

Research on the Difference of Parenting Concepts and Parenting Pattern between One-child Family and Two-child Family under the Two-child Policy in China

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Abstract. China's population aging problem is getting more and more serious, forming a low fertility, high aging situation, China's social security system will become a hidden danger eventually. Since 2015, couples will be allowed to have two children in order to improve the state population strategy and alleviate the problem of an aging population. The comprehensive implementation of the "Two-child policy" has brought new changes to family education -- from the one-child education to the two-child education. With the arrival of "second child", the change has also brought some new challenges to parenting patterns, the first child is prone to emotional problems; The phenomenon and problem of second-generation education and left-behind children in rural areas are more serious. How should parents deal with these problems? This paper aims to help parents to set up a scientific parenting concepts and solve educational problems by analyzing the difference of parenting concepts and parenting patterns between the one-child family and the two-child family in China.

Keywords: Two-child policy, parenting concepts, parenting pattern, one-child family, two-child family.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Background of One-child Policy

China is the most populous country in the world. Since the 1970s, China began to implement the family planning policy, known as the "one child policy". It was adopted as a basic state policy in September 1982 and written into the constitution in December of the same year. The main content and purpose of the "one child policy" is to advocate late marriage, late childbearing, fewer numbers and better quality children, so as to control the population in a planned way [1]. In the 1980s, the one-child family gradually became the basic social unit in China, and the family structure of "2+1" or "4+2+1" gradually became the basic family unit in China. In the one-child family, the only child is naturally the center of the family, and parents are committed to creating the best educational environment for the only child. Since the formulation of the family planning policy, it has played a positive role in China's population and development, but it also brings with the aging of population. By the beginning of the 21st century, China's family planning policy had made some adjustments. As the first generation of only children born in the 1980s have reached marriageable age, the one-child policy has been relaxed to some extent in many areas, especially economically developed ones.

1.2 The Background of Two-child Policy

In 2013, China introduced the two-child policy (couples can have two children if one of them is an only child). In 2015, the communique of the fifth plenary session of the 18th central committee of the communist party of China (CPC) pointed out that China should adhere to the basic state policy of family planning, actively carry out actions to cope with the aging population, and implement the universal two-child policy (one couple can have two children) [2]. According to statistics from the national bureau of statistics (NBS), the number of births in 2016 reached 17.86 million, 1.31 million more than the previous year and the highest number since 2000. In January 2018, the national bureau of statistics (NBS) announced data showing that China had 17.23 million births in 2017, 630,000

fewer than the 17.86 million reported in 2016, down 3.5 percent. In 2017, the number of second children increased to 8.83 million, an increase of 1.62 million over 2016. According to the sixth census data on the website of the national bureau of statistics, the proportion of two-child births in all births reached 62.17 percent of the country's total birth rate in 2019, while the two-child birth rate accounted for 31.28 percent of the country's total birth rate [3]. With the implementation of the "universal two-child policy" in 2016, Chinese families will see a series of changes in family size, family structure, family education and other aspects. Generally speaking, Chinese families will evolve from the era of only child to the era of two-child family.

2. Research Objects and Analysis

This paper conducted a questionnaire survey on the 507 parents of preschool children in Jiangxi province, China. There were 278 parents of two children and 229 parents of one child. According to the survey results, 33.7% of parents of only children expect their children to have a bachelor's degree, 44.4% of parents expect their children to achieve postgraduate education; 21.9% of parents expect their children to have a master's degree or above. Meanwhile, the proportion of parents of the second child to their children's educational expectation is respectively 45.2%, 38.7%,16.1%. From the perspective of parents' expectation on their children's future career, From the perspective of parents' expectation of their children's future career, parents of only children expected their children to be teachers by 17.6%, medical profession by 22.7%, financial industry by 20.5%, civil service by 30.2%, and other by 9%. And the second child's parents to their children's career expectations are respectively 14.3%,19.6%,18.9%,27.8%,19.4%. It can be seen that the expectations of parents of only child and parents of second child are quite different, which also indicates that parents of only child have more demands on children than parents of second child. Therefore, it can be judged that the pressure of the only child is often greater than that of the two-child family. Moreover, according to the result, 52.2 percent of "two-child" parents are confused about how to educate their two children. "How to establish and maintain a close relationship with two children" accounted for 55.1 percent, "how to deal with problems in the process of getting along with two children" accounted for 50 percent, "how to treat two children fairly" accounted for 46.5 percent, and "how to balance the attention of two children" accounted for 34.2 percent.

3. Parenting Concepts and Parenting Pattern in China

3.1 Parenting Concepts and Parenting Pattern in One-child Family

Family education is a long-term and arduous task, which requires parents to transfer knowledge to children for a long time; Cultivating correct values, developing independent living ability, healthy body and comprehensive quality. In one-child families, the family pattern is usually "4+2+1", that is, grandparents, parents and children. In this family patterns, the only child is usually the center of the family, and any reasonable or unreasonable needs of the only child will be the focus of the parents' attention. Parents in one-child family pay more attention to their children's academic performance, health, physical growth, and the cultivation of hobbies and interests. However, it is easy to neglect children's mental health, independent living ability, social communication ability and so on. It often leads to self-centered, extreme personality, poor independent living ability, social disorder, aggressive behavior, selfishness and other problems. Because of the over-indulgence of only child parents, they often save the best resources for their children, but neglect to teach them how to share. Many parents of only children only focus on their children's textbook knowledge and believe that the children with good academic performance are excellent, but they don't care much about the cultivation of their children's good personality.

3.2 Parenting Concepts and Parenting Pattern in Two-child Family

Family is an important learning environment that affects children's school performance, and family education is the starting point and foundation of all education. There are different views on

the essence of the concept of education in the academic world. Foreign scholars believe that the concept of education includes two aspects: one is the understanding of what is the development of children; the other is the belief of how children develop[4]. According to Chen Hui chang, the concept of parental education usually refers to the concept of parents in the process of educating and cultivating children, such as children's development, parenting mode, parenting approach, and confidence in children's successful education [5]. The American educational testing service (ETS) was the first to study the impact of parental education on child development [6]. Johnson and Martin also confirmed this result, that is, the positive concept of parental education is good for children's development, and the negative concept of parental education is bad for children's development [7]. Parents of two-child families pay more attention to the psychological growth, psychological preparation, psychological change and mutual acceptance of first-born and second-born children.

4. Suggestions on Parenting Pattern

It is very important for parents to choose and use the parenting style of their children. For parents of only children, in order to raise their children better: (1) Parents need to firstly reflect on themselves and pay more attention to the development and improvement of themselves. Children at different ages have different characteristics, which are generally reflected in their thinking and behavior. Parent guide children according to their different age characteristics, put forward appropriate requirements, follow their growth, and constantly adjust and optimize their parenting patterns. Appropriate psychological relaxation, thinking about how to control the "tolerance" in a reasonable range, rather than indulge and spoil children. In addition to academic performance, parents of only children should pay more attention to the mental health of only children and respect their children's personality development. The purpose of parents' education for their children is for their children to be able to stand on their own feet in the society in the future and conduct "personality education" according to their children's characteristics. (2) Parents should reasonably convey their expectations to their children. Parents' expectations can only be reasonable and effective only if they are translated into children's wishes and interests. Nowadays the children have their own desires, parent should understand and respect their nature, personality, and interests, pay attention to the child's potential development and training, pay attention to methods for the improvement of the ability, do not tend to control the will and force indoctrination, not to mention the beat and scold education. (3) Give children a community of their own. In the only-child family, the child does not have the sibling to accompany, so help the child to create a collective environment, let the child grow up in the collective environment. Encourage the child to participate in group activities, establish their own circle of friends, and let them go out into the world, interact with others, participate in social practice, and obtain relevant social experience.

For parents of two children: (1) Parents should follow the development law of two children in family, respect the differences and realize the balance and fairness of parenting patterns. "Two children" parents faced with different ages, different personalities, different temperament ,different development and growth trajectory of two children, parents should strengthen the emotional attention and psychological upbringing of two children, avoid comparison and preference, deal with the contradiction between two children equally, balance educational resources, ensure the fairness of education for two children, and strive to let "every child have the opportunity to be excellent in life".(2) Establish a good family relationship, create a harmonious, friendly atmosphere. A good family relationship helps to develop children's open-mind, kind and friendly personality. In the family, parents are a builder of the family atmosphere and a bond between family members. Parents create a democratic, friendly, harmonious family atmosphere, children grow up in love, the two children will be easier to get along with. Try to let the two children to solve their problems by themselves, help the first-born child set up the image of brother and sister, which is conducive to the two children to get along.

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