Correlation between Self-esteem, Physical Self-Perception and Social Support within the Multidimensional and Hierarchical Model

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Abstract

Prior research has shown that social support has an influence on self-esteem and/or physical self-perceptions (DiLorenzo et al., 1999; Jansnoski et al., 1981; McIntyre et al., 1986). In light of these findings, the purpose of the present investigation was to determine how social support may correlate with self-esteem within Fox & Corbin’s (1989) self-esteem model. Three hundred twelve male and 204 female university students completed Rosenberg self-esteem scale, the Physical Self-Perception Profile-Japanese Version (PSPP-J), and a three-item measure of social support.

Hierarchical regression analyses were conducted, and the standardized partial regression coefficient for social support and physical self-worth predicting self-esteem were significant ($\beta = .12, p < .01$ and $.51, p < .001$, respectively). The standardized partial regression coefficient for social support predicting physical self-worth, however, was not significant ($\beta = .03, p > .05$). These results suggest that social support have a direct correlation with self-esteem and demonstrate the usefulness of social support within Fox & Corbin (1989)’s self-esteem model. However, it is showed that physical self-perception is a key component of self-esteem because the standardized partial regression coefficient for social support predicting self-esteem is smaller than that of physical self-worth.

Key words: Fox & Corbin’s self-esteem model, hierarchical regression analyses