

Differentiation in the source of internal control for Chinese.

Abstract

Argues that there might be multiple sources of internal control for people from collectivist cultures. A direct source is the traditional one, which comes from the self. An indirect source can come from extensions of one's self, such as one's in-group members. The authors present cultural and historical background and data from an empirical study to support the hypothesis that there could be both direct and indirect sources of internal control for people in collectivist cultures. 86 American college students and 180 Chinese college students in Taiwan completed a questionnaire regarding demographic information, the Shapiro Control Inventory, and Levenson's Internally Powerful-Others, Chance Scales. Results support the single-source theory for American and multiple-source theory for Chinese. Implications for cross-cultural differences in locus of control are discussed.

Chia, Cheng, and Chuang, 1998 found that, based on the Shapiro Control Inventory, Americans reported higher overall control and control from self, but Chinese from Taiwan reported higher control from others, family, and government,....