

Abstract

The relationship between personality, parental stress and coping were investigated with 221 mothers of primary four to primary six students in Hong Kong. Personality was measured by Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory-2 and coping was measured using the Chinese Ways of Coping Questionnaire. Comparison between local mothers and newly immigrated mothers revealed that the latter experienced greater parenting stress. In general, Seeking Support and Ventilation was the most frequently used coping strategy among the participants, followed by Rational Problem Solving, Passive Wishful Thinking and Resigned Distancing. Newly immigrated mother endorsed more use of Rational Problem Solving while no significant group difference was found between local mothers and newly immigrated mothers in the use of the other three coping strategies. Canonical Correlation analysis revealed that a combination of Neuroticism, Conscientiousness and Agreeableness could better explain the use of Passive Wishful Thinking. Sense of inferiority and external locus of Control (Neuroticism) and low scores in Responsibility, Meticulousness (Conscientiousness), and Graciousness vs. Meanness (Agreeableness) was associated with more use of Passive Wishful Thinking. In addition, Rational Problem Solving related positively to Novelty (Openness). No significant correlation was found between coping, Extraversion and Interpersonal Relatedness in the canonical correlation analysis.