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PSYCHOLOGICAL REACTIONS TO SUCCESS AND FAILURE OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROBLEM BEHAVIOR

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ABSTRACT

A questionnaire of 130 problem behaviors was first administered to a sample of 2,590 male students drawn by the method of stratified cluster sampling from 46 junior high schools in the Taipei city. The following five groups of about 30 subjects each were then chosen from the large sample for the experimental purpose: (1) students with neurotic behaviors (the NB group), (2) students with delinquent behaviors (the DB group), (3) students with learning-difficulty behaviors (the LDB group), (4) students with all the three types of problem behavior (the ALL group), and (5) students without problem behaviors (the Control group). Subjects in each of the groups were randomly assigned to the Success and Failure conditions to form a 5×2 factorial design.

The obtained results indicate that the five groups displayed more significant differences in the Failure condition than in the Success one. Under the Failure condition, subjects in the LDB group singled themselves out by showing a significant drop in their aspiration level and a tendency to become more depressed. However, they showed no change in the level of general self-confidence due to failure experience. In contrast to these LDB students, the subjects in the NB group tended to lower their general self-confidence although their aspiration remained the same during the Failure condition. The implications of these and other findings for student counselling and guidance were discussed.