

Identify Examples Of Reflected Appraisal In This Scenario. What Appraisals Of Her Son And Daughter Does

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Reflected appraisal is a fundamental concept in social psychology and developmental theory, emphasizing how individuals develop their self-concept based on how others perceive and communicate their perceptions of them. In family settings, especially between parents and children, reflected appraisals play a crucial role in shaping self-esteem, identity, and behavioral development. This article explores the concept of reflected appraisal through a detailed scenario, analyzing the specific examples of how a mother perceives and communicates her evaluations of her son and daughter.

Understanding these dynamics offers valuable insights into familial interactions, child development, and the importance of positive reinforcement.

Understanding Reflected Appraisal: Definition and Significance

What Is Reflected Appraisal?

Reflected appraisal, also known as the "looking-glass self," is a process by which individuals develop their self-image based on their perception of how others see them. This process involves three key components:

- Imagine how others perceive us.
- Interpret their perceptions.
- Internalize these perceptions into our self-concept.

In family contexts, parents serve as primary sources of reflected appraisals, as children constantly observe and interpret parental feedback, which influences their self-esteem and identity.

The Importance of Reflected Appraisal in Child Development

Reflected appraisals are vital because they:

- Influence children's self-esteem and confidence.
- Shape their understanding of social roles.
- Affect behavioral choices and interpersonal skills.

- Contribute to the development of a stable or fragile self-concept.

Positive reflected appraisals, such as praise and affirmation, foster healthy self-esteem, whereas negative appraisals can lead to self-doubt and behavioral issues.

Scenario Analysis: Examples of Reflected Appraisal by a Mother

Imagine a mother who interacts with her son and daughter in various situations. Her verbal and non-verbal cues, as well as her expressed evaluations, serve as reflected appraisals impacting her children's self-view.

Example 1: Praise for Academic Achievement

The mother often praises her daughter when she excels in school, saying:

- "You're so smart; I knew you could do it."
- "I'm proud of your hard work."

Reflected Appraisal:

- The daughter perceives her mother as valuing intelligence and effort.
- She internalizes this as a belief that her abilities are a core part of her identity.
- This boosts her confidence and motivation.

Example 2: Criticism of Behavioral Issues

Conversely, the mother criticizes her son for not following household rules:

- "You never listen; it feels like you're disrespectful."
- "If you can't behave properly, you'll never succeed."

Reflected Appraisal:

- The son interprets this as his mother viewing him as disrespectful or unruly.
- He may develop a self-image centered around being problematic or difficult.
- This could impact his self-esteem negatively, influencing future behavior.

Example 3: Expressing Confidence in Daughter's Leadership

The mother encourages her daughter to take charge during family decisions:

- "You're very responsible; I trust your judgment."
- "I think you would be a great leader someday."

Reflected Appraisal:

- The daughter perceives herself as capable and responsible.
- This fosters a sense of competence and leadership qualities.
- It encourages her to develop positive social and personal skills.

Example 4: Reactions to Success and Failure

The mother's reactions to her children's successes and failures significantly affect their self-perceptions:

- Celebrating achievements with enthusiasm.
- Offering support and constructive feedback during setbacks.

Reflected Appraisal:

- Children learn to view themselves as capable or as someone who can recover from mistakes.
- Consistent positive feedback reinforces resilience and self-worth.

What Appraisals Does the Mother Hold of Her Son and Daughter?

Understanding her appraisals involves analyzing her underlying perceptions and attitudes towards her children, which influence her feedback.

Appraisals of Her Daughter

- Intelligent and Responsible: Her praise regarding academic success and leadership suggests she views her daughter as capable and dependable.
- Valued for Effort and Achievement: The mother emphasizes effort and accomplishment, indicating she values diligence and intelligence.
- Potential for Leadership: Her encouragement points to her perception of her daughter as a future leader.

Appraisals of Her Son

- Disrespectful or Unruly: Criticisms about behavior reflect her perception of him as lacking discipline or respect.
- Possibility of Rebellion or Troublemaking: Repeated negative appraisals could foster a self-image of being problematic, influencing future behavior.
- Need for Guidance: The critical tone might also suggest she sees him as needing more guidance and support.

Impact of Reflected Appraisals on Child Development

Reflected appraisals from parents significantly influence children's self-concept, self-esteem, and behavior patterns. These perceptions can be internalized positively or

negatively, leading to various developmental outcomes.

Positive Impact

- Children develop a healthy sense of self-esteem.
- They are motivated to pursue goals aligned with their perceived strengths.
- They demonstrate resilience and confidence in social situations.

Negative Impact

- Persistent negative appraisals can lead to low self-esteem.
- Children may internalize labels such as "disrespectful" or "unmotivated."
- This can result in a self-fulfilling prophecy, where children act in ways consistent with negative appraisals.

Strategies to Foster Positive Reflected Appraisals

- Parents should balance constructive criticism with praise.
- Emphasize effort and improvement rather than innate qualities.
- Use affirmations that reinforce children's strengths and potential.
- Be mindful of language and tone to avoid damaging self-perceptions.

Conclusion: The Power of Reflected Appraisal in Family Dynamics

Reflected appraisals serve as powerful mechanisms in shaping children's self-identity within the family. The examples provided in this scenario illustrate how parental feedback—both verbal and non-verbal—can reinforce or undermine a child's self-esteem and behavioral development. The mother's positive appraisals of her daughter as intelligent and responsible foster confidence and leadership qualities, while her critical remarks about her son may inadvertently contribute to a self-image rooted in disrespect or unruliness. Recognizing these dynamics allows parents to adopt more supportive communication strategies, promoting healthy development and resilient self-esteem in their children.

Ultimately, understanding and consciously managing reflected appraisals can lead to more nurturing family environments, where children develop a positive and accurate self-concept, equipping them for success and well-being throughout their lives.

Keywords: reflected appraisal, self-concept, family dynamics, child development, parental feedback, self-esteem, positive reinforcement, negative appraisals, social psychology, parenting strategies

Frequently Asked Questions

What is reflected appraisal and how does it influence a person's self-perception?

Reflected appraisal is the process by which individuals form their self-concept based on how others perceive and communicate about them. It influences self-perception by shaping one's beliefs about their own abilities and worth, often through feedback and social interactions.

Can you provide an example of reflected appraisal in a parent-child scenario?

Yes. For instance, if a mother frequently tells her son he's very intelligent and hardworking, the son may internalize this feedback, developing a positive self-view based on her appraisal.

What kind of appraisal might a mother give to her daughter if she says, 'You are so creative and kind-hearted'?

This is an example of a positive reflected appraisal, where the mother communicates her perception of the daughter's creativity and kindness, which can reinforce the daughter's self-esteem and identity.

How does reflected appraisal affect children's development of self-esteem?

Reflected appraisal impacts children's self-esteem by providing them with feedback about their qualities and abilities. Positive appraisals can boost confidence, while negative or absent feedback can hinder self-esteem growth.

What are some potential negative effects of reflected appraisal if the feedback is critical or dismissive?

Critical or dismissive appraisals may lead to lowered self-esteem, feelings of inadequacy, or self-doubt in children, possibly affecting their motivation and social development.

In what ways might a parent's appraisals influence a child's future behavior and attitudes?

Parents' appraisals can shape a child's self-concept, influencing their motivation, academic performance, social interactions, and overall attitude towards themselves and others.

How can understanding reflected appraisal help in improving parent-child relationships?

Understanding reflected appraisal can help parents provide more positive, constructive feedback, fostering a supportive environment that boosts the child's confidence and strengthens the relationship.

What role does consistency play in reflected appraisal within family dynamics?

Consistency ensures that children receive stable messages about their worth and abilities, which helps build a coherent self-concept and reduces confusion or self-doubt.

How might a child's perception of their parents' appraisals affect their self-identity?

If children perceive their parents' appraisals as genuine and supportive, it can foster a positive self-identity. Conversely, perceived insincerity or negativity may lead to a distorted or fragile sense of self.

Can you identify examples of reflected appraisal from the scenario involving her son and daughter?

Yes. For example, if the mother tells her daughter, 'You are very talented at art,' she is providing a positive reflected appraisal that can influence her daughter's self-concept. Similarly, praising her son for being responsible and kind offers him feedback that shapes his self-view.

Additional Resources

Identify Examples Of Reflected Appraisal In This Scenario. What Appraisals Of Her Son And Daughter Does

Reflected appraisal, a core concept within the realm of social psychology and communication theory, refers to the process by which individuals develop their self-concept based on how they believe others perceive them. This phenomenon, often termed the "looking-glass self," illustrates how our self-identity is shaped through social interactions and feedback—whether explicit or implicit. In examining familial relationships, especially between parents and children, reflected appraisals play a pivotal role in shaping self-esteem, identity, and behavioral development. This article delves into a specific scenario to analyze the examples of reflected appraisal and explores the resultant appraisals of the son and daughter involved.

Understanding Reflected Appraisal

Reflected appraisal is rooted in the idea that individuals internalize others' perceptions of them, which in turn influences their self-evaluation. Charles Horton Cooley, who

introduced the 'looking-glass self,' posited that our self-image is partly constructed by imagining how others see us. When someone offers feedback—positive or negative—we interpret it, and it can reinforce or challenge our existing self-view.

This process is especially salient in family settings, where frequent interactions afford numerous opportunities for parents to influence their children's developing self-concept. The way parents respond to their children's behaviors, achievements, and shortcomings can serve as reflected appraisals that significantly impact how children see themselves.

Scenario Overview

Consider a family situation involving a mother, her son, and her daughter. The mother interacts with her children in ways that reveal her perceptions of their personalities, abilities, and worth. For instance, she might praise one child for academic achievements while expressing concern over another's social skills. These responses act as reflected appraisals—her implicit or explicit judgments—that the children internalize, shaping their self-concept.

In this context, our focus is to identify clear examples of reflected appraisal within her interactions and to analyze what these appraisals suggest about her perceptions of her son and daughter.

Examples of Reflected Appraisal in the Scenario

1. Praise for Academic Success

Example: The mother frequently comments, "You're so smart; I knew you'd do well on your test," to her son after his high grades.

Analysis: This positive appraisal reflects her perception of her son as intelligent and capable. By verbalizing this belief, she communicates her view that his intellectual abilities are a defining characteristic. The son, internalizing this praise, may develop a self-view centered around competence and achievement. Such reflected appraisal can bolster his self-esteem but might also set expectations that his self-worth is tied primarily to academic performance.

2. Concern Over Social Skills

Example: The mother often tells her daughter, "You're shy and quiet, but that's okay," or sometimes expresses worry, "You don't seem to make friends easily."

Analysis: Here, the mother's comments serve as reflected appraisals of her daughter's social personality. She perceives her daughter as shy and possibly socially awkward. These perceptions are internalized by the daughter, potentially affecting her self-identity and confidence in social situations. The daughter might begin to see herself as inherently reserved or less socially adept, which can influence her future social interactions.

3. Critical Comments on Behavior

Example: The mother might say, "You're always so stubborn; you never listen," directed at her son when he resists instructions.

Analysis: This critical remark signals her perception of her son as stubborn or defiant. Such an appraisal, if internalized, may lead the son to see himself as disobedient or difficult, impacting his self-esteem and behavior. Repeated negative appraisals like this can contribute to a self-fulfilling prophecy, where the child's self-view influences future behavior.

4. Affirmation of Effort

Example: When her daughter attempts a new activity, the mother encourages her by saying, "I love how brave you are trying something new," reflecting a focus on effort and courage.

Analysis: This positive reflected appraisal emphasizes her perception of her daughter as brave and willing to take risks. Such feedback fosters a self-view centered around resilience and adventure. It can promote a growth mindset, encouraging her daughter to see herself as capable and adventurous.

Implications of Reflected Appraisals on Self-Perception

The above examples highlight how parental feedback functions as a mirror, shaping children's self-views. The implications are multifaceted:

- Self-Esteem Development: Positive appraisals tend to enhance self-esteem, while negative or critical feedback may diminish it.
- Behavioral Outcomes: Children often act in ways consistent with their self-perceptions. For instance, viewing oneself as shy may inhibit social engagement.
- Identity Formation: Repeated reflected appraisals contribute to the development of core aspects of identity, such as being "smart," "stubborn," or "brave."

The Role of Parental Expectations and Communication Style

Parents' appraisals are influenced by their perceptions, cultural norms, and communication styles. For example, overly critical comments may stem from high expectations or cultural emphasis on achievement. Conversely, affirming statements can foster confidence and resilience.

In the scenario, the mother's varying appraisals reflect her perceptions of her children's strengths and weaknesses, which are communicated through verbal feedback and non-verbal cues. These messages serve as the children's social feedback, shaping their understanding of themselves.

Potential Consequences and Considerations

While reflected appraisals can be powerful in shaping self-concept, they also carry risks:

- Overgeneralization: Children may internalize a single appraisal as an absolute truth, affecting their entire self-image.
- Negative Self-Perception: Consistent negative appraisals can lead to low self-esteem or self-fulfilling prophecies.
- Misinterpretation: Children might misinterpret parental feedback, especially if inconsistent, leading to confusion about their self-identity.

Hence, parental appraisals should ideally be balanced, specific, and constructive to promote healthy self-concept development.

Broader Impacts on Family Dynamics

Reflected appraisals also influence family dynamics:

- They can reinforce or challenge existing perceptions within the family.
- They may affect sibling relationships, especially if one child perceives favoritism or differing standards.
- They can impact the parent-child relationship quality, either fostering trust and support or creating resentment and insecurity.

Conclusion

Identifying examples of reflected appraisal within the scenario reveals how parental perceptions are communicated and internalized by children, shaping their self-identity. The mother's praise, concern, criticism, and encouragement serve as social mirrors reflecting her perceptions of her son and daughter. These appraisals influence how the children see themselves—whether as capable, shy, stubborn, or brave—and ultimately affect their self-esteem, behavior, and development.

Understanding these dynamics underscores the importance of mindful communication within families. Parents' conscious awareness of their appraisals and feedback can foster a positive self-concept in children, promoting resilience and well-rounded development. As such, reflected appraisal remains a vital concept in understanding family interactions and their long-term impact on individual identity.

In summary, the scenario provides clear instances of reflected appraisal:

- The mother's praise for academic success (perceiving the son as intelligent).
- Her comments on social skills (perceiving the daughter as shy).
- Critical remarks about behavior (perceiving the son as stubborn).
- Affirmation of effort (perceiving the daughter as brave).

These examples illustrate how parental feedback functions as social feedback, shaping her children's self-perceptions. Recognizing and understanding these appraisals can help parents foster healthier self-concepts and family relationships.

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