

Abstract

The relationship among perfectionism, personality and psychological adjustment are explored in the present study. Two hundred and eighty five Chinese adolescents participated in the study. Confirmatory factor analysis results do not support the six-factor model in the original Frost Multidimensional Scale (FMPS). In the exploratory analysis, five factors are extracted from the Chinese Frost Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale (CFMPS) and the findings are consistent with the previous research conducted in Hong Kong. In addition, the second order factor analysis results suggest that perfectionism is better conceptualized as task-oriented perfectionism and self-centered perfectionism or neurotic perfectionism, rather than overall perfectionism. Some indigenous Chinese personality traits, such as Modernization and Face in the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory (CPAI), are found to be associated with neurotic perfectionism. Though perfectionism is found to be significant in the prediction of psychopathology and life satisfaction, no significant relationship is obtained among perfectionism, interpersonal relationship harmony and academic achievement. Only neurotic perfectionism but not task-oriented perfectionism predicts psychopathology significantly. In addition to perfectionism, the Emotionality scale of CPAI is important in the prediction of psychopathology. Perfectionism, emotionality and specific personality traits account

for 63% variance of psychopathology. No gender difference is found in the level of perfectionism and the pattern of relationship between perfectionism and psychological adjustment.