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NEWSLETTER

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## **The Relation between Academic Performance and Academic Self-Efficacy in Primary School Students: The Mediating Role of Academic Stress and Self-Esteem and Gender Differences**

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**A**CADEMIC self-efficacy includes the individual's confidence in their capacity for learning, self-assessment of their competence in utilizing their acquired skills to complete learning tasks, and subjective evaluation of their ability to control learning behavior and results. Primary school students are at a crucial stage in the development of academic self-efficacy. Successful cultivation of academic self-efficacy at this phase has a significant and positive effect on their academic attainment.

Adopting convenience sampling, this study investigated 145 fourth graders (72 boys), 121 fifth graders (60 boys), and 138 six graders (70 boys) from three randomly selected classes of each grade in a primary school in Huanggu district of Shenyang City. The academic stress questionnaire, academic self-efficacy questionnaire, self-esteem scale and students' academic results of the nearest final examination were used to evaluate the impact of academic performance on student academic self-efficacy, the chain mediating effect of academic stress and self-esteem, and the moderating effect of gender.

The research findings showed that: (1) Academic performance could positively predict academic self-efficacy among primary school students. (2) Academic stress and self-esteem posed chain mediating effects on the relationship between academic performance and academic self-efficacy. (3) There were gender differences in the chain mediating effects. Among girl students, there was a partial mediating effect and three mediating paths, including the separate mediating effect of academic stress, the separate mediating effect of self-esteem, and the chain mediating effect of academic stress and self-esteem; among boy students, there was a complete mediating effect and two mediating paths, namely the separate mediating effect of self-esteem and the chain mediating effect of academic stress and self-esteem.

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