The Effects of Social-Comparison Versus Mastery Praise on Children's Intrinsic Motivation

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Abstract Two studies examined the effects of social comparison versus mastery praise on 4th- and 5th-grade children's intrinsic motivation. Children received a high score and either social-comparison praise, mastery praise, or no praise for working on a set of novel puzzles. They then worked on a different task and were given either ambiguous feedback (Study 1) or positive feedback (Study 2) before completing measures of intrinsic motivation. Mastery praise enhanced intrinsic motivation and social-comparison praise curtailed it when uncertainty about children's subsequent performance was introduced (Study 1) and, for girls, even in situations of continued success (Study 2). Social-comparison praise also tended to discourage children from seeking subsequent self-evaluative normative information. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

Воздействие поощрений «социального сравнения» и «мастерства» на внутреннюю мотивацию детей.

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Проведены два исследования эффектов поощрения социального сравнения и мастерства на внутреннюю мотивацию пяти- и четвероклассников. Дети получали высокие оценки вкупе с поощрением социального сравнения, мастерства или без оного за решение неизвестных им головоломок. После этого они работали над другой задачей и получали двусмысленную (исследование 1) или положительную (исследование 2) обратную связь перед заполнением опросников внутренней мотивации. Поощрение мастерства усиливало внутреннюю мотивацию, в то время, как социальное сравнение вело к её падению в ситуации неуверенности детей в достигнутом ими результате (исследование 1) и, для девочек, даже при продолжающемся успехе (исследование 2). Поощрение социального сравнение также ведет к отвращению детей от поиска нормативной самооценочной информации. Теоретические и практические следствия обсуждаются.

Цель исследования - сравнение воздействия двух различных способов позитивной обратной связи на внутреннюю мотивацию школьников 4-5 классов при последующей деятельности в условиях неопределенности (исследования 1) и продолжающегося успеха (эксперимент 2)

- Испытуемые 86 школьников 4-5 классов (51 girls, 35 boys; M age = 10.92 years, SD = .69), получавших за участие десятидолларовый сертификат.
 - Procedure 1.
- Тестирование проводили две женщины –экспериментатора, ни одной из которых не было известно подробностей эксперимента
- Заполнение двух наборов задач из стандартных матриц равена (1976), лимит времени 3 минуты на набор.
- Всем детям говорилось, что они ответили правильно по меньшей мере на четыре задания из пяти

3 условия эксперимента: 30 испытуемых (18 девочек) попадали в условия поощрения социального сравнения, 32 (19 девочек) –мастерства. Оставшиеся 24 –контрольная группа.

- Ответ на вопросы «насколько интересно было работать с задачами» и «насколько хорошо получилось справиться с задачами (семибальная шкала)
- -работа с рисуночным тестом Торренса (круги, Torrance, 1966)? Время -6 минут (по завершении периода обратной связи не следует)

-(после соответствующей инструкции) самостоятельная работа с тремя типами заданий (экспериментатор покидает комнату):

- (1) This station is called "Ideas for Circle Drawings" and in here you can find some examples of completed circles worksheets. There are also instructions and a worksheet to help you learn some things and get some new ideas.
- (2) This station is called "My Creative Ability Compared to Other Students" and, at this station, you can find instructions and a worksheet that will help you figure out your creative score and you can see how that compares to other students' scores.
- (3) This station is called "My Personal Creative Style" and, at this station, you can find instructions and a worksheet that will help you find out what your personal creative style is based on the circles worksheet.
- Рядом с каждым из трех наборы работы сверстников

Время работы с каждым типом фиксируется видеозаписью, общее время -5 минут. Возвращение экспериментатора

Заполнение опросника внутренней мотивации (9-item self-report measure of intrinsic motivation drawn from *Lepper, Corpus, and Iyengar's (2005) 17-item measure (split-half reliability* = .81). Dimensions: challenge (e.g., "I like hard work because it's a challenge"), curiosity (e.g., "I read things because I am interested in the subject"), and independent mastery (e.g., "I like to do my schoolwork without help"); $\alpha = .79$.)

Выбор из двух вариантов задания (линии Торренса, аналогичны кругам): полный лист или половина как объективный показатель внутренней мотивации.

Проверка успешности манипуляции экспериментальной переменной – вопрос о типе обратной связи на первом этапе. При правильном ответе испытуемого (он вспоминает слова экспериментатора) манипуляция считается успешной (92% данных ответов)

Результаты:

- Children perform quite well on both the first (M = 77.90% correct, SD = 18.41) and second (M = 90.93% correct, SD = 13.94) sets of puzzles, no differences across experimental conditions for either set, Fs(2, 83) < 1.5, ns.
- no differences by condition in task-specific motivation or task-specific perceived competence for either the puzzle or drawing task, Fs(2, 83) < 1, ns, but children reported higher overall motivation and perceived competence for the puzzle task (M motivation = 5.70, SD = 1.02; M competence = 6.01, SD = .74) than for the drawing task (M motivation = 4.92, SD = 1.40; M competence = 4.07, SD = 1.24), ts(85) > 4.90, ps < .001.
- Children arguably liked and felt more competent at the puzzle task than the drawing task because they were given positive feedback about their performance on the former but not the latter.
- no effect of feedback condition on time spent at the ideas station, F(2, 82) = 1.60, ns
- a significant effect of condition on time spent at the creative ability station, F(2, 82) = 3.31, p < .05, $\eta p^2 = .08$.
- Children in the mastery praise condition (M untransformed = 122.94 sec., SD = 115.31; M transformed = 3.46, SD = 2.37) spent the most time at the creative ability station, followed closely by those in the control condition (M untransformed = 107.71 sec., SD = 109.79; M transformed = 3.23, SD = 2.43), and rather distantly by those in the social-comparison praise condition (M untransformed = 60.65 sec., SD = 93.14; M transformed = 1.96,

SD = 2.44). A significant difference (p < .05) was revealed between the mastery and social-comparison praise conditions.

- Self-reported intrinsic motivation.
- there was a significant effect of feedback condition on children's self-reported intrinsic motivation, F(2, 83) = 3.26, p < .05, $\eta p^2 = .07$. Children in the mastery praise condition (M = 3.86, SD = .57) reported the highest levels of intrinsic motivation followed by those in the control condition (M = 3.66, SD = .58) and finally by those in the social comparison praise condition (M = 3.49, SD = .54).
- Behavioral intrinsic motivation.
- A chi-square test revealed a significant effect of feedback condition on children's selection of either a half-sheet or whole sheet of lines, $\chi 2(2, N=86)=8.92, p<.05$. As predicted, more children in the mastery praise condition (63%) selected the whole sheet than in the social-comparison praise condition (30%). Children in the control condition (29%) did not differ from those in the social-comparison praise condition.
- self-report and behavioral measures were positively but not significantly inter-correlated, r = .09.

Discussion

- two key factors were responsible for the negative effects of social-comparison versus mastery praise in the present study:
 - (1) the normative focus inherent in social-comparison praise and
 - (2) the introduction of uncertainty about subsequent performance.
- Social-comparison praise also led children to avoid self evaluative information. Children spent less time at the creative ability station when they had received social comparison praise as opposed to mastery praise or neutral feedback.

Исследование 2.

78 школьников (43 мальчика), 3 экспериментальных условия (см. исследование 1).

2 отличия в экспериментальной процедуре от исследования 1: задание «круги Торренса» получало положительную обратную связь («отлично!» «один из лучших результатов в этом возрасте!» и др.), вместо случайного набора работ сверстников на этапе выбора активности представлен набор, в котором полученный испытуемым балл относится к наивысшим.

Проверка успешности манипуляции та же, что и в исследовании 1 (93% испытуемых ответили правильно)

- children performed reasonably
- well on both the first (M = 73.08% correct, SD = 22.53) and second (M = 86.92% correct, SD = 18.46) sets of puzzles. There were no differences across conditions for either set, Fs(2, 75) < 1.8, ns.
- There were no differences by condition in task-specific motivation or task-specific perceived competence for either the puzzle or drawing task, Fs(2, 75)<2.4, ns, but children reported higher overall motivation and perceived competence for the puzzle task (M motivation = 5.53, SD = 1.13; M competence = 4.97, SD = 1.24) than for the drawing task (M motivation = 5.17, SD = 1.19; M competence = 4.41, SD = 1.19), ts(77)≥2.00, ps≤.05.
 - children in Study 2 reported higher perceived competence
 - than those in Study 1, F(1, 160) = 3.82, p = .05, $\eta p^2 = .02$.
 - no main effect of feedback condition on children's self reported intrinsic motivation, F(2, 71) = .20, ns.
 - A significant interaction between condition and gender, F(2, 71) = 9.08, p < .01, $\eta p^2 = .20$.
- boys reported more intrinsic motivation in the social comparison praise condition than in the mastery praise or control conditions, F(2, 39) = 7.30, p < .05, $\eta p ^ 2 = .27$. By contrast, there was a trend for girls to report less

intrinsic motivation in the social-comparison praise condition than the control condition, F(2, 32) = 2.70, p < .10, $\eta p^2 = .15$.

- the three-way interaction between condition, gender, and study was significant, F(2, 151) = 8.68, p < .001, $\eta p^2 = .10$. There also was a significant two-way interaction between condition and study, F(2, 151) = 3.03, p = .05, $\eta p^2 = .04$, which confirmed that there was a difference across experimental conditions in Study 1 but not Study 2.
- Finally, there was a main effect of study, F(1,151) = 4.75, p < .05, $\eta p^2 = .03$, such that children reported higher levels of intrinsic motivation in Study 2, presumably because they received positive feedback for the drawing task in Study 2 but not Study 1.

Общие выводы, заключение

На основании полученных данных авторы делают вывод о том, что встречавшееся в других работах расслоение мальчиков и девочек по оказываемому на них влиянию обратной связи важно лишь в условиях продолжающегося успеха, в то время, как в условиях неопределенности связь, направленная на социальное сравнение ведет к снижению уровня внутренней мотивированности действий как у тех, так и у других.

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Table 1 Self-reported and behavioral intrinsic motivation by feedback condition and gender for study 2

	Social-comparison praise			Mastery praise			Control		
	M	SD	n	M	SD	n	M	SD	n
Boys	4.21	0.41	13	3.81	0.32	15	3.63	0.43	14
Girls	3.60	0.42	12	3.88	0.54	11	4.04	0.43	12
	Behavioral intrinsic motivation (% Selecting whole sheet)								
	Social-comparison praise			Mastery praise			Control		
	Social-c	omparison	F						
	%	omparison	n	%		n	%		n
Boys		omparison	_			n 14	% 50		n 14