

Abstract

Previous Hong Kong studies of effects of gender and school type on gender role attitudes were mainly on the basis of observations without systematic data collection. The purpose of this quantitative study is to fill this research gap to examine Hong Kong secondary students' gender role attitudes and how the students express their gender role attitudes in leadership behaviors in different school contexts. Adolescent (1440, form to form 5) attending 13 Hong Kong secondary schools (3 boys' schools, 3 girls' schools and 5 co-educational schools) completed the Attitudes Toward Women for Adolescents (AWSA) and Servant Leadership Questionnaire (SLQ). Less traditional gender role attitudes were found among female students than among male students, but students' gender role attitudes were not significantly related to gender compositions of schools. Also, both gender-role incongruent leadership behaviors and gender-role congruent leadership behaviors were more common in single-sex schools than co-educational schools for male students. The implication is that boy's schools were better platforms for male students to express their gender role attitudes than co-educational schools. However, this finding could apply to male students only. Further studies on these topics for female students are needed.