Trends of Implicit Biases about Disabilities among College Students Over the Past Few Years

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Spring Individual Research Project
RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY BIASES
Individuals’ process 11 million bits of information every second.

A prejudiced subconscious process that constantly influences individual’s feelings, thought patterns, actions, and behaviors.

It is usually rooted in prejudices about specific groups of people and is often subtle and unintended.

(Goff, Eberhardt, Williams, & Jackson, 2008). Staats, 2016)
- Aware
- Intentional
- Responsive
- Logical
- Analytical
- Critical & Abstract Thinking
- Sets Goals & Judges Results
- Thinks Abstractly
- STM (20 sec)

**Conscious Mind**

**Explicit Bias**

- Spontaneous
- Intuitive
- Creative
- Emotional
- Insightful
- Holistic
- Store holder of all memories & experiences
- Automatic
- Thinks Literally
- LTM

**The Unconscious**

**Implicit Bias**
Defeating Unconscious Bias
Project Implicit, Harvard University

https://www.projectimplicit.net/index.html

The Implicit Association Test (IAT)
Anthony Greenwald et. Al

Measures the strength of automatic associations people have in their minds.
Good Words
Pleasure
Glad
Happy
Cheerful
Enjoy
Fantastic
Triumph
Terrific

Bad Words
Yucky
Nasty
Disgust
Awful
Despise
Selfish
Abuse
Helpful

Disability
(Ability)

DISABILITY - IMPLICIT ASSOCIATION TEST

Research Question: Using the Disability - IAT, what are the trends of college students implicit biases towards disabilities? Are implicit biases increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same?

Hypothesis: Implicit biases towards disabilities will decrease because there is more access to education around disabilities. Thus, the more college students become informed and exposed to differences, the less biases they possess.
Methods

- Secondary Data
- Only participants from ages 18 to 22 years old considered
  - Must have stated reason for taking test as “assignment for school”
- Data from 2016 to 2018
- Ran One Way ANOVA for the past 3 years
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS!

- **N:** 26,247
- **Age:** 18 to 22 years old
- **Males:** 5,900 (22.5%)
- **Females:** 20,323 (77.4%)
- **Disability or Learning Difficulty Status**
  - **Yes:** (20.1%)
  - **No:** (79.0%)
RACIAL MAKEUP OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

- White: 69.9%
- Black: 5.6%
- Asian: 5.8%
- Multiracial: 4.1%
- Other or Unknown: 5.4%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.6%
- Missing: 8.0%
- American Indian or Alaskan Native: 0.6%
Results Of College Students

Overall Implicit D Scores

P < .021* only from 2017 to 2018
Results Of Entire Population

Overall Implicit D Scores in the Last 14 years

P < .0001* except from year 2004 to 2005
Discussion

- Implicit biases are pervasive and automatic thoughts, feelings, and behaviors about individuals with disabilities.
- Implicit biases about disabilities is trending downward in college students, but upward for the general population.
- Evidence-based education interventions to inform and educate people about disabilities is important to reduce biases.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limitations</th>
<th>Future Directions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◯ Secondary Data</td>
<td>◯ Follow data to see if downward trend of implicit biases among college students continue</td>
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<tr>
<td>◯ Generalizability of results should be taken with caution (e.g. use of signs)</td>
<td>◯ Evaluate education interventions to teach the general population about individuals with disability</td>
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<td>◯ Not enough years of data to establish a pattern with college students</td>
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<tr>
<td>◯ Missing Data</td>
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References


Educational Video From Individuals with Disabilities