

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the level of vocational exploration and commitment, parental educational attainment, career-related parental support, and other demographic variables of grade 10 students in Shanghai and Hong Kong. There was a total of 927 participants, 490 of them are from Shanghai, and 437 are from Hong Kong. CRPSS and VECS scales are used to collect the data, SPSS 23 and PROCESS V3.5 are used for data analysis. The study explores the regional differences in parental educational attainment, youth career exploration and commitment, and career-related support provided by parents between Shanghai and Hong Kong. And it also analysed the relationship between parents' educational level and the level of vocational exploration and commitment of high school students, and whether career-related parental support plays a mediating role in it.

The results show that the three variables are significantly different between the two regions. In the total sample, the education level of parents can be used to predict the level of career exploration and commitment of high school students, and parental support related to the occupation plays a partial mediating role. The Shanghai sample is consistent with the overall sample, but the career-related parental support in the Hong Kong sample does not play a mediating role. It is worth noting that, in the Hong Kong sample, there is no significant correlation between parents' educational level and high school students' career exploration and commitment level. In the mediating relationship, the direct effects of PEA and VECS are not significant.

This study proves that parents have an influence on their children's vocational exploration and commitment, and career-related parental support plays a key role in this process. At the same time, it also proved the necessity to improve the education level of the whole people and change the concept of traditional Chinese family vocational education to a new supportive parent-child relationship.

Keywords: vocational exploration and commitment, parental educational attainment, career-related parental support, parents, Chinese high school student, Shanghai, Hong Kong
