

Abstract

The mediating effects of autonomy and relatedness on the relationship between self-perception and life satisfaction were investigated among 49 Chinese single mothers, invited by three social service centers in Hong Kong. Among all tested variables in the dimension of relatedness, network orientation (propensity to utilize one's available social support) was shown to be a significant mediator of the positive relationship between self-regard and life satisfaction. In addition, self-esteem and spontaneity were suggested to be strong contributory factors to self-regard and network orientation, respectively. Mediating effects were not found in the variables of the autonomy dimension. The findings are discussed in light of implications for healthy adjustment among Chinese single mothers, with respect to personal and cultural factors.