

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ETHNIC IDENTITY AND GLOBAL SELF-ESTEEM OF MINORITY GROUP: A STUDY ON PUYUMA ADOLESCENTS

Hsih-Chen Hsu, Mei-Chih Li

Department of Psychology, National Chengchi University

Some sociological and psychological theories strongly predict that minority group members should have lower self-esteem. However, little empirical evidence has been found to support these theories when minority groups were studied in Western societies like United States. In Taiwan, where social status is predominantly differentiated with capitalism values, aboriginal groups are considered of lower status in many aspects. Three hundred forty-six Puyuma adolescents, aged 12 to 28 participated in our study on global self-esteem and its related factors. Results replicated those of Western societies: despite their low social-status, their global self-esteem was not lower than that of Taiwanese majority. Two contrasting models of the

relationship among the measured variables were compared by means of path analysis. According to the statistically accepted model, the strength of identification with their own ethnic group is the main force boosting minority members' global self-esteem. Their strength of ethnic identity was indexed by three components: favorable attitudes toward their own ethnic group; involvement in the ethnic group's traditional activities; and not hiding ethnic identity in the public.

Keywords: Minority, Puyuma, Ethnic identity, Global self-esteem, Value identity, in-group comparison, External attribution.