

Abstract

This study examined the age differences in the relative importance of factors in explaining Hong Kong Chinese attitudes toward homosexuals. Six predictors namely, “Openness to experience” (OP), “Conservatism” (CON), “Traditional gender role attitudes” (GEN), “Fear of AIDS” (AIDS), “Perceived normative pressure” (PR), qualitative and quantitative “Interpersonal contact with homosexuals” (QLC & QNC) were investigated. Three age groups consisted of 78 adolescents (AD), 76 young adults (YA) and 54 elderly (EL) aged below 18, between 18 and 40 and above 40 completed a questionnaire designed to measure homophobia and predictors. The EL was significantly more homophobic than the YA and AD. In hierarchical regression analysis, Age by CON and AIDS respectively showed significant interaction effects, whereas Age by QNC was marginally significant in the prediction of homophobia. PR, OP and AIDS were predominant predictors across age groups. Separate regression analysis revealed CON was important in the AD and EL groups, AIDS was significant predictors in YA and EL groups, whereas QNC was only important in the AD group. Behavioral intentions toward homosexuals in three behavioral aspects were studied. Implications were discussed.