

Abstract

This study investigated the relations among parental variables and adolescents' sexual attitudes. Psychological reactance was introduced as a mediator between parenting style, satisfaction of relationship with parents and adolescents' sexual permissiveness. Four hundred and twenty-two secondary school students completed the questionnaire designed to measure their perceptions on parental correlates and permissiveness. Results from hierarchical regression analyses supported that psychological reactance served as a mediator and provided the strongest predictive power on permissiveness. Additional analyses revealed the relative importance of these variables on predicting permissiveness differs between male and female students. The theoretical and applied implications for sex education are discussed.