

Abstract

This study aims at investigating the relationship between family support exchange and psychological well-being of the elderly, while taking into account of a possible moderator, familism. It is hypothesized that (1) the elderly feel better with a more reciprocal exchange, and (2) elderly with higher level of familism have a more communal family relationship and thus, reciprocity has less impact on their psychological well-being. 108 older adults were recruited as participants. Results show that reciprocity of emotional support had a curvilinear relationship with life satisfaction whereas reciprocity of instrumental support had a linear relationship with loneliness. Familism did not have any moderating effect. The role of reciprocity in a communal family relationship is explored.