

## Abstract

A higher level of heterosocial anxiety and single sex schooling are found to be correlated, and their relationship can be explained from a developmental perspective, or with deprivation theory and skills deficit hypothesis. However, study investigating this relationship and heterosocial anxiety remains limited and there is no study exploring the potential moderators in this relationship. This study, from a bioecological theory perspective, aims to fill these knowledge gaps by investigating two factors, presence of opposite sex siblings and extraversion level, in relation to heterosocial anxiety and as a moderator in the relationship between heterosocial anxiety and secondary school type. This study was a cross-sectional study on heterosocial anxiety. 109 university students from single-sex ( $n=41$ ) or coeducational schools ( $n=68$ ) were recruited and asked to complete an online survey containing measurement of heterosocial anxiety (DAS-A), extraversion (NEO-FFI-3), social anxiety (BAI), and other relevant demographic information. After controlling demographic background and social anxiety, there was no main effect found for school type, indicating that individuals who received single-sex education did not have a higher level of heterosocial anxiety compared to those received coeducation. Individuals with opposite-sex siblings, compared with those without, also did not show a lower level of heterosocial anxiety. However, extraversion level was found to be a predictor for heterosocial anxiety, such that higher level of extraversion predicted a lower level of heterosocial anxiety. While both gender constellation of siblings and level of extraversion were not found to be a moderator in the relationship of school type and heterosocial anxiety. These findings, although failed to discover possible moderators in the relationship of school type and heterosocial anxiety, suggested that impact of single-sex education on heterosocial anxiety, contrary to previous related research with the use of secondary school samples, was not significant in university