

Analysis Report

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Frequency Tables

The sample comprised 223 participants, predominantly female (77.1%), with males representing 22.0% and a minimal proportion (0.9%) preferring not to specify their gender. Regarding policy preferences, a majority (69.5%) supported changing the current recruitment approach to mandate specific accommodations for autistic applicants, while 30.5% favored maintaining the status quo. Participants were evenly distributed across four groups: Group C (26.9%), Group D (23.8%), Group F (24.7%), and Group R (24.7%). The frequency of contact varied, with the highest number of participants reporting 10 contacts (13.9%), and the least (1.3%) having 12 contacts. This distribution indicates diverse levels of engagement among the participants.

Category	Level	N	%
Gender	Female	172	77.1
	Male	49	22.0
	Prefer not to say	2	0.9
Policy Change	Change the current recruitment approach, where institutions are obligated to provide specific accommodations for autistic applicants	155	69.5
	Maintain the current recruitment approach, where institutions are not obligated to provide specific accommodations for autistic applicants	68	30.5
Group	GroupC	60	26.9
	GroupD	53	23.8
	GroupF	55	24.7
	GroupR	55	24.7
Quantity.of.Contact	1	21	9.4
	2	27	12.1
	3	37	16.6
	4	23	10.3
	5	18	8.1
	6	13	5.8
	7	7	3.1
	8	17	7.6
	9	17	7.6
	10	31	13.9
	11	9	4.0
	12	3	1.3

Reliability Analysis

Variable	Mean	EM	SD	ITC	Alpha
QID41_1	4.399	0.061	0.914	0.656	
QID41_2	4.027	0.073	1.090	0.688	
QID41_3	3.749	0.083	1.241	0.668	
QID41_4	3.973	0.078	1.158	0.717	
QID41_5	3.883	0.076	1.141	0.745	
QID41_6_rev	3.960	0.075	1.116	0.797	

QID41_7	3.857	0.079	1.173	0.790	
QID41_8	3.973	0.078	1.166	0.784	
QID41_9	3.870	0.077	1.145	0.775	
QID41_10	3.812	0.081	1.205	0.703	
QID41_11	3.973	0.078	1.170	0.762	
QID41_12_rev	3.785	0.080	1.196	0.752	
QID41_13	3.874	0.078	1.171	0.841	
QID41_14	4.009	0.074	1.099	0.779	
GA	3.939	0.057	0.854	0.779	0.939
QID42_1_rev	2.287	0.089	1.332	0.790	
QID42_2_rev	2.561	0.086	1.289	0.793	
QID42_3_rev	2.323	0.077	1.144	0.805	
ATAB	2.390	0.067	0.998	0.805	0.707
Quality.of.Contact_1	3.776	0.076	1.137	0.875	
Quality.of.Contact_2	3.619	0.077	1.152	0.840	
Quality.of.Contact_3	3.691	0.076	1.138	0.849	
Quality.of.Contact_4	3.843	0.072	1.077	0.866	
Quality.of.Contact_5	3.543	0.079	1.184	0.800	
Quality.of.Contact_6	3.762	0.083	1.242	0.877	
Quality_of_Contact	3.706	0.066	0.983	0.877	0.923
QID37	3.890	0.086	1.094	0.841	
QID51_1	3.245	0.103	1.315	0.632	
QID51_2	3.828	0.089	1.131	0.812	
QID51_3	3.699	0.086	1.101	0.802	
QID51_4	3.583	0.086	1.099	0.694	
QID51_5	3.902	0.081	1.038	0.691	
Strenght_of_Frame	3.691	0.066	0.839	0.691	0.835

Descriptive Statistics

This section presents the descriptive statistics for the sample, including Standard error of the mean, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis. The skewness and kurtosis values suggest that scales do not deviate from normality substantially, since values are between -1.5 and 1.5.

Variable	Mean	SEM	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis
GA	3.939	0.057	0.854	-1.216	1.332
ATAB	2.390	0.067	0.998	0.640	-0.111
Quality_of_Contact	3.706	0.066	0.983	-0.651	-0.361
Strenght_of_Frame	3.691	0.066	0.839	-0.670	-0.031

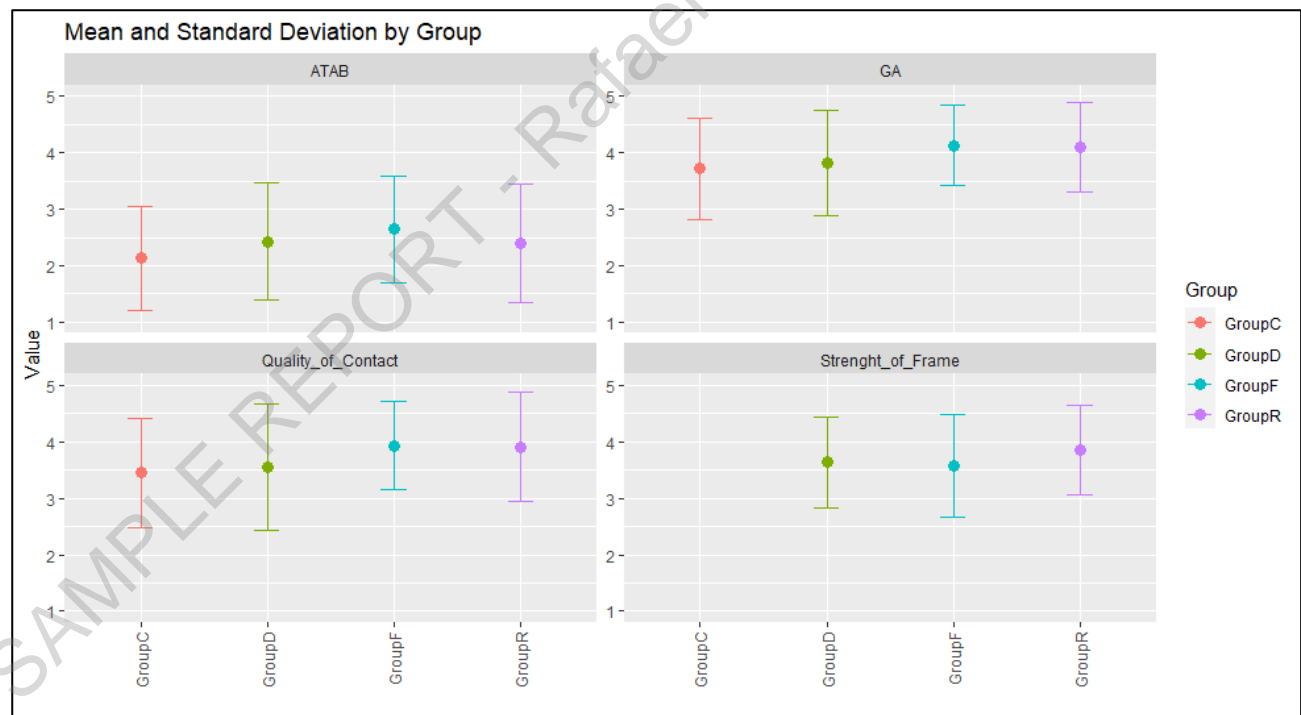
The between-group analysis of means across different variables reveals variability in responses influenced by the group conditions. For the variable GA, Group F demonstrated the highest mean at 4.132, suggesting a stronger agreement or presence of the attribute measured by GA in this group, compared to the lowest mean in Group C (control) at 3.715. Similarly, ATAB scores were highest in Group F (2.642) while Group C reported the lowest mean (2.128).

For Quality of Contact, again, Group F reported the highest mean (3.933), with Group C showing the lowest mean (3.450). In the case of Strength of Frame, which was not reported for Group C, Group R showed the highest mean (3.852), and Group F had the lowest (3.582) among the groups where this

variable was measured. These results suggest distinct impacts of the experimental manipulations associated with each group, particularly highlighting the influence of framing conditions in Groups D, F, and R.

Variable	Group	Mean	SEM	SD
GA	GroupC	3.715	0.117	0.907
	GroupD	3.819	0.128	0.930
	GroupF	4.132	0.096	0.712
	GroupR	4.104	0.106	0.790
ATAB	GroupC	2.128	0.118	0.910
	GroupD	2.428	0.143	1.045
	GroupF	2.642	0.128	0.949
	GroupR	2.388	0.141	1.048
Quality_of_Contact	GroupC	3.450	0.126	0.974
	GroupD	3.544	0.153	1.117
	GroupF	3.933	0.106	0.785
	GroupR	3.912	0.129	0.960
Strenght_of_Frame	GroupC	-	-	-
	GroupD	3.638	0.110	0.800
	GroupF	3.582	0.122	0.906
	GroupR	3.852	0.107	0.795

The image bellow illustrates the mean differences.



Chi-Square

The Chi-Square test is a statistical test used to determine whether there are significant associations between categorical variables. It compares the observed frequencies in each category to the expected frequencies if there were no association between the variables.

The Chi-Square test is applied to assess whether the preferences for policy change (i.e., changing the current recruitment approach versus maintaining it) are distributed differently across the different groups (Group C, Group D, Group F, Group R). The observed frequencies in each group for both policy options are compared to what would be expected if there were no association between group membership and policy preference.

A low p-value (typically less than 0.05) indicates that the differences in frequencies are statistically significant, suggesting that there is an association between group membership and policy preference. The p-value lower than 0.001 strongly suggests a significant association, indicating that the group membership significantly influences the preference for or against changing the recruitment approach.

Policy Change	GroupC	GroupD	GroupF	GroupR	X ²	p
Change the current recruitment approach	63.3	84.9	47.3	83.6	25.017	< 0.001
Maintain the current recruitment approach	36.7	15.1	52.7	16.4		

Hierarchical Models

Before executing general linear models to evaluate the effect that belonging to each group has on GA or ATAB, outliers were inspected using z-scores. When sample sizes are large (100+), coefficients above 3.5 or 4.0 can be considered outliers. For all continuous scales, the larger absolute Z-score was 3.0, suggesting that no outliers are present in the data.

The tables include results for two hierarchical models, one without moderators and a second with moderators included.

General Acceptance

Term	Coefficient	Std Err.	t	p	Coefficient	Std Err.	t	p
(Intercept)	1.292	0.314	4.111	0.000	1.225	0.400	3.064	0.002
GroupD	0.045	0.105	0.431	0.667	0.269	0.387	0.695	0.488
GroupF	0.093	0.108	0.860	0.391	0.347	0.486	0.715	0.475
GroupR	0.097	0.105	0.920	0.359	0.070	0.433	0.163	0.871
Age	0.007	0.012	0.578	0.564	0.006	0.013	0.485	0.628
Male	-0.116	0.093	-1.249	0.213	-0.106	0.095	1.111	0.268
Prefer not to say	-0.165	0.402	-0.409	0.683	-0.212	0.414	0.511	0.610
Quantity.of.Contact	0.016	0.012	1.311	0.191	0.009	0.023	0.401	0.689
Quality_of_Contact	0.644	0.041	15.871	0.000	0.678	0.078	8.740	0.000
GroupD:Quantity.of.Contact					0.007	0.034	0.191	0.849

GroupF:Quantity.of.Contact	0.024	0.033	0.744	0.458
GroupR:Quantity.of.Contact	-0.006	0.033	0.176	0.861
GroupD:Quality_of_Contact	-0.074	0.105	0.701	0.484
GroupF:Quality_of_Contact	-0.103	0.132	0.779	0.437
GroupR:Quality_of_Contact	0.011	0.113	0.095	0.924

For GA, the constant term in both models shows significant positive effects, indicating a baseline level of general acceptance. The quality of contact has the most substantial impact on general acceptance, with coefficients of 0.644 and 0.678 in the two models respectively, both significant at $p < 0.001$, illustrating a strong positive influence of quality interactions on general acceptance of autistic individuals.

Group membership (Group D, Group F, Group R) does not significantly predict general acceptance in either model, with all p-values above the traditional significance threshold of 0.05. Similarly, demographic factors like age and gender, as well as the quantity of contact, show no significant effects. Interaction terms involving group membership and quality or quantity of contact are also non-significant, suggesting that the impact of contact quality does not vary significantly across different group conditions.

Attitudes toward Treating Autistic Behaviors

Term	Coefficient	Std Err.	t	p	Coefficient	Std Err.	t	p
(Intercept)	1.292	0.314	4.111	0.000	1.225	0.400	3.064	0.002
GroupD	0.045	0.105	0.431	0.667	0.269	0.387	0.695	0.488
GroupF	0.093	0.108	0.860	0.391	0.347	0.486	0.715	0.475
GroupR	0.097	0.105	0.920	0.359	0.070	0.433	0.163	0.871
Age	0.007	0.012	0.578	0.564	0.006	0.013	0.485	0.628
Male	-0.116	0.093	-1.249	0.213	-0.106	0.095	1.111	0.268
Prefer not to say	-0.165	0.402	-0.409	0.683	-0.212	0.414	0.511	0.610
Quantity.of.Contact	0.016	0.012	1.311	0.191	0.009	0.023	0.401	0.689
Quality_of_Contact	0.644	0.041	15.871	0.000	0.678	0.078	8.740	0.000
GroupD:Quantity.of.Contact					0.007	0.034	0.191	0.849
GroupF:Quantity.of.Contact					0.024	0.033	0.744	0.458
GroupR:Quantity.of.Contact					-0.006	0.033	0.176	0.861
GroupD:Quality_of_Contact					-0.074	0.105	0.701	0.484
GroupF:Quality_of_Contact					-0.103	0.132	0.779	0.437
GroupR:Quality_of_Contact					0.011	0.113	0.095	0.924

For the ATAB model, patterns in this model mirror those of the General Acceptance model. Again, quality of contact shows a very strong and significant positive effect in both models, underscoring the importance of interaction quality in shaping attitudes toward autism treatment.

Group membership, demographic variables, and quantity of contact show no significant influence on attitudes toward treating autistic behaviors. Interaction terms similarly do not reach significance, indicating a consistent effect of contact quality across different group contexts.

These results highlight the central role of quality of contact in influencing both general acceptance of autistic individuals and attitudes toward their treatment, irrespective of group conditions or demographic factors. The lack of significant effects for other variables, including group-specific interactions, suggests that these factors do not modify the primary influence of contact quality.

The General Acceptance model shows a significant baseline level of acceptance (Intercept: $\beta = 1.550$, $p = 0.005$), with Group F exhibiting notably higher acceptance ($\beta = 2.647$, $p < 0.001$). However, the interaction between Group F and Strength of Frame ($\beta = -0.646$, $p < 0.001$) indicates a reduced effect of framing strength within this group, suggesting nuanced dynamics in how framing influences acceptance.

Similarly, the Attitudes toward Treating Autistic Behaviors model reveals significant baseline attitudes (Intercept: $\beta = 1.729$, $p = 0.036$), with Group F again displaying more progressive attitudes ($\beta = 1.849$, $p = 0.034$). The interaction term for Group F and Strength of Frame ($\beta = -0.469$, $p = 0.048$) reflects a reduction in the positive impact of framing on attitudes within Group F. The marginal significance of the Strength of Frame itself ($\beta = 0.331$, $p = 0.063$) suggests a potential positive effect, though it is less pronounced compared to the General Acceptance model.

General Acceptance moderated by Strenght of Frame

Term	Coefficient	Std Err.	t	p
(Intercept)	1.550	0.548	2.826	0.005
GroupF	2.647	0.581	4.552	0.000
GroupR	0.038	0.639	0.060	0.952
Age	-0.008	0.017	-0.486	0.627
Male	-0.047	0.138	-0.343	0.732
Prefer not to say	-1.055	0.490	-2.155	0.033
Strenght_of_Frame	0.680	0.119	5.721	0.000
GroupF:Strenght_of_Frame	-0.646	0.158	-4.096	0.000
GroupR:Strenght_of_Frame	0.020	0.167	0.118	0.906

Attitudes toward Treating Autistic Behaviors moderated by Strenght of Frame

Term	Coefficient	Std Err.	t	p
(Intercept)	1.729	0.817	2.117	0.036
GroupF	1.849	0.866	2.136	0.034
GroupR	0.824	0.951	0.866	0.388
Age	-0.022	0.025	-0.870	0.386
Male	-0.205	0.205	-0.999	0.319
Prefer not to say	0.408	0.729	0.560	0.577
Strenght_of_Frame	0.331	0.177	1.869	0.063
GroupF:Strenght_of_Frame	-0.469	0.235	-1.996	0.048
GroupR:Strenght_of_Frame	-0.244	0.248	-0.983	0.327