

Abstract

A wealth of research has shown that peer victimization affects the development of youths and leads to psychosocial maladjustments. Specifically, peer victimization contributes to the development of psychotic-like experiences. On the other hand, it has found that social support enhances psychosocial resources or reduces the negative impacts of being bullied. However little research has examined the buffering effect of social support on the relationship between peer victimization and psychotic-like experiences. Thus, this study examined the relationship between peer victimization and psychotic-like experiences, and the buffering effect of social support. Data was collected from Hong Kong adolescents (N=1252) who were studying in Form 1–5. Multiple regression analysis indicated that level of peer victimization predicted psychotic-like experiences. However, social support did not moderate the effect of peer victimization on psychotic-like experiences. Instead, level of peer victimization and social support predicted psychotic-like experiences independently and significantly. These results further our understandings on the mechanisms underlying the link between peer victimization, social support and psychotic-like experiences. It gives insight into the design of preventive and intervention programs.