

ABSTRACT

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Factors Affecting Delay of Gratification

Among Students in Trinidad.

Judith Bernadette De Four

During the mid-fifties, the population of Trinidad¹ intuitively shared the notion that Africans² were more prone to delay gratification than Indians³. Walter Mischel (1958) conducted a study in Trinidad to examine this view and confirmed that Indians delayed gratification more than Africans. This thesis in updating Mischel's (1958) study examined the same phenomenon among one hundred and forty-two (142) school children of the age group seven to twelve years, both males and females of three elementary schools. A 13-item questionnaire was used to elicit responses. There were two experimental situations in which six variables were examined and a tangible reward was given in one of the situations. The Chi square at a significant level of 0.05 was used to examine the relationships. The data confirmed some previously proven results, but also suggest that the strengths of some variables such as ethnicity⁴ and father absence/presence were weakening. New variables — decision time, quality of the act⁵ and an addition ethnic group, namely the other⁶ group — were added to the long list of independent variables of delayed gratification.

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