
ABSTRACT

Effects of a child's depression diagnosis on a parent's responsibility process

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The purpose of this study is to examine a parent's responsibility process (Weiner, 1995) when talking to their depressed child, depending on whether or not the child has been diagnosed with depression (Depression Label). A web-based experiment was conducted with 351 parents who have a child attending university. In the experiment, we assume the subject's children were consulted about their problems. Parents answered questions about the responsibility process (Weiner, 1995), such as the child's own responsibility for the cause of their distress and the parent's supportive behavior. The results showed the following for the labeled group: their causes of problems were impersonal, uncontrollable, and serious; parents were not responsible for the child's problems in terms of morbidity and recovery; and parents were not angry, sympathetic, and provided assistance to their children, as compared with the unlabeled group. Therefore, it was suggested that when a child has been diagnosed with depression, a parent may understand and therefore tolerate that the child cannot manage his or her own problems.

Key Words: diagnosis, depression label, parent and child
