

Abstract

The present study examined the roles of affective style (emotional vulnerability), family invalidation (family vulnerability) and self-deflation proneness (cognitive vulnerability) in the development of depression among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. A sample of 6499 adolescents from six secondary schools in Hong Kong participated in this study. Participants completed a package of six self-report scales under the supervision of their teachers in the classroom setting. They included the Affective Style Scale (ASS), the Depression subscale of the Symptoms Checklist-90 (SCL-90) and four other measures that assessed cognitive and family variables. Results revealed that significant correlations were present among affective style, self-deflation proneness, self-esteem, family invalidation as well as depression. Standard multiple regression analyses demonstrated that all psychosocial variables contributed significantly to the prediction of depressive symptoms in the present study. Findings indicated that both affective style and family invalidation had direct and indirect effects (mediated through self-deflation proneness) on depressive symptoms. Implications of these findings are discussed.