



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Quality of Life in Chinese School-Age Students with Physical Illness

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Introduction

Quality of life is increasingly being considered as an outcome measure in clinical practice. However, subjective quality of life / wellbeing (SWB) assessment in students was relatively limited and restricted to English speaking children.

Objectives

The purpose of this study were to investigate the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) on Chinese primary and secondary students with physical illness and to compare subjective quality of life with normal student and adult population in Hong Kong.

Methodology

The participants were interviewed by completing Cantonese version of the Personal Wellbeing Index – School Children (PWI-SC). PWI-SC was well validated questionnaire with seven questions related to standard of living, personal health, achievement in life, personal relationship, personal safety and feeding part of the community. Two samples t-test was used to compare mean SWB between groups.

Result

A hundred and fifty-five school-age Chinese students who were referred for rehabilitation therapy were recruited in the study (n=155). The preliminary result showed that the mean SWB level of primary students were 80.2 (SD 13.5) while secondary students were 76.4 (SD 12.4) which fell within the estimated range of 70-80, on a PWI scale from 0-100. Two aspects, "standard of living" (p=0.00) and "family relationship" (p=0.00) were significantly different between primary and secondary students. These indicated that primary students were happier than secondary students. The mean values of all items fell within the established range of PWI scale except "future security" 65.9 (SD 16.8) which was consistent as the result in normal primary student and adult groups. Among various diagnostic groups, there was no significant difference on the mean SWB level among students with physical illness. These findings in students with physical illness showed a consistent result as other age groups (normal Chinese students and adults). It indicated that Cantonese version of PWI-SC was a reliable and valid measurement for subjective wellbeing in primary and secondary students with physical illness.