

Abstract

Social support is effective upon it is matched. 80 single mothers in Hong Kong completed questionnaires with respect to their psychological adjustment, types and sources of social support, parent-child relationship and children behavior. Results significantly showed that perceived support (both socioemotional and instrumental), rather than received support was more important in their adjustment. For received support, friends showed significant positive correlates ($r = .29$; $p < .01$) but not intimates in socioemotional support ($r = .16$, $p > .05$); both friends and intimates showed insignificant result in instrumental support (for friends, $r = .21$; for intimates, $r = .13$; $p > .05$). Parent-child relationship was positively correlated with mothers' adjustment ($r = .38$; $p < .01$). Children behavior was only barely significant with mothers' adjustment ($r = .24$; $p = .06$).