

Abstract

This study examined the relations between invalidating family environment and the borderline personality features among adolescents in Hong Kong. Participants, 982 male and 1349 female high schools students, completed questionnaires assessing the level of family invalidation, borderline personality features and ineffectiveness. Results showed that the family invalidation was significantly correlated with ineffectiveness and borderline personality features. The group with higher family invalidation had significantly more unstable mood, identity and interpersonal relationships, emotional over-reactivity, fear of abandonment, psychosexual maladjustment, self-harm and impulsive behaviors than the two lower groups. Family invalidation and emotional vulnerability had both direct and indirect effects through ineffectiveness to predict borderline personality features. The role of invalidating family environment in the multidimensional etiologic model of borderline personality disorder was validated.