

Abstract

This study examined the regional differences in Career Decision Self-efficacy (CDSE) among 1003 secondary school students, comprising 479 from Hong Kong students (age in 10th-grade: $M = 16.33$, $SD = .66$) and 524 from Shanghai (age in 10th-grade: $M = 16.49$, $SD = .56$). The mediation role of Career-Related Parental support (CRPS) between regional differences and CDSE was examined also. Results indicated that Shanghai students were having higher scores in CDSE compared with Hong Kong students. Multiple factors were explored to be associated with CRPS and CDSE: such as environmental context and general economic outlook (Soresi et al., 2014), sibling size (Blake, 1981; Gibbs et al., 2016), change of gender preference in Mainland China (Ho et al., 2018) due to One-Child Policy (OCP) implemented since 1979, parent educational attainment (Verhaeghe et al., 2012), and the educational policy in terms of timing of vocational stream of study differences in Hong Kong and Shanghai (Li et al., 2019)

Keywords: Career-related parental support, career decision self-efficacy, intra-cultural differences