

## DOCTORAL THESIS

### Academic motivation is influenced by parental involvement: A study on the mediating effect of learner empowerment and filiao piety

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## ABSTRACT

Students in Hong Kong typically display excellent academic performance. Cultural factors can play a significant role in students' studies. In traditional Chinese culture, parental involvement is strongly emphasized. It comprises home-based involvement and school-based involvement. The literature has shown that Chinese parents show greater home-based involvement than school-based involvement. Filial piety is an essential value in Chinese Confucian culture. "Reciprocal filial piety" refers to children's repaying their parents' sacrifice. "Authoritarian filial piety" refers to children's obligation to their parents. When Hong Kong was a British colony, Western values, such as learner empowerment, became part of Hong Kong culture. The present research aimed to investigate the relationship between parental involvement and academic motivation by combining learner empowerment (Western values) and filial piety (Eastern values). Drawing on self-determination theory, the research used demographic data, such as gender, family income, and religious beliefs, to explore the relationships between parental involvement in children's learning, learner empowerment, filial piety, and academic motivation. A scale validation study was conducted with 111 secondary school students, while the main study involved 825 secondary school students. The main study found that parental involvement was indirectly related to students' academic motivation through learner empowerment and filial piety. Furthermore, model differences were found in the demographic data, such as gender, socioeconomic status, and grade. The results suggested that parents should ensure positive parent-child communication to empower students and that the government should seek to promote parental involvement, learner empowerment, and filial piety. Future studies are advised to use a probability sampling strategy and spend more time examining religion.