



Testing a Theoretical Model of Attributed Dignity

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Background

- ❖ As individuals age the maintenance of dignity increases in importance
- ❖ Research on dignity has increased dramatically over the last 10 years, the relationships among the factors of dignity are not yet well understood

Theoretical Definition

- ❖ Dignity, an intrinsic quality of being human is manifested by an attributed, dynamic cognitive component of the self comprised of a sense of self value, self in relation to others, perceived value from others, and behavior that demonstrates respect toward self and others.

Operational Definition

- ❖ The Jacelon Attributed Dignity Scale (JADS), an 18-item Likert-scaled instrument, has been found to be a valid and reliable measure of attributed dignity comprised of four factors, as indicated above

During the past week:	Untrue			Completely True
1. I have been polite to other people.	1	2	3	4
2. I have tried not to judge people before I get to know them.	1	2	3	4
3. I have tried to do things for other people.	1	2	3	4
4. I have considered other people's feelings before speaking.	1	2	3	4
5. I believe other people have treated me as an equal.	1	2	3	4
6. People have enjoyed my company.	1	2	3	4
7. I have been reliable.	1	2	3	4
8. I have been sensitive to the needs of others.	1	2	3	4
9. I believe people have respected me.	1	2	3	4
10. I have had a sense of purpose.	1	2	3	4
11. My life has had meaning.	1	2	3	4
12. I have been honest.	1	2	3	4
13. I have treated other people with respect.	1	2	3	4
14. I have laughed at myself.	1	2	3	4
15. I have respected myself.	1	2	3	4
16. I have avoided saying or doing things that might hurt other people.	1	2	3	4
17. My manners have been important to me.	1	2	3	4
18. I think I have made a difference.	1	2	3	4

Hypothesis

- ❖ The relationships among factors of Attributed Dignity are indicated in Figure 1.

Data Collection

- ❖ 289 older adults
- ❖ 65-95 years regression
- ❖ Completed the JADS

Data Analysis

- ❖ Regression analyses evaluated paths within the model to Test the hypothesized theoretical relationships among the factors
- ❖ Each of the 4 factors was treated as the DV in 4 separate regression models
- ❖ The other 3 factors were the IV (predictors)

Factor Definitions

- ❖ **Self in Relation to Others:** Self reflection on how an individual interacts with others
- ❖ **Behavioral Respect:** behavior can be directed at self or others
- ❖ **Perceived Value from Others:** The value an individual perceives he or she is attributed from other people
- ❖ **Self-value:** the individual's self perceived value or self estimate of the individual's relative importance

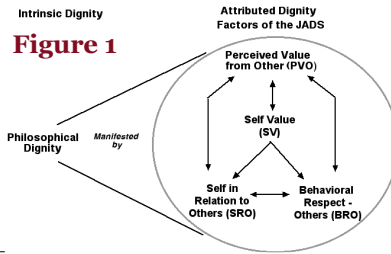


Figure 1

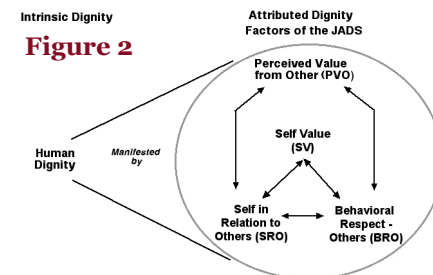
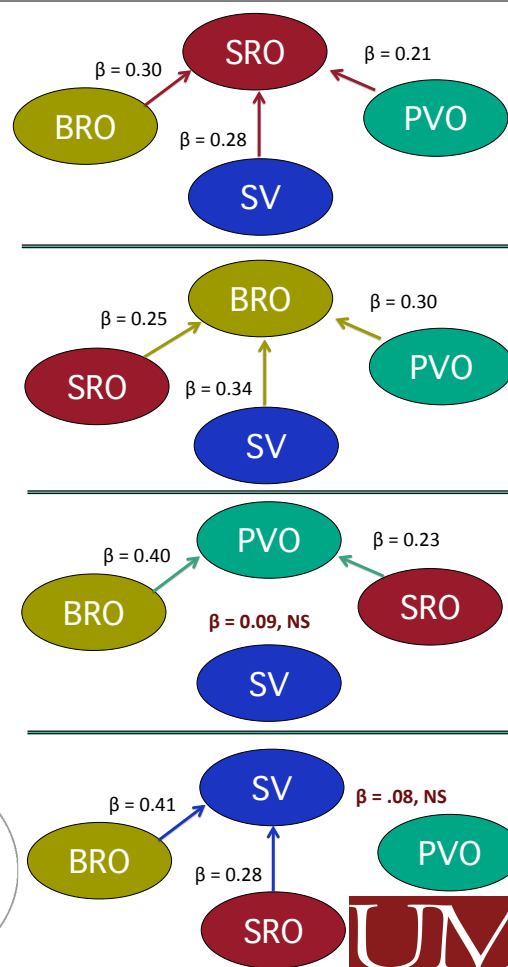


Figure 2

Findings

- ❖ Bi-directional relationships were supported between:
 - ❖ PVO & SRO
 - ❖ SRO & BRO
 - ❖ BRO & PVO
- ❖ Bi-directional relationships were not anticipated between:
 - ❖ SV & SRO
 - ❖ SV & BRO
- ❖ The proposed relationships between SV & PVO were not supported.

Conclusions/Implications

- ❖ In this sample, self value was not related to the individual's perceived value from others
- ❖ Understanding the relationships among the factors of attributed dignity provides insight into:
 - ❖ The concept itself
 - ❖ The development of interventions to support and enhance elder's dignity to promote successful aging.