

Abstract

Despite increasing emphasis had been put on the 'genetic theory' in considering psychopathology, still, there was strong and substantial evidence pointing to the relationships between chronic psychosocial adversity and psychiatric disorders. In this study, relationship between cumulative effects of chronic psychosocial and familial stressors and different psychiatric disorders in Hong Kong adolescents was investigated. Diagnostic Interview Schedules for Children Version IV (DISC-IV) was used in assessing a random sample of 549 Form 1 to 3 students and their parents. Results showed trends of increasing percentages of participants diagnosed with internalizing disorders (excluding specific phobia) as the numbers of stressors increased from 3 to 6 or above. Among the various internalizing disorders, agoraphobia and agoraphobia without panic disorder were found to have significant relationships with the increase in numbers of stressors. Discussion on the results and suggestions for future studies were addressed.