

## Abstract

The relations of two dimensions of parenting style, concern and restrictiveness, and self-evaluated academic competence to early adolescents' life satisfaction were explored in 346 seventh graders (126 males and 220 females) in Hong Kong. Data on maternal parenting style, perceived academic competence, and life satisfaction were collected from adolescents' self-reports. Maternal parenting style was also rated by their mothers. Repeated measures MANOVA results indicated that mothers viewed themselves as higher in concern than did adolescents. The results also showed that maternal concern, adolescents' perceived academic competence, and life satisfaction significantly declined across time. The relations among adolescents' reported parenting style, academic competence, and life satisfaction were examined using the structural equation modeling (SEM) technique. The resultant model revealed that adolescents' perceived maternal concern and academic competence significantly predicted life satisfaction across time, whereas perceived maternal restrictiveness did not. The pattern of relations among the variables was similar in boys and girls. Results suggest both universal and culture-specific developmental patterns in relation to perceived maternal parenting style among Hong Kong Chinese early adolescents.