
NEWSLETTER

The Effect of Perceived Parental Trust and Perceived Teacher Trust on Learning Powers in Junior Secondary Students: The Mediating Role of Self-Esteem

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PARENTS and teachers are “significant others” in the academic lives of secondary school students, and trust from the former can help enhance motivation levels and develop positive self-understanding in the latter. Drawing on psychological capital theory and self-worth theory, this study conducts an in-depth investigation of the effect of perceived parental trust and teacher trust on learning powers in junior secondary students as well as factors influencing the effect.

Research Findings:

- Perceived trust was a significantly positive predictor of student learning powers. The students’ perception of trust from their parents and teachers could heighten their self-efficacy and initiative in learning.
- Self-esteem had a mediating effect on the relationship between perceived trust and learning powers in the students. Boosting self-esteem could enhance the students’ learning powers by contributing to the development of initiative, self-regulation, emotional management, and mental resilience in this group.
- Perceived teacher trust had a more significantly positive effect on learning powers than perceived parental trust in the secondary school students. While their perception of parental trust was favorable for the heightening of their self-valuation and self-efficacy and positively impacted their learning powers, trust from the teachers posed a more direct influence on their learning powers by impacting their self-esteem and self-concept because this group tend to idolize their teachers.

Educational Implications:

- It is important for teachers to put ample trust in their students to increase their psychological capital, which will, in turn, raise their learning powers. To this end, teachers need to cultivate a real enthusiasm for the teaching profession, endeavor to create a

classroom atmosphere full of trust, and pay respect to the individuality of each student.

- Parents should adopt scientific parenting styles to assist with learning power development in their children. It is important for them to foster the children's self-worth in day-to-day lives, to protect their self-esteem by reducing social comparison and helping them identifying personal strengths, and to pay attention to self-education to sustain effective communication with their children.

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