

PERCEIVED DISCRIMINATION AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

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Extant Literature

- People are often reluctant to attribute negative events to discrimination
- Personal Group Discrimination Discrepancy
 - ▣ Need to Belong
 - ▣ Need for Control

Extant Literature cont...

- Based on the existing literature, it is evident that there is a tremendous gap in the research on the consequences of negative life events in ethnic minority women.
- Furthermore, there are no studies to my knowledge that have examined the role of ethnicity (Hispanic vs. non-Hispanic) in perceptions of discrimination and psychological distress.

Research Objectives

- Add to the existing literature.
- Contribute to a better understanding of women and minorities.
- Determine the specific mechanisms that contribute/ alleviate psychological distress.

Participants

- 105 female participants
- Age ranged from 18 to 32, with mean age of 20.26 years, (SD = 3.38)
- Hispanic/ Latino (41%), African-American (18.8%), White Caucasian (15.4%), Asian (6.8%) and other (6.8%)
- (35%) first generation Americans & (32.5%) were born outside of the United States

Procedures

- Participants were recruited through the Psychology Subject Pool
- All surveys were administered in the Laboratory for Aging and Health
- Participants were be given an informed consent form
- Participants were given a questionnaire battery to complete

Interview

- Informed Consent
- Demographic characteristics
- Need to Belong
- Personal Self-Esteem
- State self-esteem
- Collective Self-Esteem
- Desire for Control
- Psychological Symptoms
- Perceived discrimination
- Stigma Consciousness

Hypotheses

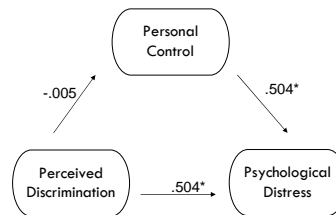
- Hypothesis 1: Personal control mediates the relationship between perceived discrimination and the psychological distress of participants
- Hypothesis 2: Personal self-esteem mediates the effect of perceived discrimination on need to belong.
- Hypothesis 3: Collective self-esteem moderates the relationship between perceived ethnic discrimination and the psychological distress of participants.

Data Analytic Plan

- Baron & Kenny (1986)
 - Mediation:
 - Variable that intervenes b/w stimulus & response
 - Moderation:
 - Variable that affects the direction a/o strength between an IV and a DV

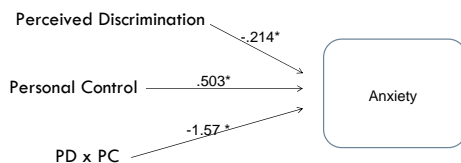
Results

- Hypothesis 1: Personal control mediates the relationship between perceived discrimination and the psychological distress of participants.



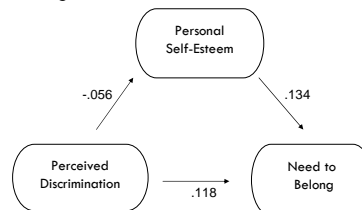
Results...

- Personal Control as a moderator



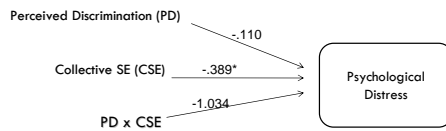
Results cont...

- Hypothesis 2: Personal self-esteem mediates the effect of perceived discrimination on need to belong.



Results cont...

- Hypothesis 3: Collective self-esteem moderates the relationship between perceived ethnic discrimination and the psychological distress of participants.



Implications

- Reaffirmed previous findings within an untested population
- Gain a better understanding of minority women
 - ▣ The impact of race and ethnicity
 - ▣ Internalization of events

Limitations

- A majority minority
- Self-report data lacks objectivity
- Small Sample
- Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI: Derogatis, 1993)

Implications for Future Research

- A larger sample
- Duplicate the study on another sample, with similar demographics
- Include males in the sample to examine gender differences

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THE END...