Peer Pressure in Adolescence

GRANT: Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia

PROJECT DURATION: 2008 - 2011

PROJECT HOLDER: Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Peers are a significant element of the socialization of adolescents. Their influence is more pronounced as the children grow older, while it decreases with formation of an autonomous identity and achieving independence from parents. Early adolescence is a period in which peer pressure is the strongest.

The aim of research is to investigate relationship between susceptibility to peer pressure, sex and age of examinee, with their self-esteem, anxiety symptoms and depression (adolescent characteristics), as well as with parental behavior and quality of friendship relations (surrounding characteristics).

The total number of participants included 960 adolescents in four Croatian cities that are administrative and economic centers of the regions (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek). Sample adolescents included in this research were students of seventh and eighth grade of primary school along with the students of first, second and third year of high school.

Interpretation of the results explained the relationship between peer pressure, personality characteristics and certain environmental factors (dimensions of parental behavior and the quality of friendship relations). From the data collected, seceded was the one segment of the results which had the highest predictive value for susceptibility to peer pressure.

The project results were presented at international conferences of psychologists around the world. Project has also resulted in the book published in the USA with title:


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