

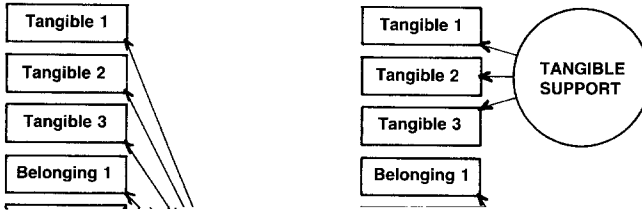


effects, regardless of the level of stress currently experienced by the individual; and (b) the buffering or vulnerability model proposes that social support is

or buffer such individuals from the deleterious effects of stressors (Dohrenwend & Dohrenwend, 1981).

Based on a comprehensive review of the social support literature, Cohen and Wills (1985) concluded that the evidence favors the main effect model when support *structure* (e.g., the number of persons in one's support network) is measured, whereas buffering effects are found in studies that employ measures of support *function* (e.g., the kind of support provided by an individual or group). The rationale for this conclusion is as follows: Embeddedness in a social structure provides the individual with a sense of security and self-worth, based perhaps on the reassuring knowledge that one's







not yet fully understood (see Herting, 1985). Because procedures for con-  
ducting experiments on the resolution of dichotomous issues are still in the







Table III. Standardized Parameter Estimates and Critical Ratios for the

Parcel	Tangible	Belonging	Appraisal	Self-esteem
Tangible 1	.53*	0	0	0
Tangible 2	.39 (4.33)	0	0	0
Tangible 3	.46 (4.40)	0	0	0
Belonging 1	0	.56*	0	0
Belonging 2	0	.72 (6.52)	0	0
Belonging 3	0	.44 (4.72)	0	0
Appraisal 1	0	0	.51*	0
Appraisal 2	0	0	.69 (8.24)	0
Appraisal 3	0	0	.70 (7.42)	0
Self-esteem 1	0	0	0	.55*
Self-esteem 2	0	0	0	.52 (4.76)
Self-esteem 3	0	0	0	.43 (5.06)



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