Mothers' Childrearing Perceptions Predicting Children's Resilience and Happiness(QOL); Comparison among Eight Asian Countries

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This study is part of the "**CRNA (Child Research Network Asia) Collaborative Research for Exploring Factors Nurturing 'Happy and Resilient' Children among Asian Countries**".
https://www.childresearch.net/crna-research-activities.html →→→

Rationale and Purpose of the Study

Suggestions from Previous Studies	Children's mental health has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, a threatening factor to their **well-being**. **Resilience** is the ability to recover from and adapt to hardships and setbacks. Masten wrote "A close relationship with someone is considered the most important factor for resilience, particularly for young children who are highly dependent on caregivers" in her book (Masten, 2020).
Purpose of this Study	Among caregivers, mothers have the closest and most influential connection with children. Therefore, **this study conducted an international comparative analysis focusing on mothers' childrearing perceptions that predict children's resilience and happiness (QOL)**.

Research Questions

1. What kind of mothers' childrearing perceptions predict children's resilience and happiness (QOL)?
2. Does the impact of mothers' childrearing perceptions on children's resilience and happiness (QOL) differ depending on children's age and country?

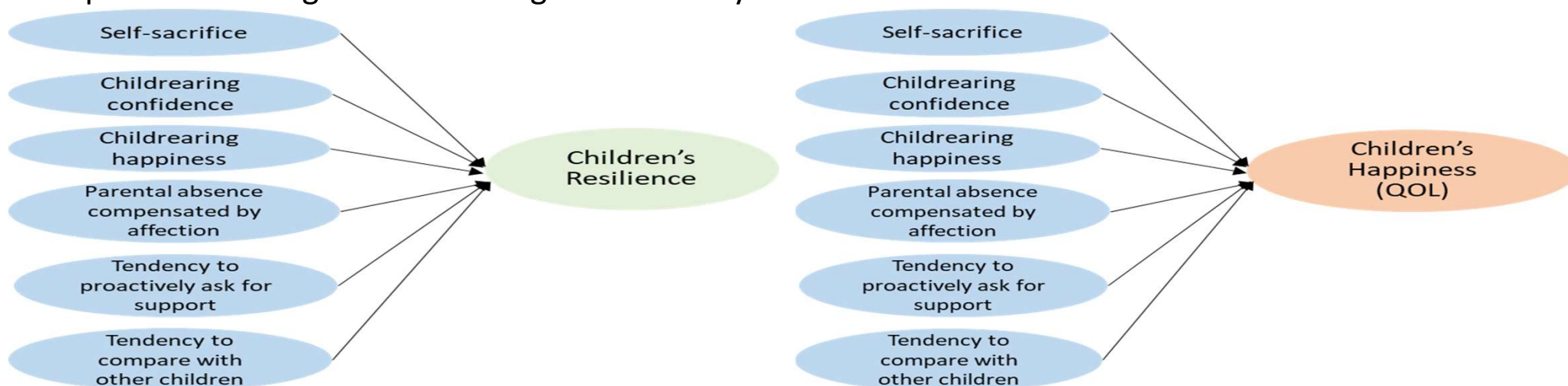# Brief Description of the Survey

Questionnaire Survey

-Conducted from August to November 2021, using common question items.

-Targeted <u>1,973 mothers of 5-year-olds</u> and <u>1,372 mothers of 7-year-olds</u> in 8 Asian countries.
  (Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand)

Scales used for the Evaluation of Variables

Dependent Variables	Children's resilience	PMK-CYRM-R scale (Resilience Research Centre)
	Children's QOL	KINDL scale (Ravens-Sieberer & Bullinger)
Independent Variables	Mothers' childrearing perceptions	Six-question items created in Japan asking about mothers' feelings such as self-sacrifice and childrearing confidence. Each question item was treated as one variable (no multicollinearity).

Analysis

A multiple regression analysis was performed using SPSS Statistics (27.0.1), with independent variables (mothers' childrearing perceptions) and dependent variables (children's resilience/QOL). The results were compared according to children's age and country.

Result 1) Dependent Variable=Resilience

The tables below (categorized by age) show β values for the independent variables which indicated significant results in each country.
Countries with similar response patterns are shown in the same color.

【5-year-olds】 Comparison of 8 countries

		JPN	CHN	PHL	MYS	TWN	IDN	SGP	THA
		R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2
		.157	.078	-.002	.322	.165	.172	.290	.154
		β	β	β	β	β	β	β	β
Independent Variables	Self-sacrifice	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.099*	N.S.	N.S.
	Childrearing confidence	.314***	N.S.	N.S.	.541***	.281***	.269***	.264**	.320***
	Childrearing happiness	.150*	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.189**	.204***	.260**	N.S.
	Parental absence compensated by affection	N.S.	-.199**	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to proactively ask for support	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to compare with other children	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.227*	N.S.

$*p＜.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001$

【7-year-olds】 Comparison of 6 countries

		JPN	PHL	MYS	TWN	IDN	THA
		R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2
		.194	-.006	.050	.120	.118	.060
		β	β	β	β	β	β
Independent Variables	Self-sacrifice	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Childrearing confidence	.399***	N.S.	.192**	.221**	.282***	N.S.
	Childrearing happiness	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.159*
	Parental absence compensated by affection	N.S.	N.S.	-.134*	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to proactively ask for support	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to compare with other children	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.

$*p＜.05. **p<.01. ***p<.001$

N.B. Data for the Philippines is still under confirmation.

Result 2) Dependent Variable=Happiness (QOL)

As on the previous page, the tables below (categorized by age) show β values for the independent variables which indicated significant results in each country.
Countries with similar response patterns are shown in the same color.

【5-year-olds】 Comparison of 8 countries

		JPN	CHN	PHL	MYS	TWN	IDN	SGP	THA
		R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2
		.259	.259	-.012	.162	.334	.203	.416	.237
		β	β	β	β	β	β	β	β
Independent Variables	Self-sacrifice	.183**	.268***	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.175*	N.S.
	Childrearing confidence	.401***	.245***	N.S.	.360***	.393***	.288***	.331***	.319***
	Childrearing happiness	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.233***	.218*	N.S.
	Parental absence compensated by affection	N.S.	-.139*	N.S.	-.123*	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to proactively ask for support	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to compare with other children	.149*	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.261***	N.S.	.297***	.286***

*$p<.05$. **$p<.01$. ***$p<.001$

【7-year-olds】 Comparison of 6 countries

		JPN	PHL	MYS	TWN	IDN	THA
		R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2	R^2
		.192	-.013	.177	.168	.208	.258
		β	β	β	β	β	β
Independent Variables	Self-sacrifice	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.114*	N.S.
	Childrearing confidence	.286**	N.S.	.316***	.303***	.280***	.157*
	Childrearing happiness	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.192**
	Parental absence compensated by affection	N.S.	N.S.	-.191**	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to proactively ask for support	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.
	Tendency to compare with other children	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	N.S.	.293***	.307***

N.B. Data for the Philippines is still under confirmation.

*$p<.05$. **$p<.01$. ***$p<.001$

Findings

1. Overall, the results revealed that ==mothers' childrearing confidence predicts children's resilience/QOL, regardless of their age and country==.
2. Among six variables of mothers' childrearing perceptions, ==more variables for mothers of 5-year-olds predicted children's resilience/QOL than that of mothers of 7-year-olds==.
3. The response patterns of mothers' childrearing perceptions that were significant as predictor variables for children's resilience/QOL were sorted by country. The results show that ==the response patterns of Japanese mothers and that of Taiwanese mothers are similar. In addition, the combination of countries with similar response patterns differed according to children's age==.

Conclusion and Implications

1. The similarity in Japan and Taiwan's response pattern is probably due to the same geographical position of these two countries (East Asia) with similar developmental situations.
2. The combination of countries with similar tendencies differed according to children's age (5 and 7-year-olds), which indicates that the resilience/QOL of preschool children and that of primary school children could be affected by different variables. Cultural differences between preschool and primary schools may explain this result.
3. It was also confirmed that, for mothers of 5-year-olds, more variables of childrearing perceptions predict children's outcomes, while, for mothers of 7-year-olds, fewer and specific variables predict children's outcomes.
4. Children whose mother had greater childrearing confidence showed higher resilience/QOL. In the future, more detailed studies are required to analyze the backgrounds of mothers with greater childrearing confidence, considering their demographic factors and environmental factors.