Health Related Quality of Life in Adolescents: Mental Health, Socio-Economic Status, Gender, and Age Differences

Abstract

The present study was aimed to examine Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) regarding mental health, socio-economic status, gender and age differences in students. Five hundred and fifty-one middle school and high school students (175 males, 376 females) were selected using multistage sampling. The participants completed the KINDSCHILD-12 Health-Related Quality of Life Questionnaire (Shoen-Accardo et al, 2010), the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (Goodman, 1997), and the Socio-economic Status Questionnaire (Commonwealth & Morris, 2010). The results indicated that 1) boys scored higher than girls in physical well-being, social support and peers, self-esteem, psychological well-being, relationships with others, family life, and peers; 2) the middle school students had higher scores than the high school students in all KINDSCHILD, 3) except for social support and peers, social acceptance, bullying, and financial resources; 4) the differences between students with low and high socio-economic status were significant in physical well-being, relationships with parents and family life, financial resources, and psychological well-being; 5) the results of one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) for comparison of normal, beehive, and abnormal groups indicated that normal group scored higher than abnormal group in mixed and external social acceptance, bullying, psychological well-being, and self-esteem.

Keywords: quality of life, health, socio-economic status, mental health.