

Abstract

In order to discover the associations between parenting styles and Chinese adolescents' behavioral/emotional problems, 1660 Chinese adolescents between 11 to 22 years old were randomly selected to participate in the present study. The parents of these Chinese adolescents were categorized into four groups (authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent, or neglectful) on the basis of the adolescents' ratings of their parents on two dimensions which were parental acceptance/involvement and strictness/supervision. These Chinese adolescents were then contrasted along with behavioral and emotional problems. The behavioral problems included aggressive behavior, delinquent problems, attention problems, social problems and thought problems whereas emotional problems included anxious/depressed, somatic complaints and withdrawn. Results indicate that adolescents reared by authoritative parents have fewer behavioral and emotional problems, while in contrast, those reared by neglectful parents have more behavioral and emotional problems among the four parenting styles. Adolescents whose parents characterized as authoritarian have fewer behavioral problems but more emotional problems than those reared by indulgent parents. The findings in the present study are in close agreement with results of previous studies conducted in Western societies.