

Locus of control

Concept of internal-external control of reinforcement was developed from social learning theory which describes the degree to which an individual believes that reinforcements are contingent upon his/her own behaviour. Internal control refers to individuals who believe that reinforcements are contingent upon their own behaviour, capacities or attributes. External control refers to individuals who believe that reinforcement are not under their personal control but rather are under the control of powerful others, luck, chance, fate etc. Thus, depending on his past experiences, a person will have developed a consistent attitude tending toward either an internal or external locus as the source of reinforcement. The concept of locus of control, as derived from social learning theory, provides a useful means for measuring individual differences in the extent to which reinforcement is viewed. Locus of control refers to the tendency to perceive outcomes in life as a result of one's own actions and thus being within one's own control (i.e., internal locus of control), as opposed to being determined by external factors, such as chance or powerful others (i.e., external locus of control). People with high internal locus of control typically try to master their environment, while those with high external locus of control often feel helpless because they perceive that outcomes in life are outside their own control. Locus of control was initially described as a personality trait referring to a person's stable beliefs of personal efficacy. Later, however, locus of control has also been described as a coping resource facilitating certain coping styles. According to attribution theory the cause of an outcome may be perceived to either reside within the person (internal orientation) or outside of the person (external orientation). An internal locus of causation is related to seeing negative outcomes in life as caused by personal characteristics like mood, abilities, and personality, while an external locus of causation is related to seeing negative outcomes as caused by situational factors like the nature of the situation, luck, or social pressure.

Rotter's I-E scale provides a useful means for measuring individual difference in the extent to which reinforcement is viewed as a consequence of one's own behaviour or a consequence of such forces a chance, fate or powerful others. The concept of internal- external control has proved to be a highly useful dimension for understanding the role of reinforcement in a wide variety of behaviours.

Aim:

To measure the internal versus external locus of control of the participant.

Method:

a. Participant's profile

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Educational Qualification:

b. Experimenter's profile:

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Educational Qualification:

Materials:

1. Rotter's locus of control scale with scoring.
2. Pencil, scale, eraser.

Description of the test:

Rotter's locus of control scale (English Version) was developed by Dr. Anand Kumar and Dr.S.N. Srivastava. The scale consists of 23 items and 6 filler items and each of the 23 items was given equal weight, and it was hoped that the content of the various items would provide an adequate sampling of situations in which internal- external attitudes might be expected to affect behaviour. This is a forced choice instrument which consists of 29 pairs of statements, 23 of which are scored, each alternative keyed as to a belief in either internal or external control of reinforcing event. The filler items are meant to reduce the bias. The participant is required to tick one of the two statements according to

his own beliefs. There is no time limit. High score indicates belief in external locus of control (luck, chance, others).

Reliability and validity: The split half reliability of the scale is between 0.65 and 0.79. Estimates for reliability via the split half method correlated by Spearman Brown formula are equal to 0.73 and test-retest samples six weeks apart are equal to 0.67. The test reported good discriminant validity.

Scoring: The scores range from 0-1 for each item. The fillers (1, 8, 14, 19, 24, 27) are not to be scored. The possible range of scores in the scale is 0-23. Responses 2(a), 3(b), 4(b), 5(b), 6(b), 7(a), 9(a), 10(b), 11(b), 12(b), 13(b), 15(b), 16(b), 17(a), 18(a), 20(a), 21(a), 22(b), 23(a), 25(a), 26(b), 28(b) and 29(a) are directed towards externality and carry a score of one each whereas the responses 2(b), 3(a), 4(a), 5(a), 6(a), 7(b), 7(b), 9(b), 10(a), 11(a), 12(a), 13(a), 15(a), 16(a), 17(b), 18(b), 20(b), 21(b), 22(a), 23(b), 25(b), 26(a), 28(a) and 29(b) are directed towards internality and carry a score of zero each. Total score obtained by an individual on 23 significant items in this scale represents his Locus of Control. Locus of Control is measured in two directions - Internal and External. A low score i.e., less than or equal to 12 indicates an internal direction and a high score i.e., higher than or equal to 13 indicates an external direction.

Procedure

Seat the participant comfortably and establish a good rapport with the participant. Rotter's locus of control is a self-administering test and can be administered individually or in groups. The scale is presented before the participant and give the following instructions: "This test contains 29 items and each item have two options, A and B. You are expected to read choice carefully in every items. You have to mark 'tick' or 'circle' either A or B. The test generally take 20 to 30 minutes, but there is no definite time limit." After completion of the test, score the responses as per the scoring procedure given in the manual.

Precautions

1. A congenial distraction less environment should be provided for the participant.
2. It should be ensured that the participant does not omit any item.

Result

Table shows the Internal- external locus of control score of the participant with interpretation

Discussion

First paragraph-Aim+ immediate result

Second paragraph- discuss internal- external locus of control score of the participant and its interpretation

Final paragraph- mention the critical personality factors of the participant based on the score.

Conclusion

The participant's internal- external locus of control score are measured and type is mentioned here.

Reference

Only on APA format(7th edn).
