

The needs-based model of reconciliation: Do effects reproduce with culturally relevant scenarios?

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(494 words in the body of the abstract)

Introduction

The needs-based model of reconciliation is about psychological needs of victims and perpetrators (Shnabel & Nadler, 2008). Victims have a need for power and are more willing to reconcile when perpetrators give messages of empowerment. In contrast, perpetrators have a need to re-establish their public moral image and are more willing to reconcile when victims give messages of acceptance. The needs-based model has important real-world implications (e.g., SimanTov-Nachlieli & Shnabel, 2014). Thus, it is important to see whether results of this model's original studies reproduce.

The current study is part of the Many Labs 5 (ML5) reproducibility project. This project worked with the original authors of 13 effects that did not reproduce in an earlier project (Open Science Collaboration, 2016) to develop conceptual replications that the authors believed could reproduce the original effects. We are one of eight sites that collected data on Shnabel and Nadler's (2008, Study 4) effects, using the original scenario about an interpersonal conflict in a workplace and a new scenario that is about a conflict between college roommates. Our hypothesis was that Shnabel and Nadler's (2008) effects would not reproduce with the workplace scenario (as in the Open Science Collaboration, 2016) but that they would reproduce with the roommate scenario.

Method

Participants were 260 Ithaca College students who participated in a psychology laboratory. The questionnaire randomly assigned participants to the workplace versus roommate scenario. Within each scenario, the questionnaire randomly assigned participants to imagine themselves as the victim versus the perpetrator. The questionnaire also randomly assigned participants to imagine receiving a message of empowerment versus acceptance. There were manipulation checks for perceived victimhood, perceived perpetration, viewing the message as accepting, and viewing the message as empowering. The main dependent variable was willingness to reconcile after receiving the message (Cronbach's alphas = .92 and .68 for the workplace and roommate scenarios, respectively).

Results

Analyses of the manipulation checks were independent-samples t-tests. Our main analyses were 2 (victim vs. perpetrator) x 2 (acceptance vs. empowerment) ANOVAs on willingness to reconcile after receiving the message.

Workplace scenario. Our main analysis revealed only a main effect for vignette, $F(1, 124) = 24.02, p < .001$. Participants were more willing to reconcile in the perpetrator vignette than in the victim vignette. Additionally, manipulation checks for victimhood and perpetration

were significant and in the expected directions. Unexpectedly, manipulation checks for empowerment and acceptance were significant but in the opposite of expected directions.

Roommate scenario. Our main analysis revealed no significant effects. Additionally, all of the manipulation checks were significant and in the expected directions.

Discussion

Neither scenario reproduced Shnabel et al.'s (2008) results on willingness to reconcile at our institution. One possible reason is that the scenarios were either too relevant or not relevant enough to participants. Another is that many participants may not have read carefully enough to remember whether they were supposed to imagine being the victim or the perpetrator by the time they got to the message of empowerment or acceptance.

References

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