Disguising self-esteem caused changes in academic achievements differently for boys and girls in Japanese junior high school.

Akitoshi Uchida

Kohoku Junior High School, Nagano, Japan

Kazuo Mori

Matsumoto University, Matsumoto, Japan

Abstract

Japanese youth (13-29 years old) showed lower self-esteem than other countries in the recent survey. The proportions of those who agreed to the statements I have my own unique strengths were 62.3% of Japanese, while 91.4% of Germany, 91.2% USA, and 90.6% France (Japanese Government Cabinet Office, 2019). We assumed that Japanese youth might have disguised their self-esteem. To examine the hypothesis, we assessed the self-esteem of 159 Japanese junior high school students implicitly and explicitly with a paper-based IAT and a questionnaire. As expected, we found 26.4% of the students having disguised self-esteem: They performed positively on the IAT while they answered negatively on the survey. We further examined the relationships of the disguises of self-esteem and the longitudinal changes in academic achievement. The results were different for boys and girls; disguising boys raised their academic performances six months later while disguising girls lowered their performances one year then.