

## ABSTRACT

The present study attempted to provide preliminary estimates on proclivity to elder abuse and to validate the two theory on elder abuse namely the hypothesis of intergenerational transmission of violence and the ecological theory in local settings. A total of 464 (225 males and 239 females) participants completed questionnaires on their attitudes toward elderly people, modernity and filial piety, as well as their childhood experience of abuse and support and their current proclivity to abuse and support. Results indicate that proclivity to verbal abuse was the most common among the three types of abuse, account for 61.9% in the present sample, while proclivity to physical and social abuse were less common, accounted for 7.8% and 5.4% respectively. Almost all (98.7%) of the participants suggest that they would support an elder person even when there is no social constrains. Participants' negative attitudes toward elderly people and modernity, as well as a high level of childhood experience of abuse consistently emerged as the three most salient predictors for their current endorsement of proclivity to abuse while proclivity to support was best predicted by participants' childhood experience of support. Participants' childhood experience of support was found to interact with their childhood of abuse in predicting proclivity to abuse, being highest among those with high level of childhood experience of abuse but a low level of childhood experience of support.