

# The Impact of Family Factor on the Co-occurrence of Internalizing and Externalizing Symptoms in Taiwanese Juveniles

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The present study investigates the mechanism of co-occurrence of internalizing and externalizing symptoms in Taiwanese juveniles, proposing that family factor is the shared risky factor of internalizing and externalizing symptoms, and the differences of normal and delinquent juveniles in the co-occurrence of internalizing and externalizing symptoms are also examined. Subjects include normal and delinquent juveniles, the effective sample size is 1,905. Anonymous self-report questionnaire is adopted to collect data. Variables measured in the questionnaire involved depressive and schizophrenic symptom (internalizing symptoms), antisocial and aggressive behavior (externalizing symptoms), parental discipline, parent-child relationship, parent-child conflict, parental mental illness, family atmosphere (family factor), and demographic data. The scales in the questionnaire show acceptable reliability and validity. The results of the study indicate that the extent of co-occurrence of internalizing and externalizing symptoms is decreased but still with significance under the control of family factor in the normal juveniles, however the extent of co-occurrence is significantly lowered in the delinquent juveniles. Besides, the degree of co-occurrence of internalizing and externalizing symptoms in delinquent juveniles is lower than normal juveniles, and both internalizing and externalizing symptoms are more severe in delinquent juveniles than normal juveniles. The results above-mentioned indicate that the hypotheses of the study are all supported. The theoretical and practical implications of the study are addressed. Suggestions for future research include: engaging in longitudinal study to testify the impact of family factor, doing experimental research to examine the mechanism of co-occurrence of internalizing and externalizing symptoms, finding out other shared risky factor of internalizing and externalizing symptoms in juveniles, sending for parents and teachers to assess juveniles to cross-validate the data.

**Keywords:** *co-occurrence, externalizing symptom, family factor, internalizing symptom, shared risky factor*