

Abstract

The focus of the study is to examine parenting stress and its related factors among parents of preschools and primary schools' special children in Macao. The researcher mainly used "Parenting Stress Index/short form" and background data to examine the similarities and differences of parenting stress between mothers and fathers of special children in Macao; the parenting stress between parents of preschools and primary schools' special children; and the correlation of parenting stress between child's characteristics, parents' characteristics and family background.

172 special children samples (168 mothers and 137 fathers) were collected in this study and 133 paired cases have answered the questionnaire.

The study found: 1) parenting stress of special children's mothers are higher than fathers', both for preschools and primary schools' special children; 2) parenting stress of primary schools special children's parents are higher than preschools special children's parents; 3) the background variables that parenting stress for both mothers and fathers are significantly different — child's age and level of disability, mothers' educational level and occupation, fathers' age and educational level, and family income; the background variable that parenting stress for mothers is significantly different — number of children in a family; however, the background variables that parenting stress for both parents are not significantly different — child's sex, mothers'

age, fathers' occupation, ranking of special child in the family, parents' marriage status and religion; factor that parenting stress for fathers is neither significantly different—number of children in a family.

In the conclusion and discussion chapter, the researcher extends the discussion for the parenting stress in parents of preschools and primary schools special children. Moreover, the researcher also puts forward some suggestions and ideas for further study.

Key words: Macao Parenting stress Special children Preschool education

Primary school education