

Abstract

Studies on the antecedents of individuals' regulatory focus have been limited in Chinese context. As youth's promotion and prevention regulatory foci are related to psychological well-being and emotions when encountering success and failure, it is meaningful to explore how these two goal-pursuit strategy orientations are developed. The present study aimed to examine the relation between parenting and youth's regulatory focus. Parental authoritative versus authoritarian child-rearing beliefs, parental achievement-oriented versus dependency-oriented psychological control and youth's regulatory focus were under analysis to explore their relationships. 209 undergraduate students (127 females, mean age = 20.07 years) participated in the study. Youths filled in questionnaires regarding their perception on the above-mentioned study variables. Results showed that a higher degree of authoritative parenting belief was correlated to a more dominant promotion focus in youths and a lower degree of parental psychological control. Authoritarian belief was not correlated to any of the two regulatory foci, but was positively correlated to parental control, in which achievement-oriented control was found to be positively correlated with both promotion and prevention foci. Study findings imply the potential influence parenting belief and behavior have on youths' regulatory focus.

Key words: regulatory focus, authoritative parenting belief, authoritarian parenting belief, psychological control