

## PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT AMONG COLLEGE POPULATIONS IN KUWAIT

*H. Almutairi*

Kuwait Univ, Kuwait, Kuwait

**Background:** Although perceived social support (PSS) is purported to enhance young adults' mental health, it has been under investigated among college students in Kuwait. This study attempted to determine its association to a host of correlates.

**Method:** a sample comprised of 468 subjects drawn from introductory courses at Kuwait University (50.6% females, Mean of age=20,90, 72.8% singles ) was utilized to administer the questionnaire. The questionnaires were completed by students who consented to participate in the study.

**Results:** Multiple Perceived Social Support (Zimet et al., 1988) showed high alpha coefficients. They were as follows: Total .929, Family .871, Friends .852, and Significant Others .894. Concerning its association to study variables, gender revealed different patterns. For males MPSS was correlated to family income, nonsuicidal self injury, and borderline personality disorder. For females, MPSS was correlated to school year, internet use, and smoking.

**Discussion:** MPSS seems to function differently with respect to gender. Some of findings of this study were consistent with previous research. Others, showed correlations in reverse directions. Both will be discussed theoretically and culturally.