

# Performance Evaluations of Employees With Physical Disabilities

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### Introduction

### **Disability Statistics:**

- 3.8 million adults reported limitations in daily activities due to a disability
- 2.3 million adults represent the working-age of 15–64<sup>1</sup>
- Due to stigmatization and biases, persons with disabilities are dissuaded from employment opportunities<sup>2</sup>

#### The Norm to Be Kind:

- The tendency to be less unpleasant and treat those seen as less fortunate with kindness and compassion<sup>3</sup>
- Literature findings are inconsistent<sup>4,5,6</sup>

### Research Question

All employees need useful feedback in order to succeed in their work. Do biases affect the feedback that is given to employees with disabilities?

## Hypothesis

**H1:** Individuals with disabilities will receive lower ratings of job performance and competence compared to able-bodied individuals when performance is low in both groups.

**H2:** The content of verbal feedback that is received by individuals with disabilities will be more positive than able-bodied individuals when performance is low in both groups.

#### Methods

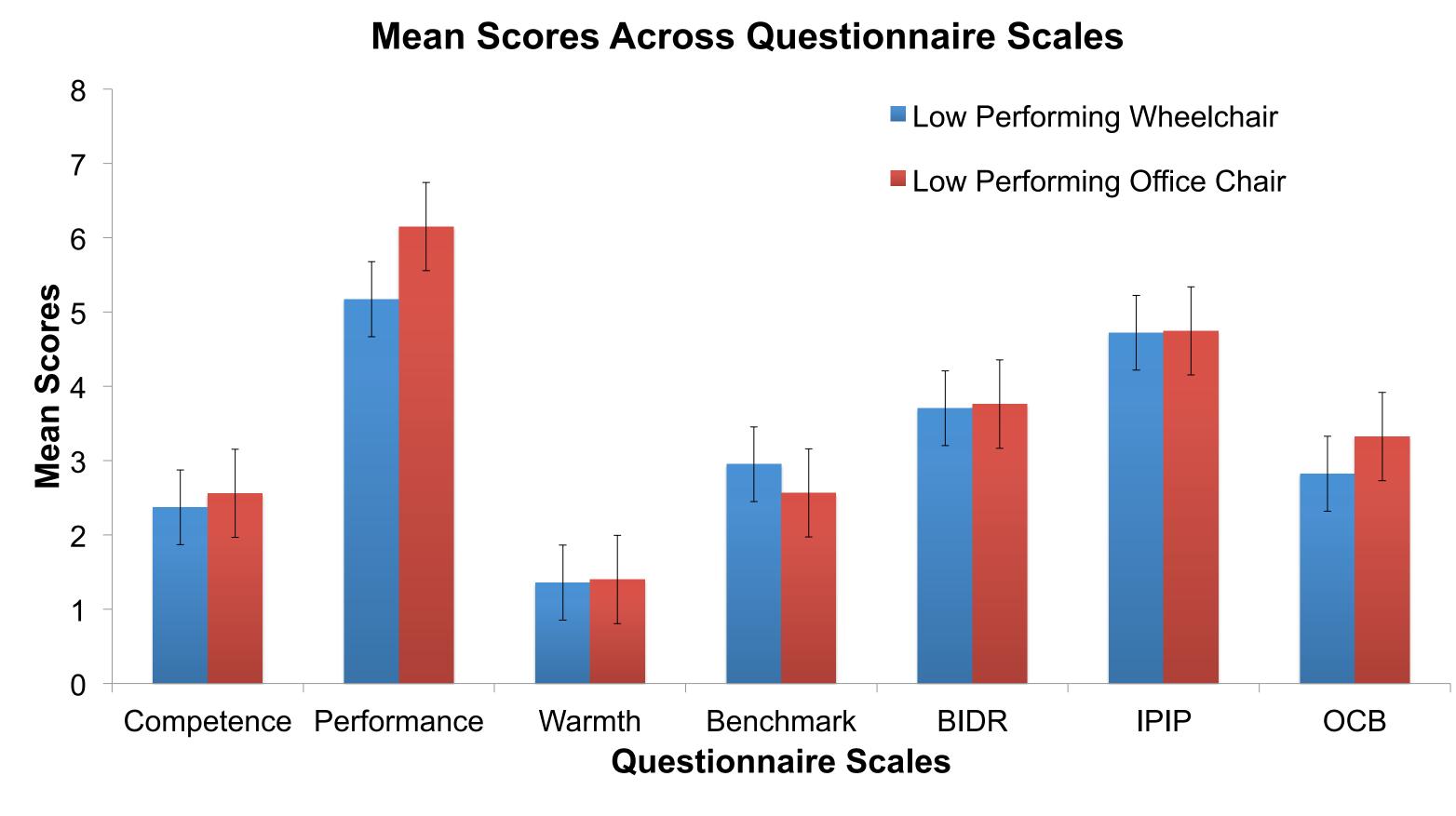
### **Experimental Setup:**

	Wheelchair	Office Chair
High Performing	High Performing Wheelchair n=5	High Performing Office Chair n=11
Low Performing	Low Performing Wheelchair n=7	Low Performing Office Chair n=10

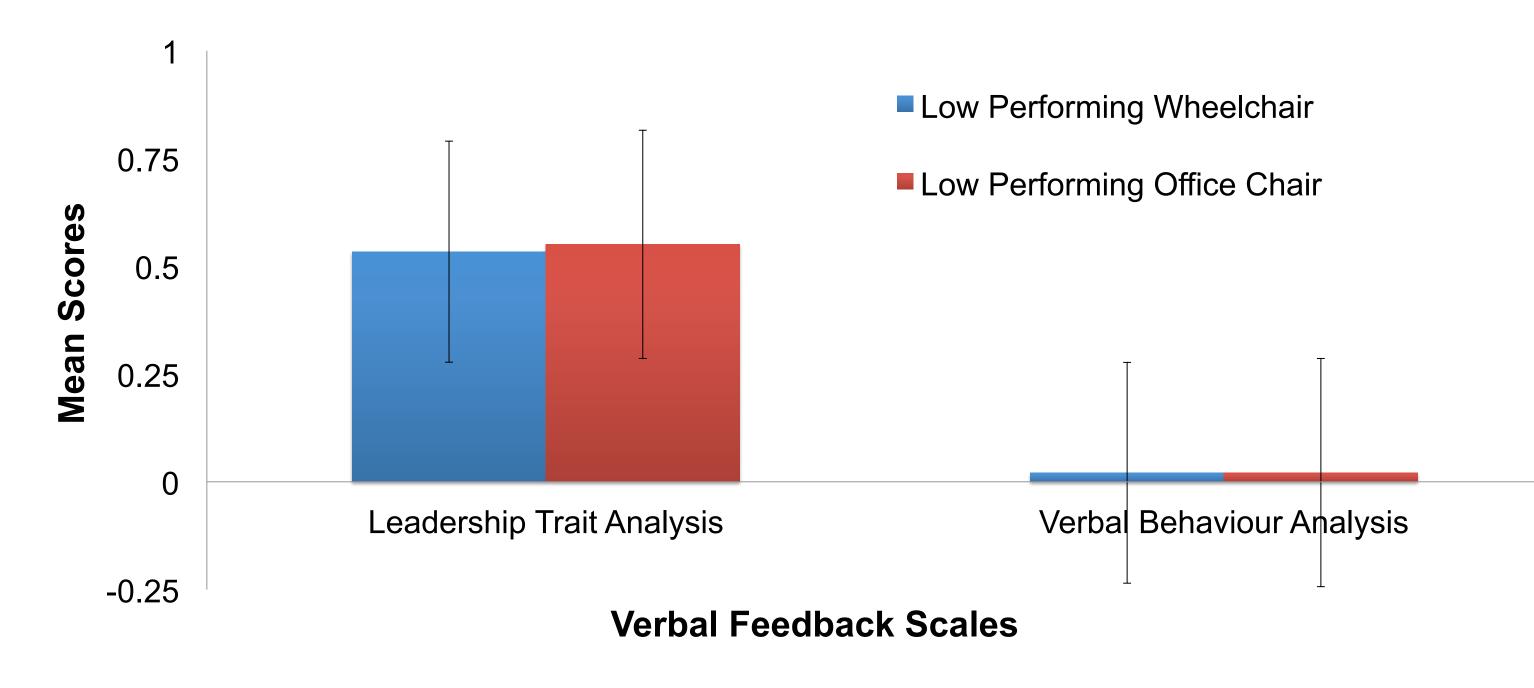
#### Procedure:



### Results



#### Mean Scores Across Verbal Feedback Scales



### Discussion and Limitations

#### Discussion:

- No significance found between differences in Competence, Performance across disability condition
- No significance found between differences in content of verbal feedback across disability condition

#### Limitations:

- Not enough power to interpret results
- Artificial setting
- Privacy concerns with video recording

### Future Directions

- Using a different coding dictionary to conduct content analysis
- Using managers as participants instead of students
- Making the experiment completely electronic and accessible from personal computers

### References and Acknowledgements

- 1. Turcotte (2014)
- 2. Ali, Schur, & Blanck (2010)
- 3. Colella and Bruyere (2011)
- 4. Hastorf, Northcraft, & Picciotto (1979)
- 5. Colella, DeNisi & Varma (1998)
- 6. Kulkarni & Lengnick-Hall (2003)

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