Hope and Life Satisfaction among Victims of IPV

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Description: Among a sample of victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) residing in an emergency shelter, our study (N = 82) examined the ability of hope to predict life satisfaction over and above general self-efficacy. To the extent that experiencing IPV is an obstacle to psychological well-being, we hypothesized that hopeful thinking is of particular importance to life satisfaction for victims of IPV because of hope’s established predictive power for other psychological well-being variables. Principal component analysis (PCA) recovered hope, including its dimensions of hope pathways and hope agency, and general self-efficacy as generally distinct factors. To test the relative importance of hope to life satisfaction within our sample, we performed a hierarchical regression analysis using life satisfaction as the criterion variable while controlling for the demographic variables of minority status, employment status, education, and age. Findings indicate that (a) hope pathways predict unique variance in life satisfaction over and above general self-efficacy, with general self-efficacy serving as a suppressor of hope pathways; and (b) hope agency predicts unique variance in life satisfaction over and above general self-efficacy with general self-efficacy serving as a suppressor of hope agency. A second hierarchical regression revealed an interaction between hope agency and hope pathways in the prediction of life satisfaction, with higher hope pathways enhancing the relationship between hope agency and life satisfaction. Our overall findings suggest that hope is an important predictor of life satisfaction within our sample of IPV victims. We conclude with a discussion of how our results could inform interventions for IPV victims by incorporating hope theory.