

## Abstract

Need for cognition refers to the tendency for an individual to engage in effortful thinking (Cacioppo & Petty, 1982). A considerable amount of research has shown the beneficial associations between need for cognition with information processing activities. The present study therefore investigated the personal behavioral and family variables which may predict one's need for cognition. Secondary school students in a boys' school ( $N=183$ ) filled out a questionnaire on need for cognition, perceptions of parental autonomy support and habits, and performed a creativity test. Results showed that thinking habits, creativity and perceived autonomy support were positively associated with need for cognition. After controlling creativity and habits in hierarchical regression analysis, perceived autonomy support could add additional variance in predicting need for cognition. The present study provided empirical support that parental autonomy support has a significant impact on fostering children's intrinsic motivation. Implications were discussed.