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Epidemiological investigation of self-stigma among hearing-impaired middle school students in Hubei province, China

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To investigate epidemiological status of self-stigma of hearing-impaired middle school students in Hubei province. Based on the Internalized Stigma of Mental Illness Scale, a Chinese version scale on self-stigma of disability was developed. A cross-sectional survey was performed in eight cities of Hubei province. Independent samples t test, one-way ANOVA, Pearson analysis and multivariable linear regression model were used to analyze data. The revised scale consisted of 23 items including four common factors: Devaluation-discrimination, alienation, social withdrawal and stigma resistance. The homogeneity reliability, test-retest reliability and split-half reliability and inner correlations ranged 0.50-0.92 and the criterion and the construct validity of scale were statistically significant ($P<0.05$). 503 hearing-impaired middle school students were investigated and the rate of high self-stigma was 18.24%. The differences of the self-stigma level was statically significant among school location, grade and hearing-impaired degree (all $P<0.05$). Besides, the association of resilience, negative coping styles and perceived social support with the self-stigma were statically significant (all $P<0.01$). School location and negative coping style had positive association with self-stigma level, alienation, social withdrawal and devaluation-discrimination ($P<0.05$); resilience, perceived social support and parenting style were negative with self-stigma level and devaluation-discrimination ($P<0.05$); age and resilience had negatively association with stigma resistance ($P<0.001$); resilience and peer relationship were negative associated with social withdrawal (all $P<0.01$). The revised self-stigma of disability scale has good reliability and validity which can meet the requirements of psychological measurement. The self-stigma among disabilities should be paid more attention.

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