

MODEL TESTING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUICIDAL RISK

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Suicidal behavior is reflection of an interaction between a chronic process and an acute process. The chronic process is an accumulating process of internal and external factors which have a negative effect on individual's well-being. The acute process refers to impacts of current life situations which entail stresses, emotional turmoil or predicaments. This study hypothesizes that an adolescent's hassles, ability to cope, concept of death are three predominant variables to affect his or her well-being. An adolescent with more hassles, less coping resources or a distorted concept of death, tends to be more self-destructive. When one becomes more self-destructive, inevitably, one's predicaments contribute to a higher sense of hopelessness, and the risk of committing suicide increases. This study applies the structural equation model to test its fitness. The results showed that this model needs further modification. In terms of suicidal risk, self-destructive behavior is more predictive than the sense of hopelessness. Current hassles account for 73.3% of the variance of self-destructive behavior. Finally, this study discussed how such a modified model can be applied to suicide prevention on campus.

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