

Appendix 4

Factor Analysis of Ethical Attitude Items

Certain patterns seem to exist in the way in which young people responded to these questions on ethical issues. A factor analysis carried out on the responses, identified a number of underlying value dimensions which we have characterised as follows:

- Illegal Consumption
- Illicit Convention
- Trust and Interpersonal Values
- Exclusion and Resistance
- Self Interest Values
- Sexual Values
- Life Issues
- Environmentalism

Table 1: Rotated factors and factor loadings for ethical attitude items (n=1727)

Factor and factor items	Loading
<i>Factor 1. Illegal Consumption (25.1%)*</i>	
Buying drugs for friends	0.782
Dealing drugs	0.761
Taking the drug Ecstasy	0.704
Taking the drug heroin	0.739
Taking the drug cannabis	0.687
Shoplifting	0.593
Glue-sniffing	0.571
Joyriding	0.525
<i>Factor 2. Illicit Convention (5.2%)</i>	
Using violence in self-defence	0.665
Carrying a weapon	0.579
Drinking alcohol	0.570
Taking revenge	0.550
Fighting	0.534
Sexual intercourse under the age of 16	0.437
Spray painting/graffiti	0.399
<i>Factor 3. Trust and personal values (4.7%)</i>	
Calling people names	0.614
Two-timing	0.552
Lying to your parents	0.494
Divorce	0.387
<i>Factor 4. Exclusion and Resistance (3.8%)</i>	
Racism	0.659
Religious discrimination	0.676
Using violence for political ends	0.582
Fighting with the police	0.399

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Factor 5. Self-interest values (2.8%)

Avoiding a fare on a fare on public transport	0.582
Keeping money that you have found	0.557
Buying something you knew was stolen	0.527
Lying to a teacher	0.476

Factor 6. Sexual Values (2.6%)

Watching/reading pornography	0.652	0.546
Pressuring someone to have sex		
Prostitution	0.558	
Sexism	0.450	
Unsafe sex	0.446	

Factor 7. Life issues (2.6%)

Suicide	0.614
Abortion	0.609
Euthanasia (ending the life of the terminally ill)	0.588
Cloning animals	0.433

Factor 8. Animal Rights (2.3%)

Eating meat	0.537
Doing medical experiments on animals	0.581
Wearing real fur	0.716

*Percentages indicate common variance accounted for.

The first four of these attitude clusters accounted for 39% of the variance. While the remaining four were not as significant, they represented important and coherent response patterns.

In order to explore the differences across groups, a further analysis was carried out on the factors identified. Since the variables loading on Factors 1–8 made up comprehensive clusters, a score was derived for each factor by summing the raw scores of those variables that contributed to the factor (i.e. had a loading of over 0.4). The resulting distributions were then recoded into a three-point scale representing low, medium, and high positions. These were then examined by carrying out a chi-square test with demographic and other relevant variables. The results of which are detailed in Table 3.7.

Factor 1. Illegal consumption

Within this one factor (which contained the majority of consensus issues) were two distinct sets of variables: 'drugs' (buying drugs for friends, dealing drugs, glue-sniffing and taking the drugs Ecstasy, heroin and cannabis); and 'illegal activities' (shoplifting, stealing, claiming benefit not entitled to, and joyriding). For the purposes of secondary analysis on the factors, the variables contributing to each aspect were summed separately.

Significant differences in attitudes emerged across groups. With regard to drugs issues, less approving attitudes, were found among young women, young people in Northern Ireland, younger age groups, young people with pro authority orientation, those with stricter parents, those without part-time work, those who belonged to a religion, and those who regarded themselves as religious. Attitudes towards drugs were most liberal among young people in affluent commuter belt town and in the rural location.

Disapproval for the items within the second aspect in this factor was high overall, but was greatest among the younger age groups, young women and those with a positive orientation towards authority. Just over half (53%) of all young people with anti authority orientation had a sum score indicating strong disapproval compared with 97% of those with high orientation towards authority.

Factor 2. Unlucky conventions

The issues within this factor did not meet with the same level of disapproval as those in factor one. Here, young people consistently rated the items as 'always' or 'usually wrong,' the majority opting for

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the middle choice. Statistical significance in responses overall point again to greater disapproval among the younger age groups, young women, young people in Northern Ireland, young people with positive orientation towards authority and those whose parents were 'not at all strict' or 'very strict.'

Factor 3. Trust and interpersonal values

The values of friendship and relationships were key for the majority of young people, but were particularly central to young people in years 7 and 8. Those who defined themselves as being religious were more likely to espouse these values, and having a positive orientation towards authority was associated with high disapproval of the items within this factor.

Factor 4. Exclusion and resistance

Attitudes towards racism, religious discrimination, political violence, and fighting the police all contributed to this factor. High levels of disapproval were expressed across all groups, although young women were more disapproving than young men were, as were young people in England and those who did not belong to a religion. Anti authority attitudes were associated with much lower levels of disapproval.

Factor 5. Self interest values

The evidence from analysis on this dimension of young people's values again suggests that young women have consistently less accepting views on many value issues than do young men. This is a difference which was consistent across age groups, (greatest in year 11 $m=66\%$, $f=85\%$), and also across all but one of the schools (in the northern estate) young men were more disapproving than young women, $m=63\%$, $f=59\%$). Overall young people in Northern Ireland expressed less approving attitudes than young people in England, as did young people who belonged to a religion and regarded themselves to be religious (irrespective of site). Disapproval was also associated with being white, younger, and having a positive orientation towards authority.

Factor 6. Sexual values

Young women across all schools and in all year groups were less approving on sexual values than were young men. The difference between the two groups was greatest in the older cohorts; 26% of young men in year 10, and 30% in year 11 gave responses which reflected less approval, compared with 62% and 64% of young women in these year groups. Attitudes among young people in Northern Ireland were less approving than among young people in England, and among those who were positively orientated towards authority. Having a part time job was associated with more approving attitudes across all age groups, although the difference diminished by year 11. Belonging to a religion and being 'religious' were also associated with less approving attitudes.

Factor 7. Life values

Attitudes towards 'life values' were primarily related to location, age, and religiosity. Young people in Northern Ireland, the younger year groups, and those belonging to a religion and regarding themselves as religious generally expressed greatest disapproval of the issues within this factor. Neither ethnicity, nor authority disposition differentiated on the items constituting this factor. Young people from a middle class background were more accepting than were those from a working class background, as were those who had a part time job.

Factor 8. Environmental values

Age and ethnicity were the only two demographic variables that differentiated patterns of response on this factor. Young people in year 8 were most environmentally concerned (against wearing fur, eating meat and medical experiments), those in year 9 the least. Young people who identified as white were more disapproving of these items than those who identified as Black or Asian.

There was no significant relationship between the type of family unit to which young people belonged (single parent headed, both biological parents, reconstituted family, other family headed, and non-family headed) and the main factors.

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Table 2: Values dimensions – differences across groups

Factor	Gender	Age	Place	Class	Authority Orientation
Factor 1. Illegal consumption	Female more disapproving <0.001	Younger more disapproving <0.001	N. Irish more disapproving <0.001	Ns	Pro authority more disapproving <0.001
Factor 2. Illicit conventions	Female more disapproving <0.001	Younger more disapproving <0.001	N. Irish more disapproving <0.001	Ns	Pro authority more disapproving <0.001
Factor 3. Trust and interpersonal values	Ns	Younger more disapproving <0.001	N. Irish more disapproving <0.001	Ns	Pro authority more disapproving <0.001
Factor 4 Exclusion and resistance	Female more disapproving <0.001	Ns	English more disapproving <0.05	Ns	Pro authority more disapproving <0.001
Factor 5. Self interest values	Female more disapproving <0.001	Younger more disapproving <0.001	N. Irish more disapproving <0.001	Ns	Pro authority more disapproving <0.001
Factor 6. Sexual values	Female more disapproving <0.001	Younger more disapproving <0.001	N. Irish more disapproving <0.05	Ns	Pro authority more disapproving <0.001
Factor 7 Life issues	Ns	Younger more disapproving <0.001	N. Irish more disapproving <0.001	WC more disapproving <0.001	Ns
Factor 8 Environment	Ns	Ns	Ns	Ns	Ns

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