

Abstract

Contingencies of self worth (CSW) represent domains from which individuals derive their self-worth (Wolfe & Crocker, 2002). Previous studies of CSW have focused on its various psychological effects (e.g., Crocker, Luhtanen, Cooper, & Bouvrette, 2003; Crocker, Sommers, & Luhtanen, 2002; Crocker & Park, 2003), while its developmental antecedents have never been explored in an empirical manner. Moreover, CSW has only been examined in American samples; whether it could be applied to other cultures is yet to be tested. This study aimed at exploring the potential sources of CSW among Chinese college students. We hypothesized that perceived parental warmth and control would be related to three culturally-valued domains of contingencies, namely academic competence, family support and physical appearance, respectively. Results showed that parental warmth was closely related to self-worth contingencies based upon family support and academic performances, while contingency upon family support served as a mediator between parental warmth and contingency upon academic performances. Results suggest that parenting acts as a socializing force in directing children to relate their self-worth to culturally valued life domains.