

The Relationship between Parenting Stress and Perceived Children's Social Problem Behavior among Chinese Working Mothers

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Abstract—This study examines the relationship between parenting stress and perceived children's social problem behavior. The sample consists of 100 Chinese working mothers were sampled by cluster sampling methods. Parenting Stress Index-short Form and Eyberg child Behavior Inventory were employed to measure the parenting stress and children social problem behavior respectively. The result revealed that parenting stress is significantly positive correlated with perceived children social problem behavior in intensity ($r = .431^{**}, p < 0.01$) and problem score ($r = .716^{**}, p < 0.01$). Besides, parental distress ($r = .340^{**}, p < 0.01$), parent child dysfunction interaction ($r = .398^{**}, p < 0.01$) and difficult child ($r = .389^{**}, p < 0.01$) also moderately associated with perceived children social problem behavior in intensity score. The findings also noted parental distress ($r = .435^{**}, p < 0.01$), parent child dysfunction interaction ($r = .731^{**}, p < 0.01$) and difficult child ($r = .672^{**}, p < 0.01$) also moderately associated with perceived children social problem behavior in problem score. Interestingly, the result showed household income ($r = -.233^{**}, p < 0.01$) and numbers of children ($r = .333^{**}, p < 0.01$) are related to parenting stress. The result showed the higher the working hours, the lower the parenting stress ($r = -.424^{**}, p < 0.01$). Hence, this study gives a guideline for the policy makers and counselors to design program which can benefit the parents and children as well.

Index Terms—Parenting stress, children's social problem behavior.

I. INTRODUCTION

Psychologists agree that nurturing style procedures an adult model that a child can imitate. There is a saying that "children fail to learn, but never fail to imitate", nurturance therefore is likely to build a positive feelings towards others. A child who enjoys warmth as well as affection in the family circle will certainly orientate more positively towards developing constructive social relations with others and likely follow the instruction of others. According to attachment theories proposed [1] a close and secure parent-child relationship influences the social behavior of the child in future time.

Since parents play an important role in shaping children's social behavior, mothers appear more often in observation compared with fathers because mothers mostly are the first person children start to interact with. Infants who are neglected and separated from their mothers will become depressed and even feel panic from time to time.

Nowadays, the whole world is experiencing of this drastic transformation in the nature and character of family, work, and society because mother who owns children enter and remain in the labor force in unprecedented number. As the number of working mothers increase significantly, women these days have more roles to play than ever before, and they are expected to fulfill more social responsibility and other demands of society.

They are not only demanded to work outside the home, but also have the responsibilities for taking care of their children. As playing the role of wives and mothers, women contribute to the family economy when necessary, but the fact is this seriously conflicts with their principals of home making responsibilities. Thus, women were suffering stress because of workload in workplace and the family responsibilities.

Another concern is, parenting stress is not only related to the major life event, but also is being covered with the perceptive of child rearing. Parenting stress is created when there is a gap between the expectation of the parents themselves and children. Employment of mother has become a noticeable issue in our society since nowadays many people predict that working mother is not able to balance family and work, leading serious social problem to the next generation. The trend of working mother, however, has already been globalized such that finding a solution should be more valuable than preventing it.

In general, the purpose of this study is to determine the relationship between parenting stress and perceived children social problem behavior among working mothers. While, the specific objectives are:

- To describe the personal background (age, education level, income, working hours, numbers of children, work nature and types of work) of working mothers involved in the study.
- To determine the relationship between selected personal background characteristic (income, working hours, numbers of children) and parenting stress among working mothers.
- To determine the relationship between working mothers' parenting stress (parenting distress, parent- child dysfunction interaction, difficult child) and their perceived children social problem behavior (intensity and problem) among working mothers.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This is a correlation survey to examine the relationship between parenting stress of working mother and perceived

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