
NEWSLETTER

Positive Parenting and Prosocial Risky Behavior in Adolescents: Testing a Moderated Mediation Model

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THE study Prosocial risky behavior involves risk taking that benefits others or society, such as stopping peer bullying and sacrificing personal time for volunteerism. It is positive behavior as opposed to negative behavior like adolescent smoking and gambling. There are linkages between adolescent risky behavior and environmental factors such as the family and peers. This study examines the relation between positive parenting and adolescent prosocial risky behavior as well as the mediation effect of prosocial peers and moderation effect of individual risk propensity. Research findings show that:

- (i) Positive parenting positively predicts adolescent prosocial risky behavior. That indicates positive parenting is a promotive factor in prosocial risk taking among adolescents. Therefore, it is important for parents to give children more emotional warmth, allowing them adequate security in order for them to courageously confront the external world. Parents should improve their communication with children, devote quality time to them, and create a good familial atmosphere. Parental positive responses to the child's progress, such as prompt praise and appreciation, are conducive to their developing into a helpful person.
- (ii) Prosocial peers mediate the relation between positive parenting and adolescent prosocial risky behavior. In other words, positive parenting can indirectly impact adolescent prosocial risky behavior via prosocial peers. That means parents remain an important social medium in their adolescent children's life, affecting their choice of interactive partners. Prosocial peer affiliation contributes to increasing prosocial behavior in adolescents. Parents and educators should pay more attention to the role of peers in the child's adolescence, giving them proper guidance in peer interaction so as to circumvent deviant peer affiliation.
- (iii) The indirect effect of positive parenting on adolescent prosocial risky behavior via prosocial peers is more significant among adolescents with high risk propensity than their peers with low risk propensity. Risk propensity is an indicator used to measure the individual's attitudes towards

uncertainties. In educating adolescents with high risk propensity, parents and teachers should not overly suppress their risky behavior, but instead, should encourage them to have more communication with prosocial peers and increase their positive and prosocial behaviors.

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