Abstract

This study examined the perceived parental styles and parent-child relationships in 308 Hong Kong Chinese adolescents. Maternal warmth and control emerged as important parenting style variables in relation to mother-child relational qualities, indicated by perceived maternal support, conflicts and relationship depth. This paper presents empirical information about the coherence of an indigenous construct, filial piety, and mother-child relationships. Children's attitudes toward filial piety significantly improved predictions to measures of parent-child relational qualities, over the constructs of warmth and control. Further, it was found that parenting styles exercised their effects on parent-child relationships partly through the moderating agency of youths' valuing of filial piety. Results confirmed our hypothesis that, the more an adolescent emphasizes filial piety, the more parental control exerts a positive effect on mother-child relationships.