

Introduction

Why study these variables in this population?

- Conflict is typical among parent-adolescent relationships across ethnic groups and can be influential on adolescent psychosocial development and adjustment (Adams et al., 2008; Kwak, 2003).
- In research of parent-adolescent conflict, few studies have considered the unique context of immigrant parents. Acquiring and adjusting to cultural characteristics in a new country may contribute to acculturative stress in parent-adolescent relationships, which in turn, may influence conflict.

Links Between Key Variables:

- Previous studies have associated parent-adolescent acculturative stress with strained parent-child relationships among Korean Americans (Heeseung & Dancy, 2009), and acculturative stress with increased risk of psychopathology in Asian Americans (Hwang & Ting, 2008).
- Study findings linking parental mental health and parent-adolescent conflict suggest parental mental health may be a potential factor leading to parent-adolescent conflict (Dekovic, 1999; Steinberg, 2001).

Why it matters?

- Some research suggests parent-adolescent conflict may predict youth maladjustment (Yeh, 2011), whereas other studies suggest it may facilitate developmentally appropriate adolescent differentiation (Steinberg, 2001).
- Given parent-adolescent conflict can influence pathways to adolescent development outcomes, assessing factors impactful to parent-adolescent conflict is needed to understand adolescent development.

Current Study

- The current study examined the mediating effect of parental depression between parent-adolescent acculturative stress and parent-adolescent conflict among Korean immigrants in New Zealand, one of the largest immigrant groups in the country (Statistics New Zealand, 2014).

Hypothesis:

- We hypothesize that the experience of parent-adolescent acculturative stress will have effects on parental mental health, which in turn will affect their parent-adolescent conflict.

Methods

Participants

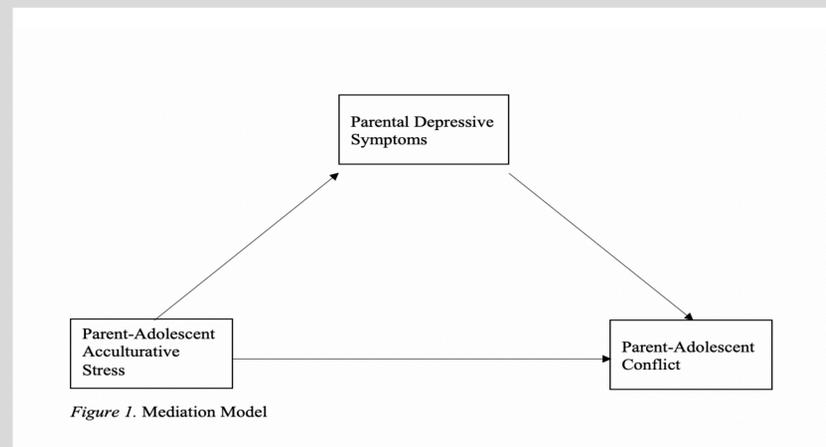
- Participants: 96 Korean immigrant parents (M age in years = 45.34, SD = 7.07; Female 61.8%).
- A majority of the participants (98.8%) were born in Korea and had resided in New Zealand an average of 10.39 years (SD = 6.78). Language reported was mostly Korean (76.1%) or only Korean (21.6%).

Measures

- Immigrant Parental Stress Inventory (Yoo & Vonk, 2012; $\alpha = .90$).
- Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (Radloff, 1977; $\alpha = .91$).
- Conflict Behavior Questionnaire (Robin & Foster, 1989; $\alpha = .86$).

Results

- Correlations were significant among key variables and an ANOVA revealed no significant sex differences.
- Parent-adolescent acculturative stress significantly predicted parental depression ($B = .64, SE = .17, t = 3.70, p < .001, 95\% CI [.29, .98]$). Additionally, both parent-adolescent acculturative stress ($B = .31, SE = .08, t = 3.87, p < .001, 95\% CI [.15, .47]$) and parental depression ($B = .10, SE = .05, t = 2.12, p = .04, 95\% CI [.01, .20]$) significantly predicted parent-adolescent conflict.
- Mediation analysis indicated parental depression mediated the relationship between parent-adolescent acculturative stress and parent-adolescent conflict ($\beta = .08, SE = .05, 95\% CI [.00, .19]$).



Discussion

- Current findings suggest Korean immigrant parents' experience of parent-adolescent acculturative stress may negatively influence their mental health, which in turn may then influence parent-adolescent conflict.
- Results support previous findings that parent-adolescent conflict is associated with parental mental health problems (Dekovic, 1999; Steinberg, 2001) and parent-adolescent acculturative stress is associated with increased psychopathology risk (Hwang & Ting, 2008).
- Expanding on previous studies linking acculturative stress with parent-adolescent conflict (Fung & Lau, 2010), our data identified a mediating effect of immigrant parental mental health between these variables.
- By exploring culturally relevant factors influential to parent-adolescent conflict, a deeper understanding of the diverse pathways leading to parent-adolescent conflict, along with cultural influences on adolescent development, can be gained. Cultural contexts that may influence parent-adolescent conflict and adolescent development need to be further assessed.

Limitations and Future Directions

- This study conducted mediation analysis using cross-sectional data. Cross-sectional estimates of mediation can yield biased longitudinal parameter effect estimates. Thus, there might exist a discrepancy in mediating effects between a cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis of these variables (Maxwell et al., 2011).
- This study is limited by a small sample. Using bootstrapping to test mediation in small samples has a tendency to produce elevated type 1 error rates. An identified adequate sample size is 238 (Beasley & Rodgers, 2012; Koopman et al., 2015; Schönbrodt & Perugini, 2013).
- Future studies could examine the extent to which these results generalize to other cultural groups that experience similar immigrant family processes.
- Further research could examine how these cultural processes occur in different phases of immigration, specifically, in more recently immigrated groups.
- In addition, participant recruitment took place in an urban environment. Future studies could look at this relationship among other geographical locations.