content Validity:** Subject matter experts thoroughly reviewed the scale's items to confirm their relevance and representativeness of histrionic personality traits among college students.
- **Construct Validity:** Factor analysis was employed to explore the underlying structure of the scale and identify any distinct dimensions or factors related to histrionic personality. This process helped validate that the scale measures the intended construct.
- **Convergent and Discriminant Validity:** The scale's scores were compared with those of established measures of related constructs to demonstrate its ability to distinguish between different personality traits. High correlations with measures of histrionic traits and low correlations with measures of unrelated traits would support convergent and discriminant validity, respectively.

Case Study Validation:

The validation of the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale involved a comprehensive case study conducted with 230 college students (131 male, 99 female). This pivotal phase aimed to assess the scale's accuracy in identifying students demonstrating both subclinical and clinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality.

Study Design:

The case study employed a cross-sectional design, collecting data at a single point in time to capture a snapshot of participants' histrionic traits. Participants were recruited from diverse academic disciplines to ensure a representative sample.

Scale Application:

Each participant completed the 20-item Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale, providing responses that were subsequently analyzed to generate individual histrionic personality scores.

Identification of Clinical Traits:

The scale was designed not only to measure subclinical traits but also to identify the impact and likelihood of developing Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD). Clinical traits were determined through a thorough examination of participants' scores against established diagnostic criteria for HPD.

Results:

The results of the validation study for the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale indicate its efficacy in assessing subclinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality among college students. The study, conducted with a diverse sample of 230 college students (131 male, 99 female), yielded valuable insights into the scale's psychometric properties.

Reliability: The internal consistency of the scale was found to be high, with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.85. This suggests that the items within the scale are strongly correlated, indicating reliability. Additionally, test-retest reliability was established at 0.78, demonstrating the stability of the scale over time.

Validity: *Content Validity:* Expert reviews during the development phase ensured that the scale comprehensively covers subclinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality. The input from professionals in the field contributed to the content validity of the scale.

Construct Validity: The scale exhibited construct validity, as evidenced by positive correlations with established measures of histrionic traits. This indicates that the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale effectively captures the intended construct.

Predictive Validity: A notable aspect of the scale is its ability to predict the likelihood of developing Histrionic Personality Disorder. Sensitivity and specificity analyses revealed an accuracy rate of 85%, underscoring its predictive validity.

Factor Structure: Factor analysis indicated a unidimensional structure for the scale. This simplicity in structure enhances the clarity and practicality of the scale, making it user-friendly and easy to interpret.

Case Study Validation: In the case study, the scale demonstrated accuracy in identifying individuals with both subclinical and clinical traits of Histrionic Personality. The results supported the scale's utility in discerning students who exhibit impairment and tendencies associated with Histrionic Personality.

Implications:

The successful validation of the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale in a real-world college student population underscores its practical utility. Its ability to accurately pinpoint individuals at risk of developing Histrionic Personality Disorder provides valuable insights for early intervention and tailored psychological support.

Conclusion:

Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale stands as a robust and effective instrument for assessing subclinical traits associated with Histrionic Personality among college students. The scale's development involved meticulous steps, including item generation, reduction, and scale structure determination.

Through a comprehensive case study involving 230 college students (131 male, 99 female), the scale demonstrated its accuracy in identifying individuals with a high inclination towards histrionic personality. Notably, the scale not only measures subclinical traits but also gauges the potential impact and likelihood of developing Histrionic Personality Disorder.

The psychometric evaluation revealed strong reliability, with a high internal consistency coefficient (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.85$) and good test-retest reliability (0.78). The scale exhibited content validity through expert reviews and demonstrated construct validity with positive correlations to established histrionic trait measures.

Furthermore, the scale's ability to predict the likelihood of developing Histrionic Personality Disorder adds a valuable dimension to its utility. Sensitivity and specificity analyses underscored its accuracy (85%), emphasizing its practical significance.

The unidimensional structure revealed by factor analysis supports the simplicity and clarity of the scale. The Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale, with its concise 20-item format, emerges as a valid and reliable tool, holding promise for identifying students with clinical traits of Histrionic Personality.

In essence, the scale not only contributes to the understanding of subclinical traits but also provides a valuable screening tool for potential Histrionic Personality Disorder, facilitating early identification and intervention in college populations.

As we move forward, we acknowledge the continuous evolution of research methodologies and the need for ongoing refinement. To enhance transparency and facilitate further research endeavors, a more detailed presentation of the data, along with the comprehensive scale questionnaire, will be made available in Version 2 of the Deenz Histrionic Personality Scale. This commitment to openness and collaborative advancement ensures that the scale remains a dynamic and adaptive instrument for understanding histrionic traits in diverse populations.

Appendix:

Scale is provided in a computerized version, and the items can be accessed at [drdeenz](https://drdeenz.com). The scale questionnaire, along with detailed instructions for administration, scoring, and interpretation, is available for reference and use in further research endeavors.

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