

THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTING STYLE ON SINGLE-CHILD VERSUS  
MULTI-CHILD ABAC CHINESE STUDENTS' LIFE SATISFACTION:  
A PATH ANALYTIC STUDY

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to examine the influence of parenting style on the life satisfaction of single-child and multi-child Chinese undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in Assumption University (ABAC). This quantitative research employed path analysis to investigate the study's hypotheses. The total number of respondents was 212 (106 single-child and 106 multi-child) students who volunteered to fill in the study's questionnaire. The research instrument employed was a five-part survey questionnaire which consisted of: a Personal Information section; the Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ); the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES); the Depression Anxiety and Stress Scales (DASS-21); and the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS).

The study revealed the following major findings: 1) For single-child respondents, their perception of their mother's permissive parenting style and their father's authoritative parenting style have *direct* positive influence on their reported life satisfaction; 2) For single-child respondents, their perception of their mother's authoritative parenting style and their father's authoritarian parenting style have *indirect* influence on their reported life satisfaction, being mediated by their depression level; and 3) For multi-child respondents, their perception of their mother's authoritative

parenting style and their father's authoritarian parenting style have *indirect* influence on their reported life satisfaction, being mediated by their self-esteem level.

