

A Study on Relationships of Family Stress, Self-Esteem, and Behavioral Adjustment among Children in Mixed Marriage Famil

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ABSTRACT

The first purpose of this study was to explore family stress, self-esteem and behavioral adjustment in mixed marriage family. The second purpose of this study was to examine the relationships among family stress, self-esteem and behavioral adjustment in mixed marriage family. The third purpose of this study was to examine how the family stress in mixed marriage family predicted self-esteem and behavioral adjustment. The forth purpose of this study was to examine self-esteem which was the mediator between family stress and behavioral adjustment. Four hundred eight mixed marriage children, forth, fifth, and sixth grade children from twenty-two elementary schools in Taipei, Taichung, Nantou, Changhua, Kao-hsiung, and Pingtung county participated in the study. The instruments for this study were Family Stress Scale, The Rosenberg Self-Esteem Inventories and The Adolescent Life Adjustment scale. The descriptive statistic, Pearson correlations, multiple regression and hierarchical regression were conducted to test each research question. The results clearly showed that: 1. The family stress, self-esteem, and behavioral adjustment of mixed marriage children showed higher scores. 2. Family stress, self-esteem, and behavioral adjustment in mixed marriage family were associated. 3. Intrafamily strains, marital strains, childbearing strains, finance strains, work strains could be used to predict self-esteem in mixed marriage family. 4. Self-esteem (self-respect and self-worth) could be used to predict behavioral adjustment (self adjustment, family adjustment, school adjustment and peer adjustment) in mixed marriage family. 5. Family stress showed direct effects on behavioral adjustment and indirect effects on behavioral adjustment through self-esteem. In other words, self-esteem was the mediator between family stress and behavioral adjustment. Key words: family stress, self-esteem, behavioral adjustment, mixed marriage family.

Keywords : family stress ; self-esteem ; behaviroal adjustment ; mixed marriage

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