

## Abstract

*Background:* An attribution model in explaining the internalization of stigma among parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is tested. In the model, both the internalization paths from perceived stigma to affiliate stigma, and the impact of three types of social support on affiliate stigma and psychological well-being are examined. *Materials and Methods:* One hundred and eighty-eight parents of children with ASD were recruited to complete the questionnaire. *Results:* Path analysis suggested three possible paths of internalizing perceived stigma, including the direct path to affiliate stigma, through perceived controllability, or through perceived responsibility and self-blame. Support from family, significant others, friends, or professionals are found to predict affiliate stigma and psychological well-being respectively. *Conclusion:* Internalization of stigma and the role of social support on stigma and well-being among parents were identified in the present study, which provide insights for future services targeted for them.

**Keywords:** internalization, stigma, parents, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Hong Kong