

ABSTRACT

Parental reactions to adolescents' positive emotions plays a role in the development of adolescents' emotion regulation and depression. However, most extant research was conducted in Western Countries and none of them adopted person-centered approaches. In this study, a total of 220 Chinese secondary school students reported their mothers' responses to their positive emotions, their use of cognitive reappraisal and expressive suppression, and their concurrent degrees of depression at the time point when they were in seventh grade. At the bivariate level, results revealed that there were internal differences among maternal dampening responses in Chinese context, and both enhancing and dampening responses were associated with adolescents' depression through adolescents' expressive suppression only. Maternal responses were also not associated with adolescents' cognitive reappraisal. In the subsequent latent profile analysis, five profiles of the maternal responses were identified, namely the enhancing, neglecting, dampening, protective, and inconsistent profiles. Adolescents with enhancing mothers tended to score the lowest in expressive suppression and depression. In general, there were no significant differences in expressive suppression and depression among adolescents with the other four groups of mothers except for the higher scores in adolescents with inconsistent mothers than with protective mothers. Adolescents' cognitive reappraisal did not relate to any profiles. These findings particularly highlight the importance of examining cultural differences in studies of parental reactions adolescents' positive emotions and the importance of adopting person-centered approaches in understanding this parenting construct and the relationships to adolescents' outcomes.

Keywords: Adolescence, Culture, Depression, Emotion regulation, Parental Emotion Socialization