

The Influence of Peer Relationships on Students' Academic Motivation

Wong Wai Yin

03769471

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Abstract

The present study investigated both the direct and indirect effect of peer relationships on students' academic motivation. Participants were 260 secondary two students. Result showed that peers' school related characteristics, measured by their educational expectation, involvement in school work and attitude towards school, did not significantly predict students' motivation. Nevertheless students' quality of friendship with their best friend did significantly predict their motivation and moderated the effect of peers' characteristic (attitude towards school) on students' motivation. This study also found that students' sense of belonging at school (SOBAS) not only significantly predicted their academic motivation, but also mediated the effect of students' friendship quality on their motivation. We concluded that students' friendship quality also affected their motivation indirectly by influencing the SOBAS.