

Perceptions of adolescents: The contribution of environmental factors and individual factors on east Malaysian adolescent adjustment outcomes

Abstract

Most studies investigating the association between family functioning, school environment, and adolescent outcomes have been done in western country, which mainly with European American families. Recently, attention has focused on minority families, such as Korean families, Indian families, and Chinese families. In an effort to contribute to scholar knowledge on minority families and adolescents, the proposed research is aimed to produce a conceptual model of research which is able to explain how family and school environment and individual factors are associated on the behavioral, socio-emotional and academic adjustment among East-Malaysian adolescents. A cross-sectional study will be conducted among secondary school students, aged 13-18 years. The focus of the present study is on the associations between attachment relationships (father-adolescent and mother-adolescent relationship), authoritative parenting (involvement, strictness and autonomy granting), social relationship (peers and teacher relationships), discipline climate (rules/safety and counseling service), and adolescents' individual factors (self-esteem, self-efficacy, and mental health literacy) on their adjustment outcomes (behavior problems, emotional components, social competence, and academic performance). Other variables such as demographic factors, socioeconomic status, and parents' marital status will be interpreted as the moderators. These variables are therefore will be interpreted as the significant components in predicting the developmental of adolescent adjustment. The proposed research will provide a much-needed window on the important issues of adolescents, especially in Malaysia context. Implications for conducting the present study will be discussed.