

Validation of the Chinese Family Strength Measure (CFSM) Among Hong Kong Families with Young Children

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Abstract

Family strengths play critical roles in maintaining healthy family functioning. To facilitate family strength-related research in China, this study tested the psychometric properties of the Chinese Family Strength Measure (CFSM) in the Hong Kong context and compared the levels of family strengths across families with different socioeconomic statuses. A survey was conducted in the local kindergartens. 749 valid responses were collected, and 82.78% of them were from the mothers. 88.52% were traditional families. The results showed that the CFSM with the original factor structure still fitted the data best ($\chi^2/df=4.00$, GFI=0.842, CFI=0.931, TLI=0.924, RMSEA=0.074). Moreover, there was a significant relationship between socioeconomic status and the level of enjoyable time together ($F=4.33$, $p<0.05$). Such findings suggested that the family strengths construct might be malleable depending on different cultural contexts, but not on short-term times in the same cultural context. Financial situation has a significant impact on family functioning, especially in family entertainment.

Keywords

Family strength, Hong Kong family, Strong family, Young children, Validation.