

Abstract

The present study was aimed to explore the coping dimensions and investigate the relationship between these coping styles and internalizing /externalizing problems. In addition, gender difference in those relationship was explored, too. Commonly found coping dimensions such as escape avoidance, problem solving and seeking social support was found. Other specific coping dimensions were also found. Many of the coping dimensions had positive relationship with both internalizing and externalizing problems, such as escape avoidance, confrontive coping, wishful thinking , positive action and accepting responsibility. Confrontive coping had the strongest association. Last but not least, several gender difference was found and it was mostly present in emotion-oriented coping strategies (escape avoidance, wishful thinking and accepting responsibility). Female had stronger relationship. Socialization may be one of the factors affecting the gender difference in those relationship. However, there were still many other coping dimensions having no gender difference, showing that gender difference may not play a significant role in the relationship of coping and internalizing/externalizing problems.