

## Abstract

This research examined the role of maternal differential treatment (MDT) and perceived fairness of MDT, in the relation to mother-child relationship, sibling relationship, and children's emotional functioning, in 193 (mean age = 13.18 years) adolescents in Hong Kong. As predicted, perceived fairness of MDT explained unique variance in mother-child relationship, sibling relationship, children's emotional well-being and ill-being, over the perceived amount of MDT itself. However, the interaction of MDT and perceived fairness only explained unique variance for subsamples of female (participant)-female (target sibling) constellations on mother-child relationship quality and emotional well-being, and subsamples of female (participant)-male (target sibling) constellation on emotional ill-being. Finally, participants having opposite-sex siblings did not differ in their reports of the amount of MDT, although female participants tended to report higher ratings of fairness of MDT than male.