Abstract

This task was given to random participants at The College of Staten Island, specifically building 1-L (library). There was a total of seventy-four participants, 38 male and 36 females. Participants were asked to judge the photo given based on attractiveness and how likely they are to hire the person. The hypothesis was that there would be a significant effect on judgement of whether the participant would hire, and level of attractiveness based solely on dentition.

A univariate ANOVA test was used to analyze data at a P value 0.01. Results revealed that there was a significant effect on prejudice between subjects based on dentition.

Introduction

An essential part of social interaction is the individuals’ appearance. Some might say “what is beautiful is good,” which is a stereotype due to attractiveness. Research has shown that people who carry desirable features are more socially wanted and happier. People who feel more attractive also influence how others evaluate their performances.

An important feature that may determine attractiveness which plays an important role is social interactions is dental appearance, an overall good dental appearance is associated with tooth color, shape, position, quality of any restorations the patient has, and the way each tooth is arranged specifically the anterior teeth. Based on a study done by Baseer et al. (2020), results showed that decayed teeth were associated with negative perception. On the other hand, whiter teeth were associated with appraisals. This data supports that dental esthetics can significantly affect social acceptance, and opportunities to succeed in life.

Research Question

How does dentition influence prejudice?

Hypothesis

Differences in dentition will yield significant effects on the likelihood of hire and level of attractiveness.

Methods

- **Research Design**: 3(condition) x 2 (gender) independent group design.
- **Independent Variable**: Dentition
- **Dependent Variable**: Likelihood of hire and level of attractiveness
- **Participants**: 74 participants, 38 male and 36 females

**Results**

- Univariate ANOVA on two dependent variables yielded significant main effects for dentition.
- For DV 1—how likely are you to hire, F(1, 74) = 4.70, p = 0.01 (See Table 1 for means and standard deviations). Tests of pairwise comparisons yielded significant mean differences p = .01 between the least attractive dentition photo and moderate and attractive pictures suggesting that only poor dentition effects hiring with no real difference between perfect dentition and average dentition.
- For DV 2—how attractive do you find her, F(2, 74) = 20.96, p = .01. Tests of pairwise comparisons yielded significant mean differences p = .01 between the least attractive dentition photo and moderate and attractive pictures suggesting that only poor dentition effects attractiveness ratings with no real difference between perfect dentition and average dentition.
- My results showed significant differences between both dependent variables, which supports my hypothesis.

Discussion

- The goal of this study was to document significant effects on judgement of whether the participant would hire, and level of attractiveness based solely on dentition. The results confirmed this hypothesis that in the general population, people place a high value on facial appearance. Dental dentition differences were supported by running a multivariate test.

- It is clear that dental appearance is a primary function of the face. Dental appearance is crucial when dating, making friends, getting a job, running for public office, getting accepted into graduate school and so many more. It is important that we are aware of the significance of the position, color, occlusion of our teeth has the effect on our ability to reach our maximum potential. To overcome such difficulty, we need to raise awareness about the importance of dental health.

- Understanding the perception of dental appearance and the effect it has on our society may be of great assistance to current and future dentists in planning treatments that lead to higher patient satisfaction.

Limitations/Recommendations

- For future studies, high quality pictures of different dentition can be used to ensure that each participant is able to observe clearly.
- One limitation may be that participants were distracted during the task. Participants were surrounded by other students talking, giving input on the task given which may have effected the quality of answers.
- Thus, for later experiments, we recommend that participants are alone in an isolated room to gain valid and reliable results.
- Having one group of people be of a larger number than the other may have caused bias due to what each culture finds “attractive”. Having a large and diverse random sample is suggested in order to generalize findings to the public.

References


