

ŠEŠTASIS TARPTAUTINIS SIMPOZIUMAS „AKTUALŪS TYRIMAI PSICHOLOGIJOJE: TARPTAUTINĖ PATIRTIS“

Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto Teorinės psichologijos ir Bendrosios psichologijos katedros kartu su ilgamečiais partneriais Nebraskos Kearney universitetu (JAV) tęsia tradicija tampančių vaizdo konferencijų, skirtų psichologijos studentų darbams pristatyti, seriją. 2010 m. balandžio 13 d. įvyko šeštoji tarptautinė vaizdo konferencija – tarptautinis simpoziumas „Aktualūs tyrimai psichologijoje: tarptautinė patirtis“. Pranešimus skaitė Vytauto Didžiojo universiteto ir Nebraskos Kearney universiteto (JAV) psichologijos bakalauro studijų absolventai, magistro studijų programų studentai bei doktorantai.

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTIFICATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MALADJUSTMENT OF KOREAN ADOLESCENTS

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Parentification means a role reversal wherein children become responsible for the emotional or behavioral needs of a parent and/or other family members. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between parentification and psychological maladjustment of Korean adolescents.

Three hundred forty-seven high school students (142 boys and 205 girls) in Busan, Korea, participated in this study. At the preliminary analysis, a significant gender

difference was found in psychological maladjustment. The severity of psychological maladjustment in female students was higher. Hence, to examine the relationship between parentification and psychological maladjustment, canonical correlation analysis was performed for each gender separately as well as for the whole participants.

Findings are as follows. When relationship was examined for the whole participants, emotional caregiving and unfairness of parentification significantly contributed to psychological maladjustment. Also, anxiety/depression, somatic complaints, and withdrawal of psychological maladjustment were significantly related to the adolescents' parentification. Similar pattern of results was found when relationship was examined separately by gender. The result of this study indicates that there is a significant positive relationship between parentification and psychological maladjustment of Korean adolescents. Therefore, school counseling services must consider implementing a program for treating cases of parentification in adolescents.

PARENT'S PERCEPTION OF QUALITY OF ATTACHMENT

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This presentation examines the parent's perceived quality of attachment to their parents along with their perceived quality of attachment with their children. The presentation explores the implications of parent's perceived quality of attachment across age, gender, education, and parent's relationship status. Attachment data was collected in a Midwestern state utilizing a parental self-report questionnaire. The purpose of this presentation is to explore and help clarify potential factors that could possibly hinder attachment.

THE INFLUENCE OF FACIAL PIERCING ON THE PERCEIVED PEER STUDENT PERSONALITY AND BEHAVIOR CHARACTERISTICS IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE

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Introduction. Physical appearance is an important feature in judging peers' attractiveness among adolescents. The behavior with the perceptible adolescent may rely on this judgment. Even a single detail can determine the perception of adolescent's personality and behavior characteristics. Researches indicate that piercing has become one of the most popular details of physical appearance, and people with piercing are considered as being more attractive. Therefore the area of the body part of piercing is an important factor for these judgments. Accordingly, this study has investigated the facial piercing influence on the perceived peer adolescent personality and behavior characteristics.

Methodology. Participants of the study were 148 6th grade students from two Lithuanian schools (78 males and 70 females, mean age = 12.32), selected using convenience sampling. Visual stimulus and questionnaire were used as a measure to investigate physical appearance's impact on perceived attractiveness of peer student in this study. The 6th grade male student with standard appearance, average weight, without any exceptional feature was selected for the visual stimulus. Three photographs of student's faces were used: in one picture the student had no piercing, in the second had lip piercing and in the third - an eyebrow piercing. The earrings were put on with Photoshop programme. One of 3 photographs of the student was presented to each participant. The questionnaire was designed to assess participants' judgments about physical and social attractiveness, appropriate – inappropriate behavior and academic skills of the student in presented picture.

Results and discussion. The results revealed no differences in judgments of any visual stimulus between boys and girls. The student without piercing or with an eyebrow piercing was perceived as more attractive physically compared to the student with lip piercing. The evaluations of social attractiveness did not differ depending on piercing. However, data analysis showed that girls would like to communicate with the student having an eyebrow piercing more in comparison with the student having lip piercing or without piercing. Furthermore, the student with lip piercing was judged as behaving more inappropriately and having worse academic skills than the student with no piercing.

The current results suggest that physical appearance is important for personality and behavior judgment. Hence, it can be inferred that perceived physical and social attractiveness have a strong impact on the behavioral and befriending decision toward the evaluated person. Appropriate – inappropriate behavior and academic skills are associated with the thinking how the target is seen and judged by his parents and teachers. **Consequently**, these two aspects are not as important as physical and social attractiveness for the behavioral and befriending decision.

Conclusions and implication. The adolescent with lip piercing tend to be judged by their peers as the most unattractive physically and socially, behaving inappropriately and having worse academic skills. This negative perception of lip piercing may result in peer non-acceptance in the early adolescent. Thus, the presence or absence of a piercing and the place of it can be an important factor for perception of attractiveness and possible behavior toward the target in early adolescence.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPIRITUALITY AND WELLNESS IN LITHUANIAN ADULT SAMPLE

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Introduction. There is substantial literature that relates spirituality to a better mental and physical health. However, the nature of this relationship is not clear enough. Some evidence suggests that spirituality may contribute to the better health through the

healthier life style chosen by more spiritual people. Wellness is conceptualized as a way of life, oriented toward optimal health and well-being in which body, mind, and spirit are integrated by the individual to live life more fully within the human and natural community (Myers, Sweeney, 2005). That is why this study examines the relationship between spirituality, satisfaction with life, and wellness, which is understood as health oriented lifestyle.

Methodology. 340 Lithuanian adults, 148 (43.5%) males and 192 (59.5%) females, mean age 41.1 (SD18.5), ranging from 21 to 89, completed Five Factor Wellness Inventory (5F-WEL, Myers, Sweeney, 2005) based on the Indivisible Self Model of Wellness (Hattie, et al. 2004), The Daily Spiritual Experience Scale (DSES, Underwood, Teresi, 2002) and Satisfaction with Life Scale (SLS, Diener, 1985).

The main results. The results showed that age but not gender was significantly related to spirituality - older respondents reported more frequent daily spiritual experience, than younger ones. Spirituality was significantly positively related to general wellness, creative attitude towards life (Creative Self), better social relationships (Social Self), stronger inner values (Essential Self), increased attention to nutrition and physical activity (Physical Self) when impact of age and gender were controlled. Multiple regression analysis confirmed significant although not strong relationship between spirituality and wellness. Daily spiritual experience explained about 11% of variance of general wellness, and was a better predictor of wellness than age and gender. Daily spiritual experience was also positively related to general satisfaction with life.

Conclusions. The study of a Lithuanian sample showed that spirituality had a significant positive impact on health oriented lifestyle and satisfaction with life during adulthood. Age differences, possible cohort effect and implications for the future research will be discussed.

THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SPIRITUALITY AND DEATH ANXIETY AMONG MEDICS

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Human spiritual-religious beliefs and death anxiety are the inseparable elements of one's existence. However, there are only few studies examining the relation between these two variables. People who choose medical profession face the fact of someone's death more often than usual. This could lead to the greater level of death anxiety which could be related to the physical and psychological problems of medics and also could determine medics' reactions to their patients, for example dissociating from patients. Spiritual-religious beliefs also can affect the decisions made by medics, their attitudes to the patients and also could help them to cope with stressful situations. Thus spiritual-religious beliefs and death anxiety impact not only well-being of medics but also the medic-patient system. Therefore the research of connections between spirituality and death anxiety among medics is significant and essential.

So, the aim of this study was to investigate the connections between spirituality and death anxiety among medics.

There were 147 participants (30 men, 117 women) in the study from Hospital of Kaunas University of Medicine. There were 67 physicians and 80 nurses among them. All participants worked at different departments of the hospital which can be divided into two groups. First group consists of departments where the death is faced more often: Cardio surgery, Intensive Therapy, Hematology, Oncology and Pulmonology. Second group consists of departments where the death is faced not so often: Nephrology, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Rheumatology and Otorinolaringology.

The participants had to fill questionnaire which consisted of sociodemographic questions, The Revised Collet-Lester Fear of Death and Dying Scale and Cognitive-Behavioral Spirituality Scale.

The results of the study showed that medics with higher spirituality scores experience higher levels of anxiety connected to their own process of death in comparison to medics with lower spirituality scores. It was assessed that nurses with higher spirituality scores experience higher levels of anxiety connected to their own process of death and the death of others in comparison to nurses with lower spirituality scores. However, there was no significant difference in death anxiety between physicians with higher and lower spirituality scores. The results of the study also showed that medics who work at the departments of hospital where the death is faced more often experience less anxiety connected with other people death and others death process. But medics with higher spirituality scores, working at these departments experience higher level of anxiety connected with process of their own death than medics with lower spirituality scores, working at the departments of same kind.

Several explanations could be provided for such results. Firstly, it should be considered that death anxiety and spirituality are multidimensional variables and therefore the connections between them can be affected by relations of different dimensions and individual differences of this unique sample. Secondly, the results of this research also show the possibility that greater spirituality encourages medics to become more empathetic. As the results of other researchers showed, the greater empathy was connected to higher levels of death anxiety.

STRUCTURE OF STRESS COPING AND ITS CONNECTIONS WITH DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS IN FEMALE STUDENTS (A PILOT STUDY)

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Background, purpose. Researches indicate that more than half of university students perceive stress, moreover one third of students have depressive symptoms. Female students perceive higher levels of stress and depressive mood as compared to male students. Stress coping is considered as a mediator between stress and psychological,

somatic health. Yet stress coping construct has a lot of different faces and structure of stress coping is not clear enough. The aim of this study was to ascertain structure of stress coping and its connections with depressive symptoms in female students.

Material, method. 434 female students from Vytautas Magnus University, faculty of social sciences, completed self-reported questionnaires. Students aged between 18 and 44 (average 21). Participants completed measures outside of class. Coping Inventory for Stressful Situations (CISS) and COPE measured stress coping, Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale measured depressive symptoms. Structure of stress coping was examined using factor analysis of CISS and COPE, coping connections with depressive symptoms were examined using rectilinear regression.

Results. Factor analysis revealed three stress coping strategies used by female students: task-oriented coping, emotion-oriented coping and avoidance-oriented coping. Extracted factors explain 44,5 % of data. Factors have high interior reliability. Cronbach Alpha coefficients were as follows: 0,91 for task-oriented coping, 0,87 for emotion-oriented coping, and 0,81 for avoidant-oriented coping. Regression analysis showed that stress coping strategies explain 31% of depressive symptoms dispersion. Task-oriented coping is negatively related to depressive symptoms. Emotion-oriented coping is positively related to depressive symptoms. Prognostic value of avoidance-oriented coping was not significant in the regression model of depressive symptoms.

Conclusions. Study ascertained structure of stress coping strategies in female students. Predominant coping strategies in female student group are task-oriented coping, emotion-oriented coping and avoidance-oriented coping. More frequent usage of task-oriented stress coping leads female students to lower number of depressive symptoms and more frequent usage of emotion-oriented stress coping leads them to higher number of depressive symptoms.

ASSESSING THE ROLES OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS WITHIN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS OF EDUCATION

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This study evaluated the extent of involvement and utilization of School Psychologists within the primary and secondary levels of education. This study was conducted by generating a survey from an email-based web program (Opinio) and by randomly selecting 1200 principals from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota and Wyoming. Data were collectively gathered and analyzed from 431 respondents. It was found that School Psychologists continue to be most often utilized within the special education services and that assessment practices continue to constitute the majority of School Psychologist's practice.

AWARENESS OF BULLYING AMONG SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS

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According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in 2007, nearly 30 % of youth reported either being the bully, the victim, or both. Shinn, Walker, and Stoner (2002) state that one of the biggest obstacles to bullying prevention is the lack of adult awareness and/or intervention in bullying problems. It is imperative that staff and parents recognize all forms of bullying and that they all have negative effects on a child's social-emotional functioning and development. Students may develop the perception that school is a hostile and unsafe environment (Bradshaw et al., 2007). It can also impact academic functioning (Shinn et al., 2002). It would benefit students, both long term and short term, if staff was educated on the various expressions of bullying and the impact it can have on a child's life. The purpose of this study was to measure perceived awareness of direct and indirect bullying among elementary, middle school, and high school administrators (direct: $n = 18$, indirect: $n = 16$) and teachers (direct: $n = 29$, indirect: $n = 26$). It also measures administrators' ($n = 16$) and teachers' (direct: $n = 24$, indirect: $n = 26$) perception of direct and indirect bullying being a problem in the school. This research indicated that teachers and administrators did not significantly differ in their awareness of direct or indirect bullying in their schools. However, they did significantly differ in their perception of direct and indirect bullying being a problem in their schools.