

ABSTRACT

Despite plenty of studies on parental emotion socialization of negative emotions, little is known about positive emotions, especially among Chinese mothers and their offspring. This study aimed to test the prevalence and functional relevance of different types of maternal reactions to Chinese adolescents' positive emotions. To go further, we want to understand how different types of maternal reactions are related to a range of adolescents' socioemotional functioning, and mediate the relations between general parenting and adolescents' socioemotional functioning. We also aimed to explore how maternal socialization goals are related to maternal reactions to adolescents' positive emotions. Participants were 301 Chinese sixth-graders and seventh-graders (144 females, mean age =12.21 years). Adolescents reported perceived maternal reactions to adolescents' positive emotions, perceived maternal general parenting, perceived maternal socialization goals and adolescent socioemotional functioning in online questionnaires. Our results indicated that Chinese mothers adopt more enhancing responses than dampening responses to adolescents' positive emotions, as adolescents reported. Adolescents' perceived maternal enhancing responses are associated with better socioemotional functioning, while adolescents' perceived maternal dampening responses are associated with poorer adolescent socioemotional functioning. Perceived maternal reactions to adolescents' positive emotions mediate the relations between general parenting (i.e., autonomy support and psychological control) and adolescent socioemotional functioning. Adolescents' perceived maternal endorsement of self-development socialization goals for them positively predicts perceived maternal enhancing responses to their positive emotions, while negatively predicts perceived maternal dampening responses; adolescents' perceived maternal endorsement of filial piety socialization goals for them positively predicts perceived maternal dampening responses to their positive emotions.

Key words: Emotion Socialization, Positive Emotion, Socialization Goals