

A Study on the Relationship between Fathers' Occupation and Behavioural Problems of Young Children in Rural Areas

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Keywords: Father's Occupation, Rural Young Children, Behavioural Problems

Abstract: In this study, the relationship between fathers' different occupations and their children's behavioural problems was investigated using a questionnaire. The study found that there was a correlation between fathers' occupation and their children's behavioural problems on all factors except the attention factor, such as withdrawal, anxiety/depression, socialization, discipline, and aggression, and on the total score. Research on the relationship between fathers' occupations and young children's behavioural problems has long been underappreciated, and the studies that do exist are extremely scarce. Some studies have shown a direct link between fathers' occupations and children's academic performance. In order to better understand the causes of behavioural problems in young children, to prevent and intervene in the development of behavioural problems in children aged 3-7, and to promote physical and psychological development, researchers need to explore the relationship between fathers' occupations and behavioural problems in young children.

1. Subjects and Methods

1.1. Subjects

Table 1: Distribution of fathers' occupations

Father's occupation	N
Civil servant or cadre (including leaders of government departments, enterprises and institutions, party organs, and public organizations at all levels)	15
Workers (including company employees, waiters, salesmen, drivers and workers in factories, construction, sanitation, etc.)	99
Business people (including businessmen or employers, small traders, self-employed, etc.)	27
Professionals and technicians (including teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc.)	27
Farmers and others	45

In this study, a number of rural kindergartens were randomly selected in Sichuan Province, and questionnaires were distributed to children in each kindergarten. 213 valid questionnaires were collected, including 123 boys and 90 girls, aged between 4 and 6 years old. The occupations of the fathers of the children who participated in the survey are shown in the following table 1.

1.2. Measure

The Achenbach Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL), a simplified version from Li Feng [1], was used in this study. The result of the reliability test is that a total score's α is 0.908, withdrawal behaviour: $\alpha=0.697$, anxiety/depression: $\alpha=0.572$, social problems: $\alpha=0.560$, attention problem: $\alpha=0.721$, disciplinary behaviour: $\alpha=0.632$ and aggression: $\alpha=0.774$. The validating factor analysis is as following: chi-square was 2162.663, degree of freedom is 932, RMSEA=0.045, CFI=0.814, TLI=0.802, SRMR=0.051, and the questionnaire had good reliability and validity[2].

1.3. Data Processing and Analysis

SPSS22.0 software was used for data processing. A difference test was used, and a significance coefficient of $P < 0.05$ was considered as a statistically significant difference.

2. Results

2.1. Mean Scores of Total Scores and Each Dimension on the Different Occupations (Table 2)

Table 2: Mean scores of total scores and each dimension for the different occupations

Factor	Father's occupation				
	Civil servants or cadres (including leaders of government departments, enterprises and institutions, party organs, and public organizations at all levels)	Workers (including company employees, waiters, salesmen, drivers, and workers in factories, construction, sanitation, etc.)	Business people (including businessmen or employers, small traders, self-employed, etc.)	Professionals and technicians (including teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc.)	Farmers and others
Total score	57.6000	60.9091	61.0000	61.3333	64.6000
Withdrawal	4.6000	4.8889	4.3333	4.3636	5.0667
Anxiety/depression	5.4000	5.9394	6.2222	6.1111	6.4667
Socialization	6.5333	6.0303	6.1000	6.2222	6.8000
Attention	9.2000	10.0303	10.0000	8.2222	10.0000
Indiscipline	5.4000	6.5455	6.2222	6.3333	6.6667
Aggression	11.2000	12.5758	12.2222	12.2222	13.1333

2.2. Comparison of Differences between Fathers' Occupations and Total Scores (Table 3)

Only the children of "farmers and others" differed from the children of civil servants or cadres on the total score of the behavioural scale. Children of fathers in "farmer and other" occupations had significantly higher total scores ($M=64.6$) than children of fathers in civil service or cadre occupations ($M=57.6000$). No significant differences were found between the scores of children in the other occupations.

Table 3: Results of multiple comparisons between fathers' occupations/total scores

Father's occupation	Father's occupation	MD	SE	P
Farmers and others	Civil servants or cadres (including leaders of government departments, enterprises and institutions, party organs, and public organizations at all levels)	7.00000 *	3.11891	.026

2.3. Comparison of Differences in Scores between Fathers' Occupations and Withdrawal Factor

Table 4: Results of multiple comparisons between fathers' occupation/withdrawal factors

Father's occupation	Father's occupation	MD	SE	P
Professionals (including teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc.)	Workers (including company employees, waiters, salesmen, drivers and workers in factories, construction, sanitation, etc.)	.52525*	.22226	.019
	Business people (including businessmen or employers, small traders, self-employed, etc.)	.55556*	.27862	.047
Farmers and others	Workers (including company employees, waiters, salesmen, drivers and workers in factories, construction, sanitation, etc.)	.70303*	.18405	.000
	Business people (including businessmen or employers, small traders, self-employed, etc.)	.73333*	.24920	.004

The results of the multiple comparisons in Table 4 show that there are significant differences in the scores on the withdrawal factor between the children of workers and business people and those of professionals and farmers and other occupations. The scores of children of professionals (M=4.3636) were significantly higher than those of children of business people (M=4.333), and the scores of children of professionals (M=4.3636) were significantly lower than those of children of workers (M=4.889), while the scores of children of farmers and other occupations (M=5.0667) were significantly higher than those of children of workers (M=4.889). (M=4.889), and the children of business people (M=4.333).

2.4. Comparison of Differences in Scores between Fathers' Occupations and Anxiety/Depression Factors

The results of the multiple comparisons in Table 5 show that the scores of the children of farmers and other occupations on the anxiety/depression factor are significantly different from those of the children of workers, civil servants, or cadres. The scores of the children of farmers and other occupations on the anxiety/depression factor (M=6.4667) were significantly higher than the scores of the children of civil servants (M=5.4000) and the children of workers (M=5.9394).

Table 5: Results of multiple comparisons between fathers' occupation/anxiety and depression factors

Father's occupation	Father's occupation	MD	SE	P
Farmers and others	Workers (including company businessmen, waiters, salesmen, drivers and workers in factories, construction and sanitation workers)	.52727*	.24357	.032
	Civil servants or cadres (including leaders of government departments, enterprises and institutions, party organs, and public organizations at all levels)	1.06667*	.40392	.009

2.5. Comparison of Differences in Scores on the Father's Occupation and Socialization Factor

Table 6: Results of multiple comparisons between fathers' occupation/socialization factors

Father's occupation	Father's occupation	MD	SE	P
Civil servants or cadres (including leaders of government departments, enterprises and institutions, party organs, and public organizations at all levels)	Workers (including company businessmen, waiters, salesmen, drivers and workers in factories, construction and sanitation workers)	.76970*	.38383	.046
Farmers and others	Workers (including company businessmen, waiters, salesmen, drivers and workers in factories, construction and sanitation workers)	.50303*	.24906	.045

Table 6 shows that there is a significant difference in the socialization factor between the children of "workers" and "civil servants or cadres" and "Farmers and others". The children of civil servants or cadres (M=6.5333) and the children of farmers and others (M=6.8000) scored significantly higher on the socialization factor than the children of workers (M=6.0303).

2.6. Differences in Father's Occupation and Disciplinary Factor Scores

Table 7: Results of multiple comparisons between fathers' occupation / disciplinary factors

Father's occupation	Father's occupation	MD	SE	P
Civil servants or cadres (including leaders of government departments, enterprises and institutions, party and government organs and public organizations at all levels,)	Workers (including company businessmen, waiters, salesmen, drivers and workers in factories, construction and sanitation workers)	-1.14545*	.36187	.002
	Professionals and technicians (including teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc.)	-.93333*	.42060	.028
	Farmers and others	-1.26667*	.38940	.001

As shown in Table 7, Multiple post hoc tests of the scores of disciplinary factors for children of fathers in different occupations revealed that children of civil servants or cadre families scored lower on the disciplinary factors than children of workers, professionals, farmers and others. In particular, children of civil servants or cadres scored significantly lower on the disciplinary factor (M=5.4000) than children of workers (M=6.5455), children of professionals (M=6.333) and children of farmers and other occupations (6.6667).

2.7. Father's Occupation and Differences in Aggression Scores

Table 8: Results of multiple comparisons between fathers' occupation/aggressiveness factors

Father's occupation	Father's occupation	MD	SE	P
Farmers and others	Civil servants or cadres (including leaders of government departments, enterprises and institutions, party organs, and public organizations at all levels)	1.93333*	.90561	.034

As shown in Table 8, The children of farmers and other occupations showed a significant difference with higher scores on the aggression factor (M=13.1333) compared to the children of civil servants or cadre occupations (M=11.2000).

3. Discussions

In the opinion of some scholars, the father's occupation affects the child's performance at school to some extent, and the present study focuses on the relationship between the father's occupation and the young child's performance of problem behavior [3,4].

In terms of occupation, the main categories were: civil servants or cadres, workers, business people, professionals and technicians, farmers, and others. Of all occupations, children in the "farmers and others" occupation scored the highest on the behavioural scale, and the difference between the scores and those of the "civil servants or cadres" was significant. This suggests that children of fathers in the 'farmer and other' occupation are likely to exhibit more problematic behaviour.

In terms of the withdrawal factor, children of fathers in "farmer and other" occupations had the highest scores on the withdrawal factor, and multiple comparisons were made between several occupations. There were significant differences between the scores of children of "workers" and "business people" and those of children of professionals, and between the scores of children of "workers" and "business people" and those of children of "farmers and others"[5]. The children of business people had the lowest scores on the withdrawal factor, i.e., the children of business people did not show much withdrawal behaviour, which may be related to economic factors and the father's professional personality, as business people are more extroverted, so their children are more extroverted. For the other occupation, "farmers and others", the relatively low income of this occupation may make it difficult to educate their children, and the fact that the fathers of "farmers and others" are to some extent not good talkers can also affect the children's personality [6].

On the anxiety/depression factor, the children's anxiety/depression scores were highest when the father's occupation was "farmer and others". The lowest anxiety/depression scores were found when the father's occupation was "civil servant or officer". Multiple comparisons across all occupations revealed that the scores of anxiety/depression factors of children in the "farmer and other" occupations were significantly different from those in the "worker" and "civil servant or cadre" occupations. A significant difference was found in the scores of anxiety/depression of children in the occupations "farmers and others" and "workers", "civil servants or officials". The reasons for this difference remain to be seen.

On the socialization factor, children of fathers whose occupation was "farmer or other" scored the highest, probably because fathers as farmers or other occupations are not good talkers and are therefore deficient in teaching their children to develop social skills. The children of "civil servants or cadres" also scored relatively high, which is a rather strange phenomenon, as previous studies

have shown that if fathers have higher levels of occupation, their children will get better social skills. Further observation and investigation revealed that many fathers with higher occupational levels were less likely to stay at home, leading to the phenomenon of children being left behind, while fathers who were 'workers' often returned to live at home and had more time to manage their children.

A test of the difference between fathers' occupations and their children's score on the attention factor showed that the difference in fathers' occupations did not lead to a difference in their children's scores on the attention factor.

On the disciplinary factor, children raised in households where the father's occupation was "civil servant or cadre" had the lowest discipline scores, while children of farmers and other occupations had the highest discipline scores. This may be due to the fact that parents who are civil servants or cadres are more strict with their children due to the nature of their work [7]. In the post hoc multiple comparisons of occupations, it was found that the children of workers and professionals had significantly different scores on the disciplinary factors from those of civil servants or cadres, suggesting that fathers of farmers, workers and professionals should strengthen their children's sense of discipline and order [8].

On the aggressiveness factor, the children of civil servants or cadres scored the lowest and the children of "farmers and others" scored the highest. This may be related to the father's profession, as civil servants or cadres are more strict with people because of their profession, and this strictness also affects their attitudes and parenting style towards their children [9]. In contrast, fathers in "farmer and other" occupations may have a more limited management style and time for their children's education.

4. Shortcomings of the Study and Future Prospects

The study has the following shortcomings: the study mainly investigated some children in rural areas of Sichuan Province, the sample is not representative enough, and the fathers' occupations did not cover all occupations. The discussion of the findings also lacks support from the relevant literature. It is hoped that future researchers will use a longitudinal study design to investigate the causal relationship between fathers' occupations and young children's behavioural problems and develop practical and effective measures to reduce young children's behavioural problems [10].

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