Communication and parental supervision, friends and prosocial behavior of Mexican adolescents

Sample

We conducted a non-probability sample of 1147 adolescents, with an average age of 16.5 years.

SAMPLE

Objectives

This study is based on the perspective of positive adolescent development (Lerner, et al., 2005), whose main objective is to analyze the strengths, resources, skills and talents that young people and contribute to its development. Prosocial behavior is an indicator of positive adolescent development according to Benson (2002) and communication and parental support and positive behaviors of friends, are considered external strengths.

The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between communication and parental monitoring, positive behaviors of friends and prosocial behavior of Mexican adolescents.

Instruments

Communication and parental supervision is assessed with three dimensions of parenting practices scale (Andrade & Betancourt, 2008):

Positive friend's behaviors were evaluated with a scale of five items that assess how many of your friends do volunteer work, attend church and have healthy behaviors. (items, α =.58). We adapted the Prosocial Tendencies Measure (Carlo & Randall, 2002) consisting of 23 items grouped into three dimensions: emotional support (8 items, α =.84), recognition (7 items, α =.82, and altruism (5 items, α =.83).

Procedure Applications are performed as a group in the classroom with school permission and consent of the students.

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Methods



Communication with mother	9 items	α=.95
Supervision of mother	6 items	α=.83
Communication/supervision of father	16 items	α=.96

Correlation analyzes were performed by sex, in order to know whether the associations were similar in men (table 1) and women (table 2). The results showed that both men and women, the dimension of emotional support which was correlated with the dimensions of communication and supervision of the father and mother and friends' positive behaviors, although significant, these correlations were weak. In men, the highest correlations were with the supervision of the mother and the positive behaviors of friends, while women were communication and parent supervision and positive behaviors of friends. The results suggest the need to investigate other internal and external strengths that explain prosocial behavior of young people.

Table 1 Correlations in men								
	Emotional support	Recognition	Altruism	Communication with mother	Supervision of mother	Communication / supervision of father	Positive friend's behaviors	
Emotional support								
Recognition	.280**	1						
Altruism	.302**	.377**	1					
Communication with mother	.143**	.085	.023	1				
Supervision of mother	.211**	.080	.000	.651**	1			
Communication / supervision of father	.124*	.067	.009	.556**	.464**	1		
Positive friend's behaviors	.203**	.159**	.105*	.183**	.171**	.203**	1	

Table 2 Correlations in women								
	Emotional support	Recognition	Altruism	Communication with mother	Supervision of mother	Communication / supervision of fa- ther	Positive friend's be- haviors	
Emotional support	1							
Recognition	.146**	1						
Altruism	.280**	.214**	1					
Communication with mother	.161**	.001	.102*	1				
Supervision of mother	.217**	.001	.115**	.691**	1			
Communication / supervision of father	.243**	.077	.081	.446**	.452**	1		
Positive friend's behaviors	.242**	.053	.072	.152**	.200**	.210**	1	

Results