

An Analysis of the Influence of a Superior Family on Chinese High School Students

Yaxin Bai^{1,†}, Ziyi Hao^{2,*†}

¹ School of Education Sciences, Henan Finance University, Zhengzhou, Henan, 450000, China

² School of Economics, Hubei Business College, Wuhan, Hubei, 430000, China

*Corresponding author. Email: guanghua.ren@gecademy.cn

†These authors contributed equally.

ABSTRACT

Education occupies a vital position in children's development, particularly the Chinese high school education, because Chinese Gaokao is the only road to the university entrance examination, which decides where they learn. Their first degree is a new platform in their lifelong, where they can study with better resources, stay in a competitive learning atmosphere, and have wider views. This is because one person who read various books and experienced higher education in top universities can have broader horizons, communicate with excellent peers, exchange their innovative ideas, and even create unexpected things. Then after they graduate, they could contribute to society or even the country. However, children's educational resources and learning environment are greatly affected by family backgrounds and capital. This paper will analyze from two sides and give useful solutions to solve the imbalance problem of education in society. Most of the literature describes only the impact of education on students and the impact of superior families rather than specific populations or proposed solutions. Based on this situation, this paper studies those kinds of literature and focuses on the influence of well background families for the high school students in China. As a result, after deep analysis of Chinese high school students from upper-class families, especially the disadvantaged influence. It can be proved that, although there are some priorities for them to choose when they study and experience, some unexpected personalities and behaviors cannot be paid and cultivated by money, such as persistence, independence, brave and, etc. Therefore, we propose effective and beneficial advice and solution in this paper.

Keywords: *Upper-class family, Imbalance problem between rich and poor families, Chinese high school students.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chinese education method is well known for its equality, which provides students who live in different level areas with more opportunities access to advanced knowledge. In fact, under the diverse forms of education, Chinese high school students have not only one way to enter the university, which mostly depends on their family backgrounds. For instance, those who are in poor families consider money when they do things [1]. They have not enough money to support extra courses out of school, and some of them even drop out of school. They can only study most ordinarily and finally choose the final exam entrance to the university. Lack of good education will limit their sight, which will be difficult for them to integrate with others and easy to feel inferiority. On the contrary, better education may cultivate elites, especially students in the upper-class family, who will

easily get better resources and advanced facilities. They choose to widen their vision by seeing the world and use the knowledge that they learn before and apply it to work, after that, they can have a decent job and earn more money, then live a comfortable life [2]. But family capital spends on education deeply influences students' development, including thoughts, behaviors, attitudes, and even friends-making [3]. However, there are also cons for them, which include students' personalities, behaviors, etc. This paper will discuss the advantages and drawbacks of well background families and how they affect their students.

2. TWO ASPECTS OF UPPER-CLASS FAMILY

2.1. The Development of Chinese Upper-class

Because of the reform of the Chinese economic system and the policy implementation raised by Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese economy started developing rapidly. State Statistics Bureau claimed that the population appeared to have more than 10 million yuan in the early 1990s. After 10 years, the upper class had formed [4]. After that, people grab the chance of the internet to start their business to become rich.

2.2. The Definition of Upper-class in China

China's policy system is socialist, and Chinese people focus more on the interests of collectives. Hofstede said that the west is individualism, the east is collectivist [5]. Thus, Chinese people cannot deliberately divide the upper class. However, China has a gap between rich and poor. And the property is the standard to divide diverse grades. In China, the income of the upper class is in the scope between 7,300 dollars and 18,250 dollars every year, and the income of every day in the range of 20 dollars and 50 dollars [6].

2.3. The Good Influence of Upper-class

2.3.1. Well Background Influence the Scores

The final score determines the university where students study is a typical phenomenon in China. And because senior high school students who have high scores can enter top universities. Thus, Chinese parents make a great effort to improve their children's scores to study in a better place.

Whether they are upper-class or not, choosing cram schools is a popular way to raise students' grades for Chinese parents. Southgate analyzed the relationship between the social status of student's families and the proportion of participation in extra-curricular tutoring classes in 36 counties and places, and he found the social status of a student's family is directly proportional to the opportunity to attend cram school in 21 counties [7]. Although students from the lower class can join cram schools, students are arranged to essential types of classes because they do not have enough money to join the various class, the same as students from the upper class. Students from upper-class families can choose two types of expensive courses that greatly affect improving scores (small size class, one-to-one class). In addition, the upper-class has enough property to choose the best teachers with expensive experiences to educate their children. Thus, if children have the same physiological conditions, students from the upper class have more probability of getting high grades.

A 2010 survey showed that per capital educational expenses in the financial budget of ordinary primary schools in China are 3357.92 yuan. Among that, the highest costs are in Shanghai at 14792.68 yuan. The lowest expenses are in Henan at 1949.00 yuan [8]. It shows that the financial support for education in developed areas is better than that in underdeveloped ones. In other words, better educational information cannot be possessed by the lower class because they do not have the channel to acquire them. For example, lower-class families cannot afford expensive courses which provide advanced equipment, such as projectors, audio, electronics which will reduce teaching efficiency and effectiveness. So their children just study from the basic mode. And also, there are not excellent teachers for them to offer a high-level standard of professional skills [9]. Due to the property, the upper class has a relatively high state in society, they can easily get the latest information of education which includes new educational policy, better cram schools with famous teachers, and other ways to provide better resources for their children. Through this information, they can make the right choice for their children in time. Thus, students from the upper class can improve scores easily, compared with other high school students, on equal conditions.

To improve scores, the upper class can also do other activities which influence education. For example, they can learn knowledge from books and have a foreign trip, which will be beneficial for their personal experience. However, having a foreign trip needs financial support, which the lower class might have not the ability to afford it. A survey made by Sun Yue described that parents spending on books have the biggest impact on students' scores [10]. Learning resources and applied equipment need money to possess them. The upper-class parents can afford the expensive ones and fulfill more demand for education. This is because the upper-class families have a wide vision and rich thinking to invest much in students' education and then support them stand on the top of the mountain. All of these impacts can affect the students' scores directly.

2.3.2. Different Ways Of How Well Background Enter Universities

The National College Entrance Examination in China (Gaokao) is Controlled by the Ministry of Education, which is the most common and basic way for most students. Because The Compulsory Education (People's Daily) law makes rural students have an equal chance to be educated, and tuition fees are free from primary school to junior high school [11]. In China, a high score guarantees senior high school students to enter into top universities. And students graduating from famous universities can have high-paid jobs in a competitive job market, which means the educational background will

determine their future income. Therefore, this is a minimum cost way, and most parents would choose it.

Students who choose to study arts need to attend the art exam, which is different from the first one. They need to have the extra course to learn the professional skills about arts. After that, art scores are tested by the national institution, and lower scores than the general entrance examination to enter universities. In China, parents know less about the exam. Therefore, they choose art examination education institutions to lead their children to join art exam. As the art curricula are expensive, including professional equipment, after-school tutoring, and training, the lower class may not afford the whole of the cost. During this process, about half of the students are filtered away by their needs for financial support.

The last one, studying abroad is the most expensive way, which needs pay the living expenses and multiple times of cost than in domestic. On the demand of academics, the grades of IELTS or TOEFL are necessary for every student to acquire to communicate with others easily when studying and living abroad. They only need to pass the language test and have the list of scores. The admission criteria do not depend on an exam that is diverse with Gaokao. Hence, they have no high stress compared with students study abroad.

A survey says that the proportion of students in universities from the lower class is 26.1 percent, less than upper-class students' in 2001 [12]. Students from the upper class have more possibility to enter into universities because they have more channels to enter into universities

2.3.3. The Relationship Between the Key Of Success For High School Students And Advantaged Background

Success means that people live well in society, which a great job can achieve it.

Students from upper-class families having a great job are easier than students in lower-class families. Interpersonal relation is a strong weapon for the upper class to support their kids to find a good job, which is difficult for the lower class to acquire. In addition, if students from the upper class cannot work well, they also can inherit the assets from their parents. For example, Donald Trump becomes a rich person because he has great ability and the wealth of his father. His father supported him through the University of Pennsylvania, which is a top and expensive university. After graduation, he took over his father's factory, and on this basis, he expanded his enterprise. Finally, he can succeed. Hypothetically, if he is not a second rich generation, he will not go through this way easily and get so much of this. Therefore, for upper-class high school students, it is easy to meet their goals and be successful.

2.4. The Bad Influence of Upper-class Background

Although the Chinese government provides equal learning opportunities for students and allows them to have the college entrance examination of competing, the influence of family background still affects students in different ways. It can be seen that students who are in wealthy families can choose their ways and decide whether they should attend Chinese Gaokao. However, there are still disadvantages to them.

2.4.1. The Aspect Of Quality And Upbringing

Most of them spend much money on inventing in extra courses like sports and arts instead of their quality or other aspects. The conception in their minds is just using money to buy what they want and the most expensive one, without focusing on moral learning. As Cui Xinxin says in the research: "because the parents of rich families have suffered in starting a business and do not want their children to go through it again, they will directly provide a good environment and to do their best to meet their requirements" [13]. Therefore, it is easy for their kids to attain money and other things they want from their parents. They do not know how difficult to make money. Many news reports that the rich second generation had bad behavior and harm to the society, for example, having car accidents by ignoring traffic rules, going to gamble and play, etc. [14]. For them, excellent qualities, such as persistence and earnestness, cannot be obtained from practice and life. The lack of good quality will have a vital influence on their future life [15]. For example, when seeking a job and having challenges for one task, they are likely to give up and miss the job opportunity, which will even make them lose confidence and suffer setbacks.

2.4.2.A Distorted View of Money

Well, background family provides them with traveling worldwide to broaden their horizons, having the chance to show themselves, making the better person to communicate [16]. On the contrary, some of them are controlled by money to fulfill their material needs, including delicate foods, luxuries, and even their vanity. For long-distance, it will lead to a wrong value for them. In most Chinese schools, they are asked to wear uniforms to avoid difference and comparison. One significant reason is to abandon their family background, parents' status, and other factors that will negatively affect their study [17]. Because paying more attention to enjoyment lets them forget their primary purpose of attaining school. In the following of Cui Xinxin, under the idea of money omnipotent, the children of many rich families consume luxury and have a weak moral consciousness [13]. They are keen to pursue famous brands and high grades but do not care about state affairs. They believe in money and

ignore the rule of law [18]. For deep analysis, this trend will increase their possibility of crime, affected by wrong thinking. They may crimes related to money. Otherwise, they may have a bad frugality. Therefore, excessive enjoyment will make them forget themselves and be a burden to society and their parents.

2.4.3. Self-identify And Characteristics

One example of this aspect is that high school students spent their parents' money playing games and entertainment instead of studying at school, which was broadcast by the Chinese news before. For their personalities, it is easy to lead them selfish, rely on parents, lack responsibility, and overpower [19]. Under being spoiled and satisfied with everything for a long time will isolate them from other common students. They think what they have is necessary. They cannot understand why others are hard-working for study. Thus, they may lose themselves and have not directions and motivations for their life. Parents are the children's first teachers, the lack of the right education and just pour money on children lead to their lack of awareness of distress [20]. Those students will live in their worlds and ignore others' feelings, influencing their communication with others in daily life and future job in society.

3. HOW TO SOLVE THE BAD INFLUENCE

From parents' perspectives, even if they have assets, they can provide children with better sources and extensive platforms. It is still necessary for them to consider comprehensive education. First of all, investing in their study is necessary. But on the side of eating and clothing demand, they should just satisfy basic needs to have a saving awareness. They should also teach them how to understand money rightly, the money they spend now is from their parents' hard work. When they want to buy something beyond the economy, parents should tell them whether it is worth buying. Parents should also lead by example and be frugal from themselves, which will have a good example for their kids, which will teach them to treat money from an objective perspective and good for financial management in their future life. In addition, to practice their personalities, experiencing failure is necessary to hone their willingness and even harden their determination. Suppose parents do not fulfill everything they want but let them deal with difficulties, which will be more direct and easier for them to learn from textbooks. When they enter the society, many things are more complex than just studying and playing, which human feelings, social communications, polite behavior, and so on also need to be considered. During the process of involving by themselves, they can generally get used to the social rules instead of being unpleasant with bad affairs.

Schools should keep on requiring students to wear uniforms to reduce the awareness of family background, highlight individual and self-efforts, and enrich the form of classes, such as group discussions, cooperation with classmates, competitive games in class, and cultivating their students personalities and self-identify.

4. CONCLUSION

Having more property has many benefits because most of the better resources are occupied by the upper class. For Chinese senior high school students, the influences of the upper class are divided into two aspects, beneficial effects and adverse effects. On the side of beneficial effects, which can make senior high school students enter famous universities and get better jobs easily, it is unfair for those backgrounds of a low class of students. They are not competitive in the future and many obstacles in front of them. The good influences of the upper class for senior Chinese high school students reflect one of the questions of unfair education that Chinese parents are involved in children's education. And too much parental involvement may cause a variety of informal educational channels to emerge, which is not good for stability in Chinese education, however, on the side of adverse influences. Due to the easy access to money and being in adolescence, high school students can be addicted to money, which is not good for developing a good personality, and they might even become money-oriented people. To reduce the adverse effects, parents should set themselves an example to their children to teach them the right perception of property and follow the social rules. To solve the above, we also need to get together, make relevant people involved, and cultivate a better person.

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