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Titel: Dyadic Coping, We-ness and Relationship Satisfaction

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Abstract:

Although theoretical associations between dyadic coping (DC) and we-ness (WE-P) have been assumed, there is still a lack of empirical information regarding how both are interrelated and their association with relationship outcomes. In the present study we aimed to: (1) examine the associations between perceived DC forms, WE-P perceptions (of shared cognitions, frequent behaviors and physical intimacy) and relationship satisfaction (RS); and, (2) if the effects of DC forms on RS were mediated by WE-P.

Participants were 73 heterosexual couples and 605 individuals committed in an intimate relationship, living in Portugal. Actor-partner interdependence model with mediation and mediation path analysis with Structural Equation Modeling were used in a couples data set and in an individuals data-set, respectively.

Results showed that: (1) wives` WE-P is mainly associated with joint DC and husbands` WE-P is mostly associated with perceived positive support from their wives; (2) WE-P is more important for females` RS; (3) more mediation paths were found for females; (4) wives` WE-P and RS are directly affected by husbands variables.

Globally, our study empirically supports that DC forms are relevant for WE-P and for RS, even when we consider the important role that WE-P has in these paths. Males and females show different paths between DC, WE-P and RS. These findings have important implications for interventions with couples and individuals.

Keywords: dyadic coping, we-ness, relationship satisfaction, mediation, interventions.