

Testing the Path of Influencing Suicidal Attempter s Suicidal Risk

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An important issue in the studies of the relationship between the sense of hopelessness and suicide is whether suicide is encouraged by a diminished positive anticipation about the future, by an increased negative anticipation about the future, or by both. Williams and Pollock (2000, 2002) claimed that suicide was the result of the interaction of three factors, namely, defeat, no escape, and no rescue. In the present study, we translated the three factors into loss of resource, control, and hopelessness to evaluate Williams and Pollock s claim. We hypothesized that when suicide attempters experienced a loss of resource, the different coping strategies they adopted would have different consequences on their risk of committing suicide. One hundred and forty

six suicide attempters, referred through the suicide prevention report system established for the survivors of the 921 Chi-Chi major earthquake, were administered the Loss of Resources Scale, the Control Regulation Questionnaire, the Hopelessness Scale, and the Degree of Suicide Scale. Path analysis of the data revealed two paths showing direct influence on suicide attempter s risk of committing suicide. One of them was positive anticipation, rather than negative anticipation, about the future. The other was escape. The implication of these findings for suicide interventions is discussed.

Keywords: *suicidal attempt, risk of committing suicide, positive expectation about the future, escape*

