

ABSTRACT

Via examining the career decision self-efficacy of grade 10 students in both Shanghai and Hong Kong and collecting the demographic information of participants including gender and their parents' educational levels, this study aims at analyzing and comparing the relationships between parents' educational levels' impact on their offspring's career decision self-efficacy between Hong Kong and Shanghai.

A total of 984 tenth-graders were recruited through local public schools in both Hong Kong and Shanghai (Hong Kong: 460 participants; Shanghai: 524 participants). The CDSE scale-Short Form (Chinese language version) was used to collect information via questionnaires and SPSS 21 was used to analyze the correlations and moderating effects.

According to the data, in this study, Shanghai parents' educational levels are higher than their counterparts in Hong Kong. Also, Shanghai students' career decision self-efficacy is higher than that of Hong Kong students. Via the correlation analyses, it has been found that both parents' educational levels have positive significant correlations to their offspring's career decision self-efficacy. Shanghai mothers' educational levels have larger impact on their offspring's career decision self-efficacy compared to that of Hong Kong mothers'. However, compared with fathers' impact, mothers' educational levels' impact on the dimension of problem solving is obviously smaller. In both Hong Kong and Shanghai, fathers' educational levels have greater impact on their daughters' career decision self-efficacy than their sons'. And in Shanghai, mothers' educational levels have greater impact on their sons' career decision self-efficacy. From the

moderating effects analyses, it has been found that parents' educational levels do not moderate the relationship between offspring's career decision efficacy and region, which means the change of parents' educational levels will not affect the fact that Shanghai students' career decision self-efficacy is higher than that of Hong Kong students.

This study provides empirical evidence for the relationships between parents' educational levels and their offspring's career decision self-efficacy, as well as explores slightly deeper in the four combinations concerning genders, which is innovative based on former researches. The sampling size and proportion of participants' genders need to be improved. Parents' impact on the five dimensions of career decision self-efficacy separately deserve to be further studied.

The study results provide an image of the current conditions of career decision self-efficacy in grade 10 students in both Hong Kong and Shanghai. Although Shanghai students' performance is higher than that of Hong Kong students, parents' educational level might not be one of the major causal factors. Therefore, the factors leading to the different performances in both Hong Kong and Shanghai students' in their career decision self-efficacy deserve to be explored further for it will be pivotal in the career education improvement in both Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Keywords: Parents' educational level; career decision self-efficacy; gender;

Hong Kong; Shanghai