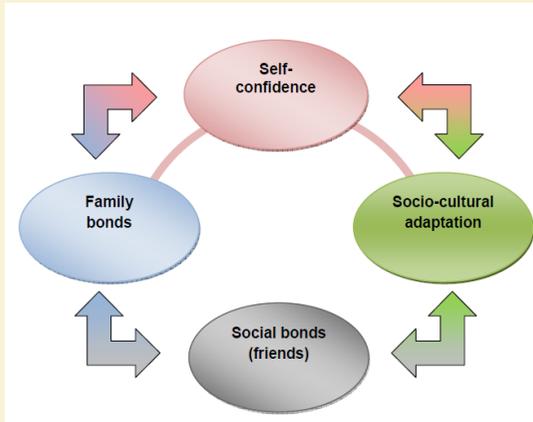


The Model

The following model depicts the research results.



Instruments

- Sociocultural Adaptation Scale (SCAS) by Ward & Kennedy (1999)
- Self-confidence: Locus of Control Scale for Children (NS-LOCS) by Nowicki & Strickland (1973)
- Family bonds: Parent-Adolescent Communication Scale (PACS) by Barnes & Olson (1982)
- Social bonds: Revised UCLA Loneliness Scale (R-UCLA) by Russell et al. (1980)
- Family- and social bonds: The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) by Zimet et al. (1988)

What does that mean for you as a teacher?

- Teach your class in new media skills as internet communities (i.e.: tckworld.com) are important for TCKs to keep in touch with friends and family all over the world.
- Make use of the culturally diverse background of TCKs – they have a wide world view, cross-cultural skills, and are sensitive for cultural differences.
- Give space for interaction in your lessons to help TCKs to integrate easier into their new class.
- Studies show that self-confidence can be enhanced through training and help TCKs to adapt more easily – try to find ways to integrate exercises in the everyday school life.

Longterm goals

- Global study to consolidate the findings.
- Development of workshops and a handbook for teachers to show how teachers can support TCKs in becoming more self-confident as this is essential for successful socio-cultural adaptation.

If you have any further questions/comments, we will be happy to hear from you:

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TCK

Third Culture Kids - Adjusting to a Changing World



RESULTS OF THE PILOT STUDY



Relevance of the study

- The number of children and teenagers with multicultural migration background increases through globalization.
- There is little research on the consequences of growing up global of children and adolescents.
- Supporting teachers in their interaction with TCKs and to enable them to strengthen TCKs.
- Illustrating the role of the family for TCKs.

Research question

What is the role of individual characteristics, family and social bonds for the process of socio-cultural adaptation?

Sample

46 students (male: 60 %, female: 40%)

Age: 12-19 years old

Schools:

International Schools in Berlin and Brandenburg

The interviewed TCKs:

- come from 24 nationalities from all continents.
- did relocate 2.7 times on average.
- live mostly with both parents and have siblings (2.2 on average).

Method:

Questionnaire study

First results of the pilot study

I

- High-quality family bonds and the ability to socio-cultural adaptation are not directly associated.
- High-quality family bonds support a strong self-confidence as the nuclear family is substantial for TCKs. Parents and siblings are the only ones who relocate with them.
- Strong self-confidence helps to adapt socio-culturally.



High-quality family bonds and socio-cultural adaptation may be associated through a strong self-confidence.

II

- There is an association between close social bonds (friends) and the ability to socio-cultural adaptation.
- TCKs who often use internet communities are less likely to have difficulties in socio-cultural adaptation.

III

- Female TCK's are less likely to have difficulties in socio-cultural adaptation.

Major Findings

Virtual and direct communication with friends as well as strong self-confidence is central to the process of socio-cultural adaptation.

What does the literature say?

Socio-cultural adaptation

- Other studies also indicate that friends might be able to support socio-cultural adaptation better than the nuclear family. TCKs' friends often have a similar migration background or they are familiar with/at home in the host country's culture. They understand their peer TCKs' needs in the process of socio-cultural adaptation.

Psychological adaptation

- TCKs' parents know the host country's culture as little as their children. But than migration has another meaning for and impact on them. Thus they have fewer possibilities to support their children's socio-cultural adaptation.
- Some studies point out the meaning of the parents for the psychological adaptation of TCKs which supports this study.

