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Psychology students' attitudes towards adoption of children by same-sex couples

(Master Thesis)

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Abstract:

Same-sex parenting (homoparentality) is new, yet still not well explored phenomena in Czech Republic. Purpose of this study is to explore the attitudes of Czech psychology students (N=337) to homoparentality. The vignettes, i.e. model stories describing the situation of a couple preparing to adopt a child, were used. The sexual orientation of the couple and child's gender varied. After reading one of the six versions of the vignette, participants assessed the parental competences and child's future development after adoption. The factor analysis of dependent variables was performed with 8 scales as a result. Independent variables were traditional and modern homophobia, beliefs about etiology of homosexuality, gender roles attitudes etc. Results indicate that students view homoparentality rather positively. However, the homoparental and heteroparental families were rated differently. The participants were more concerned about normative sexual development and victimization of children from homoparental families. On the other hand, children from heteroparental families were more psychically and socially adjusted and their parents were more competent. Negative attitudes to homoparentality were connected to homophobia (traditional and modern), to “nurture” belief about etiology of homosexuality and more conservative attitudes to gender roles. Results are discussed in context of heteronormativity of our society and in context of recent research about the influence of homoparental families on their children's development. Next steps leading to change of attitudes to homoparentality are presented.

Keywords:

Homoparentality, homosexuality, same-sex parenting, psychology students, attitudes, homophobia, etiology, gender roles, vignettes