

# Research on the Constraint Mechanism of Skip-Generation Raising

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## ABSTRACT

Since the implementation of the universal two-child policy, Intergenerational care in the family has become an important factor for many parents of childbearing age to make fertility decision. This article takes the contradiction of the demand and supply of Intergenerational care in family as the entry point, and investigate the constraints of the grandparents participating in the intergenerational care in the context of “the universal two-child”. Then the constraints are divided into three layers by the interpretative structural model established through the analysis of constraints. They're the direct factors on the surface, the middle-level indirect factors and the deep-rooted factors. The article also combined with the analytic hierarchy process to obtain the influence weights of various factors. The results show that the offspring's worry about the quality of intergenerational care, the lack of energy for grandparents are more binding. The tense relationship between the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law, and the restriction of living conditions are less binding.

**Keywords:** skip-generation raising, the universal two-child policy, ISM-APH model

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Universal Two-child policy is the overall situation requirement of the national population development strategy. Since its implementation, it has been cold. On the one hand, with the general improvement of women's education level, the demand for women's labor force in the market and the supply of high-quality female labor force increases. In reality, the long-lasting inequality of family labor participation between men and women has made the child care and family labor burden of women more severe and even negative impact on their employment and career development. On the other hand, under the initiative of active pension concept, after entering the old age stage, the ancestors hope that according to their own health level, education level, work, life experience, freely arrange the pension mode and daily activity time, according to their own wishes to develop their own potential and realize rich old life. Therefore, the smooth realization of the support of skip-generation raising in the family is hindered.

In the face of the contradiction between the needs of couples of child-bearing age and the restriction of child-rearing under the influence of multiple factors, it is of great significance to explore the constraints of their ancestors' participation in child-rearing and to analyze their internal relations in order to improve the family life of the elderly, promote their active old-age care, balance the distribution of family resources, raise the participation rate of child-rearing between generations, improve the quality of child-rearing between generations and promote the Universal Two-child policy.

In recent years, experts and scholars have done a lot of research on skip-generation raising, most of which focus on the influence of skip-generation raising on individuals, which involves some factors that restrict ancestors to participate in skip-generation raising, which is of great significance to the study of this paper. Based on this, this

paper uses ISM model and with the aid of analytic hierarchy process to analyze the constraint mechanism of grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising. According to the analysis results, this paper proposes a way for grandparents to actively participate in intergenerational parenting, so as to promote the rational distribution of family resources in child-rearing and give full play to its utility. Next, this paper will introduce the ISM-AHP model and the modeling process in detail.

## 2. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF MODEL

The problem studied in this paper, the restraint mechanism of the ancestors' participation in the skip-generation raising, needs to analyze how the constraint factors affect the overall and the degree of influence from different aspects and angles. There are many factors, and the relationship between factors is more complex, therefore, it is necessary to clarify the interaction relationship between constraint factors and their respective influence levels through the ISM-AHP model, and find out the action intensity of each factor in each level and the binding force on the whole. (1) ISM Model: Interpretative Structural Modeling Method, ISM method for short. The fuzzy ideas and opinions can be directly expressed by the structure diagram with good structural relations, which is applicable to the systematic analysis of numerous variables, complex relations and unclear structure in this paper, so as to determine the influence level of each factor. (2)AHP: It is a hierarchical weight decision-making analysis method based on network system theory and multi-objective comprehensive evaluation. It is more suitable for the decision-making problem with hierarchical staggered evaluation index and the target value is difficult to describe quantitatively.

### 3. CONSTRUCTING ISM-AHP MODEL OF CONSTRAINTS ON GRANDPARENTS' PARTICIPATION IN SKIP-GENERATION RAISING

Based on the existing literature, there are four main constraints on grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising, which are self-factors, descendant factors, relationship with descendants and objective conditions. In this paper, we choose 16 variables from the above four aspects (as shown in Table 1) to construct the ISM model. According to the ISM model analysis method, it is determined that the constraints of ancestor participation in skip-generation raising are  $S_i = (S_0, S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots, S_{16})$ .

$S_0$  means that ancestors participate in skip-generation raising, and  $S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots, S_{16}$  represent 16 variables selected respectively. After sorting out and summarizing the relevant literature and consulting relevant experts and scholars' suggestions, the logical relationship between the factors restricting ancestors' participation in skip-generation raising is preliminarily determined, that is, the relationship between the two factors which directly affect each other or which is the premise of each other. The logical relationship among the factors is expressed  $E$ 、 $F$ , where  $E$  tableline elements directly or indirectly affect column elements,  $F$  indicates that column elements directly or indirectly affect row elements (as shown in the figure 1).

Table 1 The constraints of skip-generation raising

Symbol	variable	Symbol	variable
$S_1$	Divorce or widowhood	$S_9$	Concern about Parent-Child Emotions
$S_2$	Lack of energy	$S_{10}$	Worried about the quality of care
$S_3$	Limited economic support	$S_{11}$	Conflict of parenting concepts
$S_4$	A Child Raising Experience	$S_{12}$	Differences in living habits
$S_5$	Less entertainment time	$S_{13}$	Tension between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law
$S_6$	Impaired health	$S_{14}$	A large number of grandchildren
$S_7$	Limited freedom of life	$S_{15}$	Limitation of living conditions
$S_8$	Reduction of interpersonal scope	$S_{16}$	Lack of social supporting services

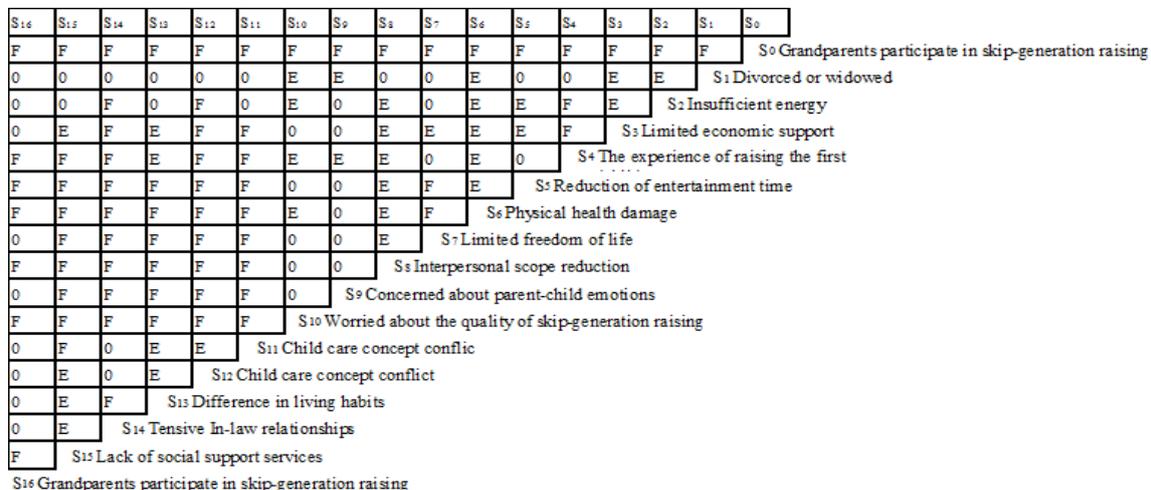


Figure 1 Logical diagram of constraints

$$S_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & S_i \text{ affects } S_j \\ 0 & S_i \text{ does not affect } S_j \end{cases} \quad i = 0,1,2,\dots,16 \quad j = 0,1,2,\dots,16$$

The adjacency matrix R is obtained by the logical relation graph between factors and above formula. Then the reachable matrix M is obtained by using Boolean operation rule in MATLAB software. Through reachability matrix, the

$$L_1 = \{S_0\}; L_2 = \{S_5, S_6, S_8, S_9\}; L_3 = \{S_7, S_{10}\}; L_4 = \{S_2, S_3, S_{11}, S_{13}, S_{15}\}; L_5 = \{S_1, S_4, S_{12}, S_{14}, S_{16}\}.$$

According to the order of factors Li, rearranged reachable matrices, backbone matrices G, can be found for each single. The factors corresponding to the bit matrix are at the same level.

factors that restrict ancestors' participation in skip-generation raising are divided into different levels. Finally, six levels are obtained as follows:

Finally, the hierarchical structure of constraints is determined. Using directed edges to connect the factors of adjacent levels and the same level, the relationship and hierarchical structure of grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising and its constraints are obtained (Figure. 2).

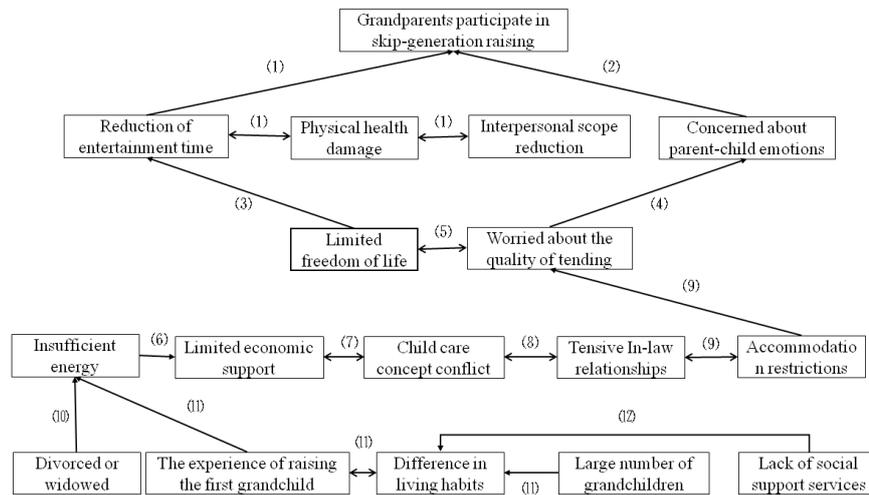


Figure 2 Graphic Interpretation Structural Diagram

The hierarchical structure model is constructed based on the results of interviews, and the expert consultation is considered to scale the objectives of each level according to the nine-level scale table of AHP evaluation. The judgment

matrix is established and the consistency test is carried out. Finally, the weights of the indicators at all levels are determined.

Table 2 Table Constraints Weight Summary

factor	Weights	factor	Weights
1 Worried about the quality of tending	0.2098	8 Difference in living habits	0.0329
2 Insufficient energy	0.1804	9 Large number of grandchildren	0.0255
3 Limited freedom of life	0.1452	9 Lack of social support services	0.0255
4 Physical health damage	0.0909	10 Interpersonal scope reduction	0.0241
5 Child care concept conflict	0.0736	10 Reduction of entertainment time	0.0241
6 Limited economic support	0.0525	11 Divorced or widowed	0.0126
6 Concerned about parent-child emotions	0.0524	12 Tensive In-law relationships	0.011
7 The experience of raising the first grandchild	0.0352	13 Accommodation restrictions	0.0043

The 16 factors in the table have their respective proportion in the system of constraints. The weights of the factors are sorted from large to small by 1-16. From this, we can see the degree of constraints of each factor on grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising. As the basis for the analysis of text restraint mechanism.

## 4. ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTRAINT MECHANISM OF GRANDPARENTS' PARTICIPATION IN SKIP-GENERATION RAISING

According to the explanatory structure diagram, the factors that restrict ancestors' participation in skip-generation raising are divided into three levels, namely  $L_2$ , it is the direct restraint factor in the surface layer; the indirect influence factor in the middle layer  $L_3$ ,  $L_4$ ; and the deep root factor  $L_5$ .

### 4.1. Surface Direct Constraints

(1) Less entertainment time, .Interactions between impaired physical health and reduced interpersonal range and their effects on ancestral involvement in skip-generation raising (line (1)).

In the survey of leisure activity participation and consumption of urban elderly groups in Hebei province, Li Jing et al.(2016) found that their ancestors' voluntary or involuntary participation in skip-generation raising will restrict their recreation and leisure. Compared with the ancestors who did not participate in the next generation, most of their life spent on the family-related household work. The lack of leisure and entertainment time will not only lead to the ancestors to relax in the redundant household work, long before. Meeting to increase the chance of illness and relapse, to add trouble to later life, Simultaneously, it is also inevitable to reduce the opportunities for ancestors to engage in social activities, so that the ancestors of the relatively small circle of life become more limited, reducing their interpersonal scope. This also It is easy to lead to loss of confidence and love for life, increase the incidence of psychological diseases and increase the risk of depression. Among them, the effect of restraint is that the health of the ancestors is damaged, because the health of ancestors is the most basic guarantee of improving the quality of intergenerational care, and also the important factors affecting the quality of life of the whole family. However, the decrease of entertainment time and the reduction of interpersonal range are lower in the weight measurement. The author thinks that this is because the healthy and happy growth of the children will bring some relief to the ancestors.

(2) Children worry about parent-child affection (line (2)).

Some social investigations have found that the competitiveness of modern society has made it obvious that the young parents are not enough for the daily care and communication of children after their ancestors undertake the direct physical care duties of children. Children are more dependent on and close to the parents with long time, and the intimate feelings between them are suppressed, and the young parents are difficult for young parents to become the emotional subject of children. However, the intimate relationship between the parents and children has become the basic emotional demand in the core family of modern society, especially with the growing up of children, when the relationship between the mother and the child is separated, the subjective emotional demand of the close mother will be more prominent. In the total ranking table of factor weights, it is also shown that the children's concern for parent-child

emotion is strong, so the children's concern for parent-child emotion is also a direct factor that hinders the ancestors' participation in the upbringing of the next generation.

### 4.2. Middle-level Indirect Factors

Restricted freedom of life has a direct impact on reduced entertainment time, impaired health and reduced interpersonal range, and children worry about the quality of rearing directly affect the feelings of parents and children.

After grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising, high-intensity and high-density family child-rearing services make grandparents' free time arrangement scarce (line (3)), resulting in narrowing the range of people and damaging physical health. The table of total factor weights also shows the strong constraint of limited life freedom.

Child worried about the upbringing quality of the ancestors.

The following are some of the main disadvantages of ancestral child-rearing: ① Most grandparents have traditional ideas. The concept formed in the early stage is difficult to fully adapt to the requirements of The Times and social development decades later. The process of raising grandchildren tends to lose children's curiosity and curiosity, lack of competitiveness and creativity. ② Most grandparents are poorly educated, The education of grandchildren is worrying. ③ Children's talents in their early childhood cannot be guided and cultivated by their ancestors in time.

④ Grandparents mostly dote on grandchildren, which is not conducive to the cultivation of children's good character. ⑤ Due to the gradual decline of the physiological function of the ancestors, the daily activities range of children can only be reduced, and the activity space of the children is greatly reduced, which may cause the children's character to be suppressed and difficult to fit together. These drawbacks of progeniles directly affect the quality of intergenerational rearing and the parent-child emotional culture(line (4)). In the total ranking table of factor weights, children worry about the quality of intergenerational care is the first constraint. Children who worry about the quality of their upbringing expect their ancestors to spend more time on them, increasing restrictions on their freedom (line (5)).

As the Universal Two-child policy comes, many ancestors have gradually stepped into the high stage of disease, and their own medical expenses are increasing, so the economic support for the grandchildren is significantly reduced (line (6)). Of course, because of the concept of different offspring will also reflect the relative economic support.Limits. There are great differences in consumption concept and child care concept, Ancestors' economic support is naturally limited compared to their offspring's consumption and parenting patterns (line (7)). These differences and conflicts lead to the estrangement between grandparents and children (line (8)). From the total ranking table of factor weights, we can find that the weight of limited economic support and conflict of child-rearing concepts is more obvious among all constraint factors. They are the main constraint factors of skip-generation raising. Family relationship is the key factor that affects the psychological state of the elderly, whether or not to live with the offspring will also indirectly affect the ancestors to participate in the skip-generation raising, so the skip-generation raising brings challenges to the living conditions of the three generations. Children don't want their

children to leave their own side, and their ancestors don't want to live with each other in order to avoid conflict (line (9)). However, from the weight of factors, the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law and the limitation of living conditions are very weak, the author believes that convenient transportation and fast communication can ease the tension of intergenerational relations and the limitation of living conditions.

### **4.3. Deep-rooted Factors**

Grandparents divorced or widowed, the experience of raising a child, the number of grandchildren, the difference in living habits between the two generations and the lack of social support services together become the constraints of the ancestors to participate in the skip-generation raising of the deep factors.

Separation or loss of ancestors has a direct effect on the lack of energy of the ancestors (line (10)). The incomplete marriage of the grandparents will make the physical and psychological pressure on them to participate in the parenting of the next generation heavier and unshared, and they are not suitable for raising their grandchildren alone in terms of lifestyle and education. This factor has a weak constraint on grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising, the author believes that the reason is that divorced or widowed ancestors have more possibilities to live with their children, daily acceptance of children's support is more, in exchange for or unavoidable initiative to raise grandchildren. In China, two - child - raising grandparents are not only children. Also it's a big part, therefore, there must be differences between the children and their grandparents in their upbringing and living habits. These differences have caused the grandparents' unpleasant experience of raising a child. Many ancestors have no energy to take care of children's second children (line (11)). The author thinks that not all the grandparents who have raised a child have a negative attitude towards the next generation, and the ones who get a sense of accomplishment from taking part in raising a child also have the tendency to take the initiative to raise a second child. The number of grandchildren is also a moderate constraint. The author thinks that in the case of large number of children, the parents are willing to give up the opportunity to take care of their grandchildren under the condition that they are willing to take care of them, or that they don't need their grandparents to take care of them.

Another is the social constraints of the lack of grandchild service. In society. of the Convention The public and market services of parent-child interaction have few services suitable for grandparents and grandchildren, and the services and resources to guide grandparents to raise children correctly are even more scarce, which will also cause the disconnection and disagreement between the two generations in the habit of raising children, and affect the smooth realization of the participation of grandparents in the next generation. Of course, the recognition and demand of family generations and the establishment and improvement of social support service system are mutually promoted and promoted. Medium level.

## **5. CONCLUSION AND ENLIGHTENMENT**

By establishing an explanatory structural model of the factors that constrain grandparents' participation in generational parenting and combining with analytic hierarchy process (AHP), the influence levels of each factor, their functional relations and their respective influence weights are obtained. The 16 factors from  $L_2$  to  $L_5$  jointly influence grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising through conduction and interaction, and ultimately hinder the smooth realization of grandparents' participation in skip-generation raising. According to the analysis of the above factors, we get some enlightenment from reducing the obstacle of intergenerational breeding and promoting intergenerational support in the family.

Young children are the future and hope of the family, their growth affects the attention of the whole family, so it is reasonable for the offspring to worry that the quality of upbringing becomes the most important constraint factor for the ancestors to participate in the upbringing of the next generation. The quality of upbringing is mainly reflected in the quality of daily life care, psychological and ideological education and the environment of healthy growth, therefore, the ability of the ancestors to nurture themselves and the supporting services inside and outside the family are very important. It is suggested that the following aspects should be used to improve the quality and weaken the worry of the offspring.

First, in view of the low education level of the ancestors, the difference of living habits with the offspring and the backward concept of parenting, the sharing mechanism of knowledge and experience between generations is established. In order to make the excellent experience spread quickly, to change the unscientific method of raising children and to accelerate the adaptation of the generation to the generation.

Second, promote the love of old, respect for the old culture, balance the whole society's importance to the old and young. To change the modern society of the elderly lack of respect and excessive love of the young. Respect the old-age choice and financial arrangement of the ancestors, enhance the respect of the offspring to the offspring of the ancestors. Advocate and encourage children to increase the frequency of communication with the upper and lower generations and increase the time spent with children, and in order to find out and solve the problems in intergenerational parenting and reduce the occurrence of family conflicts, reducing the incidence of family conflicts. At the same time, it can relieve the physical pressure and the limited freedom of life caused by the lack of leisure and entertainment of the ancestors in the next generation, and the psychological depression caused by the narrowing of the interpersonal range. So that the ancestors in the next generation in the upbringing of their own value, improve their enthusiasm to foster their grandchildren.

Third, Improve the social supporting services of skip-generation raising. Raising awareness of the objective requirements for skip-generation raising and speeding up the establishment and improvement of supporting facilities and services for skip-generation raising are conducive to expanding the scope of activities for the upbringing of grandparents, enriching the ways of raising children, lifting the restrictions on skip-generation raising brought by living

conditions, alleviating the physical and mental pressure of grandparents, and promoting the healthy growth of grandchildren.

The shortage of labor supply caused by the aging of population and the imperfection of social care services make the skip-generation raising an urgent need for families to have two children. It is also one of the ways for the elderly to develop their own value in the process of skip-generation raising in response to "positive ageing". Therefore, from the three aspects of the grandparents themselves, the offspring and the society, we should pay more attention to the skip-generation raising, and jointly provide the necessary ideological and service support for the smooth realization and healthy development of the skip-generation raising.

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