

# A Study on the Relationship between Family Psychological Environment and Childhood Maltreatment of Adolescence

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## ABSTRACT

The aims of this study were to examine the prevalence and gender difference between factors of childhood maltreatment. Another purpose of this study was to explore the relationships and impacts among variables of family atmosphere, parent-child conflict, parent-child communication skills and childhood maltreatment. Finally, some suggestions for caregivers, government and future study are made according to the findings. Participants were 311 adolescents who were conveniently selected from junior high schools in the areas of southern, middle, southern Taiwan. Structured questionnaires were used to collect data anonymously. The prevalence of childhood maltreatment was examined. Correlates and prediction of main variables were examined using t-test, Pearson correlation, stepwise regression and AMOS. Ninety percent adolescents reported experience of emotional neglect, 76% for emotional abuse, 74% for physical neglect and 44% for physical abuse in their childhood. Analyses of t-test revealed that no gender difference between factors of childhood maltreatment. Pearson correlation analyses revealed that the correlates among family psychological environment variables were significantly. Some variables of family atmosphere, parent-child conflict, and parent-child communication skills could predict childhood maltreatment. The theoretical model constructed in the study was able to explain causal relations among main variables tested by AMOS. The results remind family atmosphere, parent-child conflict, and parent-child communication skills could impact the adolescents who perceived childhood maltreatment. The adolescents who with bad communication skills and lived in the family with unhealthy atmosphere perceived frequent parent-child conflicts were more likely to experience childhood maltreatment.

Keywords : Childhood maltreatment ; Parent-child communication skills ; Family atmosphere

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