

Abstract

To further expand a behavioral model which was developed to depict the mechanisms of how an individual respond to hurtful experience, a questionnaire survey was conducted among Hong Kong Chinese undergraduates who were asked to report an experience of being hurt by an intimate friend. Three motivations of the behavioral responses were identified, namely, the Motivation to Retaliate, the Motivation to Restore Identity, and the Motivation to Protect Relationship. The Motivation to Retaliate and the Motivation to Protect Relationship were found to relate the responses of Assertiveness and Giving In respectively, while the Motivation to Restore Identity did not relate to any behavioral response. Immediate response of Discussing was not predicted by any motivational variables. The change in relationship quality in terms of Communion in response to the hurtful experience was also assessed, and the change was predicted by the Motivation to Retaliate but not by any immediate behavioral responses. Gender was not found to have any effect on the behavioral outcomes of the victim. The implications, limitations, and future research directions concerning the present study were also discussed.