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## Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSE)

**Author:** Morris Rosenberg

The purpose of the 10 item RSE scale is to measure self-esteem. Originally the measure was designed to measure the self-esteem of high school students. However, since its development, the scale has been used with a variety of groups including adults, with norms available for many of those groups.

**Scoring:** As the RSE is a Guttman scale, scoring can be a little complicated. Scoring involves a method of combined ratings. Low self-esteem responses are “disagree” or “strongly disagree” on items 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, and “strongly agree” or “agree” on items 2, 5, 6, 8, 9. Two or three out of three correct responses to items 3, 7, and 9 are scored as one item. One or two out of two correct responses for items 4 and 5 are considered as a single item; items 1, 8, and 10 are scored as individual items; and combined correct responses (one or two out of two) to items 2 and 6 are considered to be a single item.

The scale can also be scored by totalling the individual 4 point items after reverse-scoring the negatively worded items.

**Reliability:** The RSE demonstrates a Guttman scale coefficient of reproducibility of .92, indicating excellent internal consistency. Test-retest reliability over a period of 2 weeks reveals correlations of .85 and .88, indicating excellent stability.

**Validity:** Demonstrates concurrent, predictive and construct validity using known groups. The RSE correlates significantly with other measures of self-esteem, including the Coopersmith Self-Esteem Inventory. In addition, the RSE correlates in the predicted direction with measures of depression and anxiety.

**Reference:**

Rosenberg, M. (1979). *Conceiving the Self*. New York: Basic Books.

**RSE**

Please record the appropriate answer for each item, depending on whether you Strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it.

- 1 = Strongly agree
- 2 = Agree
- 3 = Disagree
- 4 = Strongly disagree

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. At times I think I am no good at all.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I feel that I have a number of good qualities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I am able to do things as well as most other people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I feel I do not have much to be proud of.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I certainly feel useless at times.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I feel that I'm a person of worth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I wish I could have more respect for myself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. All in all, I am inclined to think that I am a failure.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I take a positive attitude toward myself.