

Generative Roles
Banyard, Hamby, Grych, 2013;
Hamby, Thomas, Banyard, de St. Aubin, & Grych, 2015

Generativity is characterized by the desire to care for younger and future generations, especially by passing on knowledge (McAdams & de St. Aubin, 1992), but it is not limited to middle age. Most measures of generativity, including the Loyola Generativity Scale (also used in the Life Paths study), assess general patterns. To develop a more behavioral indicator, the Generative Roles scale assesses specific roles that people who have strong desires to nurture future generations are likely to fulfill. It also assesses the generative roles in which one's parents have served.

Development and validation of measure in pilot study and main sample: To establish reliability and validity for new and adapted items, we conducted a pilot study with 104 participants from the same community as the main sample, recruited through a local email classifieds list and word-of-mouth. In the main sample of over 2500 participants, we conducted domain-level factor analyses for all interpersonal strengths. The final solution yielded this 9-item factor, which includes one item originally written for Generous Behaviors (item 9). Internal consistencies (coefficient alphas) for the pilot and main samples are 0.78 and 0.77, respectively. Validity was established in the main sample with moderate correlations with related scales, such as Generativity ($r = .34$) and Meaning Making – Other-oriented ($r = .32$), as well as Subjective Well-being ($r = .27$).

Scoring: For scoring purposes, “yes” was assigned a value of 1, and “no” a value of 0 and the scale score is the sum of all items. Higher scores indicated a greater number of generative roles.

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1. Has one of your parents ever been a teacher or coach?
Yes 1
No 0
2. Has one of your parents ever been a Sunday school teacher, Bible study group leader, or church leader?
Yes 1
No 0
3. Has one of your parents ever been a volunteer in the community for a charity, scouts, or other community group?
Yes 1
No 0
4. At some time in my life, I have been a Bible study group leader.
Yes 1
No 0
5. At some time in my life, I have been a coach (volunteer or paid).
Yes 1
No 0
6. At some time in my life, I have been a scout leader/youth group leader (for example, for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H).
Yes 1
No 0
7. At some time in my life, I have been a captain of a team.
Yes 1
No 0
8. At some time in my life, I have been a tutor.
Yes 1
No 0
9. I have helped out at church, school, or a community organization.
Yes 1
No 0