

ABSTRACT

Academic achievement and sociocultural adjustment of international students is significant to their success while pursuing their degrees abroad. However, the international students have moderate level of acculturative stress and poses a challenge which may resulted in attrition, declined performance and difficulties in interpersonal relationships. Thus, the purpose of this study is to examine whether perceived social support and perceived social self-efficacy moderate the relationship between acculturative stress and sociocultural adaptation. A cross sectional research design was employed and quantative data were collected through Acculturative Stress Scale for International Students, Scale of Perceived Social Self-efficacy, The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support and Sociocultural Adaptation Scale (SCAS). A total of 120 postgraduate and undergraduate international students from five Thailand public and private universities were recruited to participate in the study. The sample put emphasize on gender equality and pursued degree equality. Moderation regression analysis was used to test the hypothesized relationship. Results provided support for the proposed model, revealing that acculturative stress has significant negative relationship with sociocultural adaptation. In addition, the results showed that the relationship between acculturative stress and sociocultural adaptation is moderated by perceived social support and perceived social self-efficacy. The presense of two moderation variables : perceived social self-efficacy and perceived social support make the negative relationship between acculturative stress and sociocultural adaptation more weaker. The present study has implications for university policies, counsellors, and student affairs departments, and scholarship advisory on the need to take response to facilitate healthy academic and psychological adjustment among international students by combating acculturative stress and promoting sociocultural adaptation.

Keywords: acculturative stress, sociocultural adaptation, perceived social support, and perceived social self-efficacy.