Motivational Structure Questionnaire (MSQ)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

People who drink alcohol excessively do so because drinking serves a function in their lives (Cox & Klinger, 1988, 1990). The MSQ (Klinger & Cox, 1986; Cox, Klinger, & Blount, 1991, 1996) identifies problem drinkers' maladaptive motivational patterns that underlie their motivations for drinking alcohol. When taking the MSQ, respondents begin by naming their current concerns in major life areas. They then characterize each concern along dimensions that will reveal the structure of their motivation. A computer program scores the MSQ by generating quantitative indices and indicating the relative standing of each subject on each index. A motivational profile is then drawn for each respondent to depict the significant features of the respondent's motivational structure and to show where problems with that respondent's motivational patterns lie.

**TARGET POPULATION**

- Adults
- Adolescents

**Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?**

Substance abusers, cases of work inhibition/burnout, a wide range of counselees, possibly nonpsychopathic offenders

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- Number of items: Not applicable
- Number of subscales: Indefinite
- Format(s): ☒ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
  - Interview
  - Observation
  - ☒ Computer self-administered (under development)
  - Other
- Time required for administration: 2 to 3 hours (average 2 hours for college students); very variable
- Administered by: Technician or professional
- Training required for administration? ☒ yes ☐ no (a little)
- Comments: The instrument is idiothetic, with both idiographs and nomothetic features. It is not a collection of items but nevertheless permits objective quantification without the need to interpret or rate respondents' responses.
SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: Highly variable depending on methods and scales
Scored by: Technician
Computerized scoring or interpretation available? □ yes ☐ no
Norms available? □ yes ☐ no
Instrument normed on subgroups? □ yes ☐ no
Which groups? College students, chemically dependent veterans, alcoholic inpatients, traumatically brain-injured rehabilitation patients; for college students, American (male, female), Dutch, Norwegian
Comments: Respondents list their current goals (appetitive, aversive, agonistic, pistemic) and rate them on a number of dimensions. The ratings are self-qualifying and may be combined to produce dozens of possible measures.

PSYCHOMETRICS

Have reliability studies been done? □ yes ☐ no
What measure(s) of reliability was used?
☐ Test-retest
☐ Split half
☐ Internal consistency
Have validity studies been done? □ yes ☐ no
What measures of validity have been derived?
☐ Content
☐ Criterion (predictive, concurrent, “postdictive”)
☐ Construct

CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT

The MSQ can be used at the beginning of treatment to pinpoint where patients’ motivational problems lie that impact on their motivation to drink alcohol. In turn, the information that the MSQ yields can provide the basis for initiating Systematic Motivational Counseling (SMC, Cox, Klinger, & Blount, 1991, 1996) for changing drinkers’ maladaptive motivational patterns. A detailed manual to guide the counseling technique is available (Cox, Klinger, & Blount, 1996).

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

It lends itself to use whenever an investigation is concerned with motivational and volitional factors.
SOURCE REFERENCES


SUPPORTING REFERENCES


FOREIGN LANGUAGE VERSIONS AND HOW TO OBTAIN

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          Related but rather different version under the title
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KEY REFERENCES FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE VERSIONS

Czech

German