

ABSTRACT**Abstract of Thesis entitled****Why are Chinese mothers controlling?****Submitted by Wah Mei Lai, Denise****for the Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology****at The Chinese University Of Hong Kong in December 2012**

This study aimed to examine the correlation of maternal perception (maternal affects, maternal views of the child, and maternal beliefs about psychological control) and their use of psychological control. On the basis of literature review, hypotheses were developed to examine the aforementioned relationship.

It is important to understand why “Chinese mothers are controlling” if psychological control is perceived in the West negatively, and past research suggested a strong link between parental psychological control and negative outcomes for children (Barber et al., 2006; Nanda et al., 2012; Rathert et al., 2011; Sher-censor et al., 2010).

The results were obtained from 81 Chinese mothers of school age children aged between 6 and 7 in Hong Kong. Regression analysis indicated that maternal negative

view of the child is positively related to the use of psychological control. Maternal positive beliefs about psychological control are positively related to the use of psychological control. Based on the results, Chinese mothers tend to use psychological control more frequently if they have positive beliefs about psychological control or when they view their child negatively. Perhaps, they may perceive psychological control as one of the useful methods to regulate their child's misbehavior.

To lessen psychological control towards the children among Chinese mothers, alternative parenting behaviors need to be explored. And studies have shown that parental involvement is highly correlated to the positive outcomes of the children (Eamon, 2002; Grolnick et al., 2000; Senechal & LeFevre, 2002), perhaps its usefulness in our society should be studied.