

Study on the Influencing Factors of Intergenerational Relations in Chinese Urban Families

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Abstract

In order to clarify the factors that affect intergenerational relationships, this paper collects data through questionnaire surveys and uses SPSS statistical software to analyze the intergenerational relationships between economically independent adult children and their parents. The results found that the three factors of native family type (p value <0.01), marital status (p value <0.01) and monthly income (p value <0.05) all had a significant impact on intergenerational relationships. The nuclear family, unmarried, low-income adult children have close relationships with their parents, and the intergenerational relationship between the main family and the joint family, divorced and widowed, and high-income children and their parents is general and even conflicts.

Keywords

Adult children; Family intergenerational relations; Influencing factors.

1. Research Background and Research Questions

During the period of social transformation, profound changes will occur in the mode of production, lifestyle, social structure, and interpersonal relationships. In this case, the family structure and intergenerational relationships will also undergo profound changes. The differences between parents and children in terms of growth background, social psychology, family concepts, living habits, value beliefs, etc. have led to intergenerational conflicts in the family [1] [2] [3] [4]. In addition, there are researches on the influence of social changes on family intergenerational relations and the new trend of family intergenerational relations.

Compared with the study of this kind of conflict, some studies emphasize the solidarity of intergenerational relations. For example, some studies believe that, contrary to the traditional family modernization theory, China's intergenerational relationship has not undergone fundamental changes. They advocated that there is still close interaction between adult children and their parents in our country in terms of daily care, financial support, and emotional comfort [5]. A survey of intergenerational relations conducted by the author also confirmed the view that the intergenerational relations of Chinese urban families are relatively close. On this basis, this study uses quantitative research methods to further clarify the relevant factors affecting family intergenerational relationships.

2. Research Methods

2.1. Research Object

Family intergenerational relationship is the vertical performance of family relationship, including parent-child relationship, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship, mother-in-law relationship and grandparent relationship. The core is parent-child relationship. However, due to time and energy issues, this study mainly analyzes the main factors affecting intergenerational relationships from the perspective of adult children. Therefore, the research object is mainly limited to the economically independent adult children.

2.2. Data Collection and Analysis

Based on this, this research adopts questionnaire survey method, through WeChat Moments network sampling and snowball sampling methods, mainly based on gender, age group, marriage, education level, native family type, whether it is only child, marital status, monthly income and other factors. Data, a total of 211 valid questionnaires were collected. After that, the original data were briefly sorted out, and finally, using SPSS22.0 software to conduct single factor analysis and simple regression analysis on the basic situation and intergenerational relationship of the research objects, to explore the influencing factors of the relationship between adult children and parents.

3. Survey Results

Based on the collected 211 valid questionnaires, the author conducted a single factor analysis of multiple variables such as gender, age group, education background, native family type, only child, marital status, unit type, specific position, and monthly income to clarify the impact The main factor of intergenerational relations.

Table 1. Analysis of influencing factors of intergenerational relationship

Title	Name	How is the relationship with the parents(%)				Number of people	χ^2 value	P value
		Very close	More intimate	generally	have conflict			
Native family type	core family	77(47.24)	62(38.04)	21(12.88)	3(1.84)	163	25.819	0.000**
	Main family	7(25.93)	7(25.93)	10(37.04)	3(11.11)	27		
	Joint family	4(19.05)	7(33.33)	8(38.10)	2(9.52)	21		
marital status	unmarried	50(41.32)	47(38.84)	24(19.83)	0(0.00)	121	30.785	0.000**
	Married	37(44.05)	28(33.33)	13(15.48)	6(7.14)	84		
	Divorced	1(20.00)	1(20.00)	1(20.00)	2(40.00)	5		
	Widowed	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	1(100.00)	0(0.00)	1		
monthly income	Below 2000 yuan	47(50.00)	33(35.11)	14(14.89)	0(0.00)	94	18.758	0.027*
	2000 yuan-5000 yuan	19(38.00)	19(38.00)	11(22.00)	1(2.00)	50		
	5000 yuan-8000 yuan	16(34.04)	16(34.04)	9(19.15)	6(12.77)	47		
	8000 yuan or more	6(30.00)	8(40.00)	5(25.00)	1(5.00)	20		

* p<0.05 ** p<0.01

Single factor analysis showed that six samples of different genders, age groups, educational backgrounds, whether they were only children, type of units, and specific positions did not show significant differences in their relationship with parents. The inter-generational relationship between adult children and their parents is mainly affected by factors such as the original family type, marital status, and monthly income (all P values <0.05). The proportions of nuclear families who choose "close and close relationship with their parents" are 47.24% and 38.04%, which are much higher than those of joint families and main families, while the proportion of joint families and main families who choose "general relationship with parents and conflicts" is higher. Both are higher than nuclear families. The proportion of unmarried children who choose "close relationship with their parents" is higher than that of married, divorced, and widowed. Among them, unmarried and married are not obvious in terms of

"intimacy with their parents", and married children have higher levels of "conflict with their parents" than unmarried children. The number of divorced and widowed samples is small, but they still show great differences, and the proportion of those who choose "general relationship with parents and conflict" is higher. The proportion of people with an income below 2,000 yuan who chooses to be "close to their parents" is in turn higher than that of incomes ranging from 2,000 yuan to 5,000 yuan, 5,000 yuan to 8,000 yuan, 8,000 yuan and above, while the income from high to low chooses to have "general relationship with parents, with parents." The proportion of "conflict" also shows a trend from high to low in general (see Table 1 for details).

4. Discussion of Results

The relationship between the children of the nuclear family and their parents is closer, and the statistical results show that the nuclear family has the highest proportion in the survey sample. According to the classic modernization theory of the family, with the development of society, the traditional family has gradually transformed into a nuclear family, and the nuclear family occupies the dominant position. The main reason is that since the reform and opening up, the concept of women's liberation and freedom of marriage has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. The improvement of production conditions has reduced the advantages of large families in cooperative production, and the family structure has rapidly become core, which has changed the traditional "parents are present, regardless of family". The concept is that children will soon live in separate families after they get married, forming a nuclear family [6].

Nuclear families mainly show that there are fewer family members and stable family relationships. Parents have paid more attention to their children since childhood, have close contact with their children, have more emotional exchanges, and have more intimate relationships. Therefore, the author believes that this intergenerational relationship extends to the relationship between economically independent adult children and their parents. That is, the original family type has an impact on the intergenerational relationship between children and parents. The survey data shows that the most options in the main family and the joint family are "general relationship with parents". Different types of native families and parental relationships are quite different. The relationship between the children and parents of the nuclear family is more than that of the main family and the joint family. Intimacy and conflicts with parents are more common in the main family and the joint family. This is mainly because, compared with nuclear families, trunk families and joint families, family members live together by three generations of grandparents or married brothers and sisters, there are more family members, the age span is large, and there are living habits and family concepts. Differences, the intergenerational relationship faced is also more complicated, such as mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationship, elder-wife relationship, etc., and conflicts are more likely to occur in the family.

In marital status, we can see that the relationship between unmarried children and their parents is much higher than that of married, divorced, and widowed children. Among them, children whose marital status is divorced, widowed, and their parents have a normal relationship with their parents and have a high proportion of conflicts. For unmarried and married children, differences in marital status have significant differences in the relationship between children and parents. Based on the living distance from their parents in the questionnaire, unmarried children live with their parents more often. On the contrary, the relationship between married children and their parents presents a big difference due to the distance of residence. For example, people living together, living nearby, in the same city, and in the same province are relatively close, while those outside the province and abroad are relatively distant. On the whole, married children are more distant from their parents than unmarried children. They may be married children in modern society. They are more

independent from the family and form another nuclear family. This is exactly what I mentioned above. More young people live separately from their parents, with nuclear families occupying the main body. The focus of their family relationship has shifted from their parents to the intergenerational relationship between husband and wife and their children. And in the mezzanine of "the old and the younger, the younger ones", the pressure of life has increased, and there is not much time and energy to care about their parents. In addition, due to the convenience provided by the increasingly updated communication methods, adult children are more. Many places use WeChat, telephone and other methods to maintain daily contact with parents, and the communication with parents has shifted from face-to-face to online. On the one hand, the convenience of the Internet can surpass space limitations and increase the daily communication between children and their parents. On the other hand, among these married children, some of their parents are already old, and the acceptance of mobile phones is not as good as that of young people. Children's care is needed for both emotional and emotional aspects, but children are not in front of them after all. Parents' role functions are weakened, and it is inevitable to produce negative and lonely negative emotions for a long time. The misalignment of "role expectations" sometimes brings them intergenerational conflicts and frictions. The intergenerational relationship gradually weakened or alienated.

In the relationship that affects monthly income, people with lower incomes have close relationships with their parents, while those with higher incomes generally have conflicting intergenerational relationships. Considering the marital status of the children in the questionnaire, unmarried people account for 80% of the monthly income below 2,000 yuan. Among the people with a monthly income of more than 8,000 yuan, married people account for up to 80%. Therefore, when analyzing the influence of monthly income on the relationship with parents, the marital status of the children is taken into consideration. On the one hand, it is unmarried, and the focus of family relations is still in their original family, and children and their parents maintain close interaction. On the other hand, the level of income represents the economic status of the family. Unmarried children with lower incomes cannot provide sufficient financial assistance to their parents, and in the modern age where the cost of living continues to rise, children with lower incomes have to rely on financial assistance from their parents. Therefore, they usually make up for it with spiritual support, and they still have a higher sense of dependence on their parents, and they have a closer relationship with their parents within the family. On the contrary, children with higher income occupy the economic advantage of the family, especially when their parents lose their economic income in old age, the economic advantage will be more prominent. Therefore, they usually think that they have given their parents a lot of help in financial support, and there is no problem in ignoring emotional support. At the same time, children with higher incomes spend much more time and energy in careers than children with lower incomes. Due to their lack of time and energy, they lack sufficient affection and care for their parents, and intergenerational relationships in the family may change. Get alienated.

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