COMPARISON OF TURKISH, BELGIAN-TURKISH AND BELGIAN ADOLESCENTS’ PERCEPTIONS ON PARENTAL BEHAVIOURS AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Saltürk A., Şener T.

Ankara University, Department of Educational Psychology, Ankara, Turkey

Key Words: Parental Behaviors, Psychological Control, Autonomy Support, Responsiveness, Cross-Cultural

This study aimed to compare Turkish, Belgian-Turkish and Belgian adolescents in regard to their perceptions on parental behaviors. 433 Turkish, 431 Belgian and 218 Belgian-Turks adolescents summing up to 1082 were participated. Participants for the research were students studying in three different schools from Çankaya and Yenimahalle, district located in Ankara, Turkey and students studying in three different schools from Ledeberg and Deinze, district located in Ghent, Belgium. Participants were given ‘‘Dependency Oriented and Achievement Oriented Psychological Control Scale’’, ‘‘Other Parenting Dimensions Scale’’ and a ‘‘Personal Information Form’’ prepared by researcher. Results were analyzed with SPSS 22.0. The data was analyzed by t-test, ANOVA, Kruskal-Wallis test and Pearson Product-Moment Correlation techniques.

The results indicated that Belgian-Turkish adolescents perceive the highest level of dependency and achievement oriented psychological control. Specifically, Turkish and Belgian-Turkish adolescents reported more dependency oriented psychological control, yet Belgian adolescents reported more on achievement oriented psychological control. The results also showed that Turkish parents got higher scores on autonomy support and responsiveness behaviors. In addition to this, Belgian and Turkish male adolescents reported higher scores on dependency and achievement oriented psychological control and female adolescents reported more parental responsiveness and autonomy support. The results also indicated that the age and paternal responsiveness are inversely proportional in Turkish sample. Similarly, the age and paternal autonomy support are directly proportional in Belgian sample. Only Belgian sample reported that the educational level has an impact on parental behaviors, which was the higher paternal education level promotes higher paternal autonomy support. The results of this research shows similarities with previous research and finally suggestions were made for future research.