Development of Teens’ Relationships with Parents, Family, Friends and Community

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Abstract

This research aims to investigate the developmental processes of students’ relationships with their parents, family, friends and community. The results of this study may yield the beneficial data for Family Studies in Home Economics.

The scales were developed to measure students’ relationships with others, and were administered to 827 elementary school students, 374 junior high school students, 484 senior high school students and 437 university students. In addition, focus group interviews were conducted to some students.

Our findings are as follows;
1. Students’ relationships with their parents, family, friends and community became more negative in junior high school than in elementary school. Their relationships with others became more positive throughout high school and university.
2. Female students’ relationships with their parents, family, friends and community were more positive than those of male students.
3. These relationships = Elementary school students maintained friendly relationships with their communities, become more passive as they grow older.

Key words; development of relationship, parent, family, friend, community