

Endorsement

Definition: In clinical and research contexts, *endorsement* refers to the **affirmative response** or **agreement with a specific item**, symptom, belief, or statement, particularly in standardized assessments or self-report questionnaires.

Usage in Psychometrics

In psychometric evaluations, endorsement typically indicates that a patient or participant:

- Confirms the presence of a symptom (e.g., “I feel sad most of the time” – endorsed as “true”).
- Agrees with a statement or belief (e.g., “I worry excessively”).
- Selects a response above a threshold (e.g., Likert scale rating $\geq 4/5$).

The **endorsement rate** of an item can be used to assess:

- **Item difficulty or severity**
- **Prevalence of a symptom**
- **Construct validity** in scale development

Clinical Relevance

Endorsement is critical for:

- **Diagnostic formulation** – consistent endorsement of criteria in DSM/ICD tools
- **Treatment planning** – tracking which domains are most impaired
- **Outcome monitoring** – change in endorsement over time may indicate improvement or deterioration

Examples

- In the **Beck Depression Inventory**, endorsement of items like “I feel hopeless about the future” contributes to the total depression score.
- In **structured interviews** (e.g., SCID), endorsement of core criteria supports a specific diagnosis.

Limitations

- **Response bias** – social desirability, malingering, or denial may affect endorsement.
- **Cultural factors** – interpretation and endorsement of certain items may vary cross-culturally.
- **Cognitive impairment** – can reduce the accuracy of endorsement in neuropsychiatric populations.

See Also

- [self_report](#)
- [symptomatology](#)
- [validity](#)
- [response_bias](#)

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