

## MASTER'S THESIS

# A structural equation model of suicide ideation and its risk factors of depression, hopelessness, way of coping, and family relationship among Hong Kong children

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A Structural Equation Model of Suicide Ideation and Its Risk  
Factors of Depression, Hopelessness, Way of Coping, and  
Family Relationship among Hong Kong Children

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## Abstract

The purposes of the present study were to investigate the causal relationship between child suicide ideation and its risk factors by using structural equation modeling and examined Hong Kong children's psychological state (i.e. hopelessness, depression and suicide ideation), and family environment, and problem-solving style (i.e. way of coping). A total of 872 primary 4 to 6 students (442 boys, 422 girls, and 8 unidentified; 312 grade 4, 272 grade 5, and 285 grade 6) were asked to complete a questionnaire in which including measures of family environment, way of coping, depression, hopelessness, and suicide ideation. Results showed that boys scored significantly higher than girls in suicide ideation. Correlational analysis revealed that suicide ideation correlated positively to depression and hopelessness, but negatively to family environment. Also, suicide ideation was found to correlated positively with coping style of self-controlling and escape-avoidance, and negatively with seeking social support and planful problem solving. Furthermore, according to structure equation model, family environment and way of coping contributed to child suicide ideation through the mediation of depression and hopelessness. Also, family relationship negatively influenced the mediators of depression and hopelessness, whereas family system maintenance had positive effects on the mediators, problem-focused coping style had negative effect on depression, but positive on hopelessness. The structure equation model was statistically found to provide good fit to the data. Overall, this model was able to explain over 30% of total variance of suicide ideation.

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