

## MASTER'S THESIS

# The relation of parenting practices and family social environment to prosocial and delinquent behavior of adolescents in mainland China and Hong Kong

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The Relation of Parenting Practices and Family Social  
Environment to Prosocial and Delinquent Behavior of  
Adolescents in Mainland China and Hong Kong

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### Abstract

The present study investigated the relationships among parenting practice, family social environment, adolescent prosocial and antisocial behavior. The sample included 200 grade 7 and grade 8 Chinese students in Mainland China, and 267 grade 7 to grade 9 Chinese students in Hong Kong. Students from two different schools in their respective societies filled in a self-report questionnaire which measured parental practices, family social environment and the frequency of 42 prosocial or antisocial acts. The students' parents were also invited to fill in a questionnaire which measured parental practices.

It was found that there was positive correlation between refusal parenting practice and adolescent antisocial behavior in both societies regardless of the data from students or from their parents. Results also indicated that family social environment's harmonious and cohesive aspects were negatively associated with antisocial behavior in both societies. Family social environment's personal growth aspect was positively associated with adolescent prosocial behavior. Analysis of variance showed that the frequency of antisocial behavior among Hong Kong participants was higher than that among their Mainland China counterparts. The findings were discussed in terms of cultural value and different admission criteria to secondary school in the two societies.

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