

## INFORMATION TO USERS

This manuscript has been reproduced from the microfilm master. UMI films the text directly from the original or copy submitted. Thus, some thesis and dissertation copies are in typewriter face, while others may be from any type of computer printer.

**The quality of this reproduction is dependent upon the quality of the copy submitted.** Broken or indistinct print, colored or poor quality illustrations and photographs, print bleedthrough, substandard margins, and improper alignment can adversely affect reproduction.

In the unlikely event that the author did not send UMI a complete manuscript and there are missing pages, these will be noted. Also, if unauthorized copyright material had to be removed, a note will indicate the deletion.

Oversize materials (e.g., maps, drawings, charts) are reproduced by sectioning the original, beginning at the upper left-hand corner and continuing from left to right in equal sections with small overlaps. Each original is also photographed in one exposure and is included in reduced form at the back of the book.

Photographs included in the original manuscript have been reproduced xerographically in this copy. Higher quality 6" x 9" black and white photographic prints are available for any photographs or illustrations appearing in this copy for an additional charge. Contact UMI directly to order.

# UMI

University Microfilms International  
A Bell & Howell Information Company  
300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346 USA  
313/761-4700 800/521-0600

PREVIEW

**Order Number 9503978**

**The efficacy of utilizing a sexual functioning inventory with an  
in-patient adolescent population**

**Sasloff, Jacqueline Paige, Psy.D.**

**Pace University, 1994**

PREVIEW

**U·M·I**

300 N. Zeeb Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

PREVIEW

THE EFFICACY OF UTILIZING A SEXUAL FUNCTIONING INVENTORY WITH  
AN IN-PATIENT ADOLESCENT POPULATION

by  
Jackie Sasloff

A Doctoral Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Doctor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology at  
Pace University

New York

1994

(Please type all information)

NAME: Jackie SasloffTITLE OF PROJECT: The Efficacy of Utilizing a Sexual Functioning  
Inventory with an In-patient Adolescent Population

## DOCTORAL PROJECT COMMITTEE:

PROJECT ADVISOR: John Stokes, Ph.D.  
(Name)  
Associate Professor Pace University  
(Title) (Affiliation)PROJECT CONSULTANT: Beth Hart, Ph.D.  
(Name)  
Professor Pace University  
(Title) (Affiliation)

## FINAL APPROVAL OF COMPLETED PROJECT:

I have read the final version of the doctoral project and certify that it meets the relevant requirements for the Psy.D. degree in School-Community Psychology.

*John Stokes, Ph.D.*  
(Project Advisor's Signature)9/7/94  
(Date)*Beth Hart, Ph.D.*  
(Project Consultant's Signature)9/7/94  
(Date)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
List Of Tables.....	v
Acknowledgements.....	vi
Abstract.....	vii
 I. Introduction.....	 1
Study of Adolescent Sexuality	
The History of Psychosexual Assessment	
Developing and Evaluating Sexual Functioning Measures for Adults	
Studies Evaluating the Derogatis Sexual Functioning Inventory	
Differences Between Males and Females on the DSFI	
Literature on Adolescent Sexual Behavior	
Tasks for Validating of a Sexual Functioning Inventory for Adolescents	
Rationale and Research Questions	
 II. Methodology.....	 30
Subjects	
Procedure	
Predictor and Criterion Variables	
Description of the DSFI	
Description of other Measures and Scales	
 III. Results.....	 42
Demographic and Descriptive Statistics	
Age and Gender Differences	
Analysis of the Reliability of the DSFI with an Adolescent Population	
Results of Analysis of Construct Validity Variables on DSFI Subtest Scores	

IV. Discussion.....	66
Overview of the Research Findings	
Age and Gender Differences on Adolescent DSFI Subtest Scores	
Reliability of the DSFI with an Adolescent Population	
The Relationship Between Construct Validity Variables and DSFI Subtest Scores	
Limitations of the Present Study	
Contributions to School-Community Psychology	
Concluding Statements	
References.....	83
Appendix.....	88
A. The Reliability and Validity of the DSFI Used in an Adult Population	

PREVIEW



## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Age Distribution of Sample	43
2. Descriptive Statistics for each Group	43
3. Content of Drive Items	46
4. Regression Analyses and Correlations of Response Bias in Relation to Individual Drive Items	47
5. Content of Items from Fantasy Subtest	48
6. Regression Analyses and Correlations of Individual Fantasy Items in Relation to Response Bias	50
7. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs Related to the Effects of Reading Level and Intellectual Functioning on DSFI Subtest Scores	52
8. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for Response Bias in Relation to Subtest Scores	54
9. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for the Information Subtest of the DSFI with External Construct Variables	56
10. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for the Experience Subtest of the DSFI with External Construct Variables	57
11. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for the Drive Subtest of the DSFI with External Construct Variables	58
12. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for the Gender Role Definition Subtest of the DSFI with External Construct Variables	60
13. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for the Fantasy Subtest of the DSFI with External Construct Variables	61
14. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for the Body Image Subtest of the DSFI with External Construct Variables	62
15. Regression Analyses, Correlations and ANOVAs for the Satisfaction Subtest of the DSFI with External Construct Variables	64

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My foremost thanks and deepest gratitude goes to Dr. John Stokes of Pace University. Throughout my years in graduate school, and particularly while I was working on my doctoral project, he has been a source of support and guidance as well as a mentor who I greatly admire. Dr. Beth Hart of Pace University has also been of tremendous assistance and always inspired me to learn and think.

I also wish to thank Dr. David Pogge of Four Winds Hospital. Without Dr. Pogge's input and thoughtful consideration of this material, I would not have been able to undertake this project.

In addition, I would like to thank my husband, Michael Sasloff. Throughout the years he has helped provide me with the support and fortitude necessary to complete my graduate training as well as my doctoral project.

PREVIEW

## ABSTRACT

The Derogatis Sexual Functioning Inventory (DSFI) (Derogatis, 1975), a multidimensional questionnaire, has been evaluated in many different pieces of research. It has been found to be a reliable and valid instrument when utilized with adults. The usefulness of the DSFI with an adolescent population has not been investigated prior to the present study. Specifically, the subjects were in-patients from a private psychiatric hospital who completed the DSFI as part of their full psychological evaluation. Eight of the subtests will be analyzed; Information, Experience, Drive, Attitudes, Gender Role, Fantasy, Body Image and Satisfaction.

While examining the DSFI's reliability, Reading Level was found to have significant impact on one subtest (Information). Intellectual Functioning contributed a significant amount of the variance to a few subtests (Information, Attitudes, Fantasy and Body Image). Response Bias was measured by the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI L, F and K Scales). The L Scale impacted significantly on several DSFI subtests (Experience, Drive, Fantasy and Body Image). The F Scale only had an effect on one subtest (Body Image) as did the K Scale (Satisfaction).

The remaining variables addressed the construct validity of the DSFI; Level of Psychological Discomfort (A Scale from the MMPI), Social Introversion (Scale 0 from the MMPI), Social Maladjustment (Scale 4 from the MMPI), Gender Identity (Scale 5 from the MMPI), Body Comfort (Scale C from the MAPI) and Sexual Acceptance (Scale D from the MAPI). There were many significant relationships which contributed to a conclusion that this is a valid instrument with this population. For example, Scale 5 from the MMPI had a significant

relationship to the DSFI Gender Identity Scale and both MAPI Scales significantly impacted upon the DSFI Body Image Scale.

PREVIEW

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### Study of Adolescent Sexuality

Sexuality of adolescence is an important topic which has not received enough attention by researchers. Many theorists have conceptualized the sexual development of adolescents but only a small amount of research has been done to solidify these theories. In the studies which have been undertaken in this area, adolescent sexuality is measured with self-report techniques. Most researchers spend little time discussing the feasibility of using this method of data collection with adolescents on the topic of sexuality. A review of some of these works will follow with a focus on how sexuality was measured in these studies and what, if anything, these scientists discussed in regard to the chosen mode of measurement.

Udry (1988) postulates a theory of adolescent sexuality which takes into account both social control theory and biological factors. His findings indicated that an adolescent who has a strong bond to society will be less likely to engage in sexual behavior as it is viewed as morally incorrect by conventional society. He defines a strong bond to society as emotional attachment to conventional institutions, commitment to conventional behavior, involvement with conventional institutions and having conventional beliefs.

Udry (1988) also found that in boys testosterone levels, in combination with social controls, is strongly related to sexual behavior while with girls the relationship was weaker. Further findings indicated that, in general, females had a lower frequency of intercourse, masturbation and sexual ideation than males. However, Udry does not address the fact that these individuals with a strong

bond to society may simply be less likely to report any sexual behavior. He also does not describe the questionnaire used in any detail nor does he provide any data regarding the measure's reliability or validity.

Vener & Stewart (1974) also found that sexual activity was often a part of a larger picture which involved a variety of socially unacceptable behavior. They pointed out that it is important to differentiate between the different types of sexual activity when researching this topic. Their study showed that while male adolescents were engaging in a higher frequency of coitus than their female counterparts they were not engaging in a higher frequency of other sexual activities (holding hands, kissing, necking, petting, etc.). These researchers also do not provide data regarding the reliability and validity of the instrument used in their study although they indicate it was "pre-tested". They conclude by stating that "sex research would profit from the repeated use of standardized, reliable instruments." (p. 735).

Additional research which views sexual behavior in adolescents as deviant looked at the relationship to non-sexual deviant behavior (Rodgers & Rowe, 1990 & Rowe, Rodgers, Meseck-Bushey & St. John, 1989). They classified sexual behavior as mildly deviant as is drinking alcohol and doing drugs. Rodgers & Rowe (1990) found that siblings' and friends' degree of deviant behavior was a good predictor of an adolescent's deviant behavior. However, they found that the majority of the variability of sexual behavior was not accounted for by non-sexual deviant behavior.

In an earlier study (Rodgers, Billy & Udry, 1982) these researchers studied the test-retest reliability and internal consistency of their measure assessing sexual behavior in adolescence. Although they did not describe this instrument in any detail, the results supported the instrument's usefulness. The

findings will be discussed in detail later as they paid great attention to the issue of inconsistent responses in data regarding an adolescent's sexuality.

In a similar study Rowe, Rodgers, Meseck-Bushey and St. John (1989) concluded that due to the similarity in siblings' behavior there exists a "latent trait" transmissible in families which leads to early sexuality and non-sexual deviance. These researchers did provide data supporting the reliability of the instrument they used. They also addressed the issue of accuracy of self-report measures by omitting subjects who admitted a lack of candor in responding to the questionnaire. Clearly this is a step in the right direction but still falls short of assuring that self-report is effective in this area of study.

The two studies just discussed also looked at sexual behavior in adolescents in terms of a variety of demographic characteristics. As was stated earlier, this has been a major focus in a great deal of the research done in this area. Rodgers & Rowe (1990) confirmed earlier findings that black youth are more sexually active than white teens. They do not provide a description of their subject's socio-economic-status and seem to be basing their results purely on color. Gender is also an important factor as they also found that males have a significantly higher frequency of coitus than do females.

Juhasz & Sonnenshein-Schneider (1987) found that males of a higher socio-economic status were less likely to engage in intercourse than lower SES males. Their study focused on decision-making and they found that in the case of higher SES males the effects of the potential consequences of marriage and establishing a family had a significant impact on their decisions regarding sex as they were more future oriented than lower SES males.

Another demographic factor found to be important in terms of an adolescent's sexual behavior was religion (Juhasz & Sonnenshein-Schneider,

1987). The more religious teens were less likely to engage in sexual intercourse as they were more influenced by the opinions of parents and religious leaders. They were also more influenced by the consequences of child-rearing as they were less likely to use contraception. Age characteristics were also found to be significant as the effect of external morality decreased over time and sexual behavior increased as a result.

Intelligence seems to have a complex relationship to sexuality as the more intelligent adolescents thought less about meaningless self-gratification and more about intimate relationships while the reverse was so for the less intelligent subjects (Juhasz & Sonnenshein-Schneider, 1987). Juhasz and Sonnenshein-Schneider (1979) researched their instrument, the Juhasz Sexual Decision-Making Questionnaire (JSDMQ), in a previous study. The JSDMQ was briefly described as were the methods used to establish its effectiveness. The exact methodology will be discussed later but the instrument was shown to be reliable and valid.

Miller & Olson (1988) also researched adolescent sexual behavior as it relates to demographic characteristics of the individual. They found that high frequency of church attendance is related to a low frequency of sexual behaviors. It should be noted that they studied a population which included a large percentage of Mormons. The strongest relationship was between an individual's attitude about sexuality and their behavior. They did not define attitude but measured it based on responses to a five point Likert type scale questionnaire regarding the appropriateness of pre-marital sex. Family structure was also a good predictor of sexual behavior as adolescents in single parent families were more likely to engage in sexual behavior.



Finally they reported that higher levels parental education were associated with lower frequency of sexual behavior. Based on their findings, Miller & Olson (1988) concluded that an individual's background affects their attitudes about sexuality which in turn affects their behavior. These researchers described the brief questionnaire they designed and administered as part of their study but do not discuss the implications of self-report data on this topic with adolescents nor do they provide any support for the use of this instrument.

Greenberg & Archambault (1973) also studied religion as it relates to sexual behavior, specifically masturbation. They found that Catholics were less likely to masturbate than Jewish or Protestant subjects. They point out that the reliability of their self-developed instrument might be a problem but use the similarity between their data and Kinsey's (1948, 1953) to refute that difficulty.

Troiden & Jendrek (1987) further examined a religious population to learn more about the determinants of sexual behavior. They found that the conservative attitudes of this group were related to their low incidence of sexual behavior. In other words, they found attitudes and behavior to be significantly correlated as did Miller & Olson (1988). However, their analysis showed that sexual ideology/attitudes only accounted for ten to fifteen percent of the variance in level of sexual experience. They concluded that further research was necessary in order to discover what other factors influence an individual's sexual behavior. They described the Sexual Attitude Scale which was used and provided information about the instrument's validity but did not mention reliability.

Clearly, demographics do not explain the entire picture. Going beyond the superficial analysis of this complex behavior in adolescents would require, as a first step, the use of an instrument which measures more than just behavior. In fact there has been little research which has attempted a deeper analysis in

this area but some have specifically studied the relationship between an adolescent's sexual behavior and personality style.

Juhasz & Sonnenshein-Schneider (1987), who were mentioned earlier, stated that they were studying personality characteristics, and locus of control, as it relates to an adolescent's values regarding sexual behaviors. However they do not relate their findings to the adolescent's actual behavior. They used Cattell and Cattell's (1975) High School Personality Questionnaire and found three dimensions which relate personality to sexual decision-making; basic sex differences, developmental differences and anxiety versus adjustment. It is questionable as to whether or not these three factors could be considered personality traits.

In looking at their first dimension, basic sex differences, Juhasz & Sonnenshein-Schneider (1987) found the typical adolescent male profile to reflect a narcissistic role in sexuality. They were concerned with their own immediate gratification, having little regard for their partner. They were further described as insensitive, aggressive, competitive and stubborn. They went on to define what they called the "stereotypic unliberated female" as tender-minded, submissive, possessing a strong super-ego, dependent, obedient, mild and docile. They did not define these terms nor did they enumerate the manner in which they developed these descriptions.

These researchers continued, in a similar vein, to describe the extremes of their other two factors. In considering the developmental differences they described two poles; immature and mature. The immature adolescent relies on external morality in decision-making, regardless of their interest in sexuality, while the more mature adolescent makes autonomous decisions without conflict. On the last variate the two poles described are anxiety and adjustment. The

anxious teen is prone to feeling guilty, lacks self-control and is impatient. Due to their guilt proneness these adolescents are more likely to only be involved in sexual relationships where they feel there is a commitment.

The adjusted personality is self-assured, secure, in control, serious, deliberate, composed, emotionally stable, assertive, mature and calm. This individual can engage in a sexual relationship which does not necessarily involve commitment but a mutual understanding of needs. Juhasz and Sonnenschein-Schneider (1987) use many adjectives but it is clear that no operationally defined personality styles based on experimental data were revealed.

There have been papers written by clinicians which describe individual cases where sexual behavior is studied as one aspect of a characterological style. Although this work is not research it accounts for much of the literature on adolescent sexuality and will be described briefly. Hajcak & Garwood (1988) provide important information regarding adolescent sexuality based on their clinical experience. They firmly believe that adolescent sexuality is driven by emotional needs which are not directly related to sexuality. Some of these needs are for affection, others are to soothe lonely feelings, confirm one's masculinity or femininity, increase self-esteem, express anger, or possibly to escape from boredom. Sex can be utilized as a coping mechanism which results in what Hajcak & Garwood (1988) term hypersexuality.

Moses Laufer (1989) described two adolescent patients he was working with in psychoanalysis and some of his ideas about adolescent sexuality based on his experience. Laufer postulates that the disturbed adolescent distorts their body image in an attempt to comprehend and gain mastery over the changes which are occurring. He uses two different terms to describe the ways in which adolescents achieve this; alienation from the sexually mature body and

destruction of the sexually mature body. Laufer believes that the difference between the two have important diagnostic and prognostic implications. The destruction of the sexually mature body results in self-destructive and suicidal behaviors.

However, Laufer focuses on the alienation of the sexually mature body. This occurs when the immature body image and the sexually mature body image become split-off from one another. The alienation results in the adolescent expressing themselves sexually through the less mature, primitive body image. This process establishes a perverse/psychotic personality organization where sexual acts are primarily auto-erotic. The individual is involved in compulsive and frequent masturbation as well as perverse fantasies. They believe they are complete within themselves and don't need to interact with another person to be satisfied.

#### The History of Psychosexual Assessment

At this point it would be helpful to review the history of research in the area of sexuality and psychosexual assessment. This will include the investigation of sexual dysfunction which is not the main topic of the study to be described here but is inextricably tied to psychosexual assessment. Sexuality was not studied in a methodological manner until the work of Kinsey and his associates in 1943 (Conte, 1986). Their work established sexuality and sexual dysfunctions as a legitimate area of research.

Conte (1986) reports that in 1966 Masters and Johnson defined sexual dysfunction as "any impairment in the response cycle of an adult male or female which impairs their capacity to achieve satisfactory levels of arousal and/or orgasm." (p. 149). They also developed the first objective, structured interview to investigate sexuality and stated that the conceptualization of sexual