

Yuker H E, Block J R & Younng J H. *The measurement of attitudes toward disabled persons*. Albertson, NY: Human Resources Center, 1966. 170 p.

This monograph contains a review of the literature dealing with attitudes toward persons with disabilities, descriptions of three reliable and valid scales for measuring attitudes toward disabled persons, data indicating correlates of these attitudes, and an extensive list of references. [The *SSCI*® indicates that this book has been cited in over 155 publications.]

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Since I happen to have cerebral palsy (CP), it might be assumed that this accounts for my interest in attitudes toward persons with disabilities. But my CP results from brain damage at birth, while my interest in this type of research began when I was 32 years old. It resulted from two serendipitous circumstances: (1) I wanted to supplement my salary as an assistant professor at Hofstra University by obtaining a part-time consulting position, and (2) Henry Viscardi, Jr., the president of Abilities Inc. (a firm that hires only disabled persons for factory work at competitive wages), decided that he needed to hire a professional researcher, preferably disabled, to conduct and publish research demonstrating that severely disabled persons can be effectively used in competitive employment. I am still doing research and writing relating to attitudes toward persons with disabilities and also am engaged in research re-

lating to faculty workload and faculty productivity.

The second author, Dick Block, also got into the field by chance. Dick, a graduate student and a friend of mine, was interested in a part-time assistantship, and he came to work for me at Abilities Inc. He wrote his PhD dissertation on an aspect of attitudes toward disabled persons (ATDP) and contributed significantly to this monograph and other joint publications. The third author, Janet H. Younng, was a graduate student.

Once involved in this topic, we quickly became convinced that prejudice toward disabled persons was a major factor in the self-acceptance and adjustment of persons with disabilities. Although this point of view is generally accepted today, it was not accepted in the 1950s and early 1960s. We were unable to get research support from government agencies or foundations but did receive some support from industry.

It was my strong conviction that there was a need for reliable and valid instruments for measuring attitudes, and we set out to develop them. The ATDP Scales were the result. This need was verified by the number of citations to the monograph and the extensive use of the ATDP Scales. This was somewhat surprising to us since the publication was a monograph published by an unknown organization, rather than an article published in a major journal. Further evidence of the utility of the scales is indicated by the fact that they have been translated into 15 languages.

The 1966 monograph was reprinted in 1970 and is still cited even though it has been out of print since 1975. We hope that our more recent publications^{1,2} achieve as much recognition as our earlier ones.

1. Yuker H E & Block J R. *Research with the Attitude Toward Disabled Persons Scales: 1960-1985*. Hempstead, NY: Hofstra University Center for the Study of Attitudes Toward Persons with Disabilities, 1986. 87 p.

2. Yuker H E, ed. *Attitudes toward persons with disabilities*. New York: Springer, 1988. 336 p.