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University Development of the Digital Era Good Motherhood Scale

The digital era good mothering scale (DEGMS) is a scale measuring idealized mothering qualities inclusive of newer modern demands for family media management. The development began with a literature review of existing scales and qualitative literature which were used to create a list of ideal mothering characteristics; which was then used as search terms to identify further relevant items to include. All the items were adapted into a pre-test survey, which was subjected to a principal components analysis to reduce the survey length. The second survey yielded N = 1,241 responses (with approximately 60% identifying as female, and 33% identifying as parents). The survey results were subjected to an exploratory factor analysis, followed by a confirmatory factor analysis. The results revealed the following factors describing the grouping of idealized mothering characteristics: (1) Child-centered, (2) a facilitator of children's successes, (3) energized, (4) an unpaid laborer, and (5) a family media manager.

Daisy Milman - I am a doctoral candidate at Texas Tech University. These abstracts represent research I have done during my PhD. I went into my PhD wanting to study healthy media use. The motherhood side of my research was inspired by reading healthy-media-use literature. Naturally, a great deal of the literature focuses on children as a vulnerable audience, and it became painfully obvious to me (as a mother) when the article was written by those who had been primary caretakers vs those who had not. Eventually, I ran into an article (Clark & Dumas, 2020) that defined managing children's screentime as a major defining factor of good motherhood, and I've been down the rabbit hole of mothering research ever since. My work has been published in the Journal of Communication Inquiry, and I will be graduating this May.