Epidemiologic assessment of self-concept and academic self-efficacy in Iranian high school students: Multilevel analysis

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Abstract:
INTRODUCTION: In social cognitive theory, self-efficacy and self-concept (SC) have been introduced as important constructs that associate with adolescents’ achievements. The aim of this study was to investigate the determinant factors of academic self-efficacy (ASE) and SC in Iranian high school students based on the multilevel analysis.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: In this descriptive-analytical cross-sectional study, 1740 students from 53 high schools selected with stratified random sampling method in 2018 in Qazvin, Iran. Data collection tools were the Morgan and Jinks Self-Efficacy Scale and the Piers-Harris Children’s SC Scale-Second Edition. The association between some of the students and school variables with ASE and SC was analyzed by hierarchical linear regression models.

RESULTS: The score of the students’ standardized ASE was lower than SC. ASE and SC had a strong positive significant association with economic status, grade point average, and the educational period of high school. Sex had no association with any of them. Physical activity had a positive significant association with SC but was not found association by ASE.

CONCLUSION: These findings revealed that for improving the adolescents’ ASE and SC should be attention to the adolescents’ family condition and school-related factors. Proper educational, sports, and supportive programs can be effective on the adolescents’ self-efficacy and SC.

Keywords: Academic self-efficacy, adolescents, Iran, school, self-concept, students

Introduction

According to Bandura, self-efficacy is a key component in social cognitive theory that was recognized as important research issue. People with high self-efficacy have a strong belief about their achievements in specific situations. Self-efficacy shows the performance capability of people and is an important source for the quality of life. This construct has defined in different types. One of them is academic self-efficacy (ASE). ASE introduces students’ beliefs about their attainment to specific academic goals or educational achievements. It affects students’ educational motivation, resistance, and success. another construct that has an important role in students’ life is self-concept (SC). SC was defined the whole of the attitude, emotions, and knowledge of people about their ability and skills that can affect their life. SC has five scales: social, educational, psychological, physical, and familial. Many studies have been shown an association between ASE and SC with academic achievement that

How to cite this article: Hosseinkhani Z, Hassanabadi H, Parsaeian M, Nedjat S. Epidemiologic assessment of self-concept and academic self-efficacy in Iranian high school students: Multilevel analysis. J Edu Health Promot 2020;9:315.