

Abstract

Influence of family on self-esteem of adolescents

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The objective of this study is to identify and analyze influence of factors related to family on self-esteem of Thai adolescents aged 15-24. Data are from The Family And Youth Survey (FAYS) conducted in 1994 by the Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. The present analysis includes 2,157 adolescents who were living with their parents at the time of the survey.

Results of the analysis indicate that family-related variables are highly related to self-esteem of Thai adolescents include relationship with parents (defined in terms of whether adolescents have problems with parents or not), closeness to parents (defined in terms of participation in various activities with parents), style of child rearing (defined in terms of level of freedom to do thing by themselves), and person who take care of adolescents. It is found that good relationship with parents, more participation with parents, high freedom to do thing and whether adolescent were brought up by both parents, significantly increased the adolescent self-esteem. Level of education is the only non-family variable that shows statistically significant relationship with self-esteem of adolescents. Higher level of education can strengthen the self-esteem of adolescents.

It is also found that there are gender differences in the effect of family-related variables on the self-esteem. The findings indicate that the style of child rearing is the only variable show statistically significant relationships with self-esteem of both males and females, but the closeness to parents and person who take care of adolescents show statistically significant relationships for male's self-esteem only. For females, birth order, relationship with parents, and level of education would take higher self-esteem.