

Chinese Adolescents' Conflict Resolution Styles: Relations with Parenting and  
Adolescent Adjustment

Abstract

The present study aimed to investigate the frequencies of different conflict resolution style usage among Chinese adolescents, and the associations between the endorsement and adolescents' socioemotional and academic adjustment. Three general parenting dimensions were also included to investigate their relationships with different conflict resolution styles. Participants were college students recruited from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, because parent-adolescent communication shall be important given the features of their late adolescence or so-called "emerging adulthood". Five conflict resolution styles came out based on previous studies, namely positive problem-solving, conflict engagement, third-party intervention, withdrawal and compliance. Among them, positive problem-solving was used with the highest frequency and was followed by withdrawal. The remaining three strategies were endorsed less frequently. We also found that conflict resolution styles could be predicted by parenting styles after controlling the effects of demographic factors. As for influence of different resolution styles, although there seemed to be not many significant connections with positive socioemotional and academic adjustment of adolescents, resolution styles, especially the negative ones, were found to display their predictive power of adolescent maladjustment.

*Keywords:* conflict resolution, adolescent adjustment, parenting, emerging adulthood