

Abstract

This study aimed to explore the influence of Chinese culture on attitude towards wife abuse in Hong Kong. The Chinese Traditional Beliefs on Marital Relationship Scale consisting of traditional Chinese sayings was constructed to measure individual's acceptance towards traditional beliefs. Individual's traditionality and traditional beliefs was positively associated with attitude towards wife abuse. The findings also showed some gender differences and situational influences on the acceptance of against wife aggression. Females held more negative attitude towards traditional beliefs depicting wife in an inferior position and the use of aggression against wife. Situations posing greater threat to the husband provoked higher justifiability and probability of using verbal and physical aggression against wife. Path analysis suggested that traditionality was the underlying influence on individual's acceptance towards traditional beliefs. These beliefs directly affected individual's attitude towards wife abuse and the justifiability of against-wife aggressions which in turn, predicted the use of aggressions.