

Immigrant and non-immigrant youth adaptation in time of economic crisis: The role of the family

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The economic crisis influences adolescents both directly, through financial difficulties, as well as indirectly, through its effects on parenting practices (World Bank Report, 2012). The goal of this study was to explore the relationship between different dimensions of parenting, as perceived by immigrant and non-immigrant adolescents, and their psychological and school adaptation, with regard to the family's economical difficulties. The study is part of the AStRA (Athena Studies of Resilient Adaptation) group's project. The sample consisted of 1059 immigrant and non-immigrant students (565 boys and 494 girls), with a mean age of 12,6 years, in Attica, Greece. The variables under scope were measured through the Parental Bonding Instrument (Parker, Tupling & Brown, 1979), the Parental Psychological Control-Youth Self Report (Barber, 1996), the Autonomy Granting Scale - Parent Behavior Measure (Peterson, Rollins & Thomas, 1985), Rosenberg's Self-esteem Questionnaire (1965), the Economical Hardship Questionnaire (Lempers, Clark-Lempers, & Simons, 1989) and the pupils' grades from their first term. It was found that a strong bond with the mother and high autonomy predicted higher grades and youth self-esteem, while the opposite was true for psychological control, regardless of gender or immigrant status. Furthermore, the analyses showed that, under high economic hardship, a stronger bond and less psychological control were related with higher self-esteem. These findings are discussed in the margin of the resilience model.