

A study of effects of disparity between support expectation and receipt in dyadic relationship

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Most social support studies have focused on the relation between human relationship and personal health and also demonstrated the positive influence of support. On the other hand, little is known about effects that social support has on dyadic relationship between support receiver and provider, although support is product of the dyadic interaction. This is partly due to the style of support studies that investigate either perceived support (support expectation) or enacted support (support receipt). Since both of those supports are evaluated in the process of dyadic interaction, it is necessary that they are set in the same study. From this standpoint, following two important concerns are pointed out. One is the effect of relation between those supports. The other is the negative effect of social support.

In this study, both support expectation and support receipt are estimated, and effects of disparity between them are picked on. In particular, researches reported here focus attention on the lack of support that support receipt falls short of support expectation. Subjects are university students, their support source are mainly their old and new friends.

Study 1-1,1-2 showed that negative effects of lack of support depended on the continuance term of the relationship. In short-term relationship, lack of support made the relationship worse. In long one, it injured receiver's health. Study 2 investigated how to mediate the negative influence between lack of support and relationship. Result showed that short-term relationship had mediating factors, but long one did not. Study 3-1, 3-2 investigated how receivers discharged their emotions and made causal attributions concerning short support for their expectation. Result showed that in short-term relationship receiver's causal attribution to the provider made their hostility intense, in long one it made their depressive feeling intense as well. These findings implied that long-term relationship had a pathway that lack of support influenced not the relationship but receiver's health negatively.

Results of this study showed that social supports as dyadic interactions had both positive and negative aspects and furthermore had effects on both personal health and relationship maintenance. Moreover, this study suggested that the standpoint of relationship frameworks was useful in order to understand social support process synthetically.

Key words: social support, disparity, expectation, receipt, relationship