



Structure Recognition of Marriage and Childbirth Concept of University Students Based on Attachment Model—Case of Jilin Province, China

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Abstract

Objective: The issue of marriage and childbirth is a hot topic in Chinese society at present. This paper based on attachment theory model, to explore the internal paths of the marriage and childbirth view of university students in Jilin Province, and to provide a reference for the future education of university students' marriage and childbirth view. **Methods:** 4468 students from six universities in Jilin Province were surveyed by stratified random sampling method, and the survey data were analyzed to construct a structural equation model (SEM) with mediation. **Results:** The total score of Jilin university students' view on marriage and parenting is 30.11 ± 3.19 , and among the two dimensions of marriage and parenting, the agreement on the view of marriage trait fit is higher than the view of marriage resource equivalence. The results of the SEM showed that parenting style had a positive effect on the formation of students' concept of marriage and childbirth, and personality plays a mediating role. **Conclusion:** Parental upbringing and personality are important influencing factors in the formation of the concept of marriage and childbirth. Educate university students to form a scientific view of marriage and childbirth is not only beneficial to the healthy growth of students, but also the harmonious development of society.

Keywords: university students; the concept of marriage and childbirth; structural equation model; path;

1 INTRODUCTION

University students' views on marriage and childbirth can reflect the mainstream values of current society, now the traditional view of marriage and childbirth has quietly changed. The general trend of the current marriage situation in China is a gradual decrease in the number of marriages, a significant increase in the number of divorces, and increasing age of marriage for young people [14]. According to the China Statistical Yearbook 2021, the number of marriage registrations in Jilin Province in 2020 was only 139,300 pairs, and the number of divorce registrations was 103,700. On May 31, 2021, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), while implementing the three-child birth policy in a meeting to consider the Decision on Optimizing Fertility Policy for Long-term Balanced Population Development, proposed to strengthen the education and guidance of marriageable young people on the concept of marriage and family. It is crucial to conduct research on university students' views on marriage and parenting as well as to provide proper

guidance on students' views on marriage and parenting. The paper explores the internal paths of the marital and parental views of university students in Jilin Province based on the attachment theory model, in order to provide a reference basis for future education on the marital and parental views of university students and related policy formulation and adjustment. so as to further promote the harmonious development of society.

2 SOURCE AND METHODS

2.1 Object

In this paper, a stratified random sampling method was used to randomly select six universities in Jilin Province for questionnaire surveys. A total of 5,000 questionnaires were distributed. Finally, 4468 complete questionnaires were found. And the effective recovery rate of the questionnaire was 89.36%. The general description was performed using SPSS 23.0, the questionnaire was tested for reliability, and structural equations were constructed using AMOS 23.0 software.

2.2 Research Methods

2.2.1 Questionnaire Design

(1) Youth Marriage and Childbirth View Scale

Compiled by Zeng, T, D [15] et al., this scale includes two dimensions, the concept of marriage resource equivalence and the concept of marital trait fit, a total of 41 items, using positive assignment, the higher the score, the higher the degree of recognition of this dimension. The Cronbach α of this scale was 0.946. KMO has a value of 0.956.

(2) Short-of Egna Minnwenav Barndoms Uppfostran for Chinese (S-EMBU-C)

This scale was revised by Jiang Ge [2] et al. and included three dimensions of rejection, emotional warmth, and overprotective, with a total of 21 entries, and the Cronbach α of s-EMBU-C was 0.891 and the KMO value was 0.941.

(3) The Chinese Adjectives Scale of Big-Five Factor Personality Short Scale Version (BFFP-CAS-S)

This scale, developed by Luo, J [3] et al, is a simplified version of the Chinese Adjective Big Five Personality Inventory, and measures five dimensions: rigor, agreeableness, neuroticism, extraversion, and openness, with four entries per dimension, for a total of 20 entries, using a Likert-6 point-scoring type. The Cronbach alpha for the BFFP-CAS-S was 0.959. the KMO value was 0.968.

2.2.2 Framework for Structural Equation Model

We construct a structural equation model based on attachment theory and related literature. Attachment theory claims that early attachment to parents shapes an individual's inner workings of the self, which impacts the formation of intimacy with a partner. [6] The forms of attachment created by various parenting approaches can impact adults' attitudes on marriage. [16]. Furthermore, attachment theory suggests that parent-child interactions during growth influence the development of personality traits in adulthood [10], and personality is an important consideration in marital studies, moreover, an influential factor that cannot be overlooked in marital relationships in the Chinese context [17]. Parenting and personality were included as variables in the structural equation model, as shown in Figure 1.

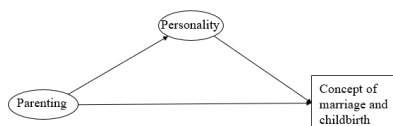


Figure 1 Internal path model of university students' concept of marriage and childbirth in Jilin Province

3 RESULTS

3.1 Basic information of survey subjects

There were 4468 students in the survey, 1147 (25.7%) were males 3321 (74.3%) were females, 942 (21.1%) were students aged 18 and under, 967 cases (21.6%) were 19 years old, 976 cases (21.8%) were 20 years old, and 1583 cases (35.4%) were 21 years of age and older.

3.2 Analysis of the current situation and correlation of marriage and childbirth views among university students in Jilin Province

The total score of Jilin university students' concept of marriage and childbirth is 30.11±3.19, and the recognition of the concept of marital characteristics (15.28±1.77) is higher than that of the equivalence concept of marital resources (14.84±1.95). The psychological resource equivalence view (3.97±0.60) and the sexual-physical resource equivalence view (3.97±0.65) scored higher in the marriage resource dimension, indicating that students are more concerned with psychological resources and sexual-physical resources in marriage and childbirth; In the dimension of marital traits, the highest score is the view of parenting attitudes fit (4.20±0.61), which indicates that students are more concerned about whether the couple's attitudes toward parenting fit together in marriage. In the correlation analysis of the internal path of marriage and parenting, there is a significant correlation between parental parenting style, personality, and marriage and parenting concepts. As shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Correlation Analysis

	View of marriage and childbirth	Personality
Personality	0.123**	
Parenting	0.125**	0.087**

**→P<0.01; *→P<0.05

3.3 Establishment of structural equations for university students' concept of marriage and childbirth

Based on the correlation analysis, take the following paths: ① Parental parenting → personality; ② parenting → concept of marriage and childbirth; ③ personality → concept of marriage and childbirth; According to the assumptions of the structural equation model, the χ^2/df , GFI, AGFI, CFI, NFI IFI, RMSEA indicators to test the suitability, the overall fit of the model is good, the path coefficients have statistical significance, as shown in Tables 2 and 3.

Table 2 Structural equation model goodness-of-fit evaluation results

	χ^2/df	GFI	AGFI	CFI	NFI	IFI	RMSEA
Correction Model	14.043	0.962	0.932	0.934	0.930	0.934	0.073
Judgment	<5.00	>0.09	>0.09	>0.09	>0.09	>0.09	<0.08

Table 3 Estimation of the path of marriage and childbirth

	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
Parental parenting → personality	-0.020	0.010	-2.681	<0.01
parenting → concept of marriage and childbirth	0.021	0.019	3.175	<0.01
personality → concept of marriage and childbirth	0.129	0.049	5.224	<0.01

3.4 Model diagram and effect analysis

The results suggest that parenting can directly influence students' views on marriage and parenting and can further influence the formation of marriage and parenting through personality, which plays a mediating

effect in the pathway. In addition, the larger the standardized path coefficient, the greater the correlation between the two variables, so that an emotionally warm parenting style has a greater impact on marital outlook, while a neurotic, extroverted personality has a greater impact on the formation of marital outlook. As shown in Table 4 and Figure 2.

Table 4 Internal effects of the concept of marriage and childbirth

Path	Direct impact	Indirect impact	Total effect impact
Parental parenting → personality	-0.020	0	-0.020
parenting → concept of marriage and childbirth	0.021	-0.003	0.019
personality → concept of marriage and childbirth	0.129*	0	0.129*

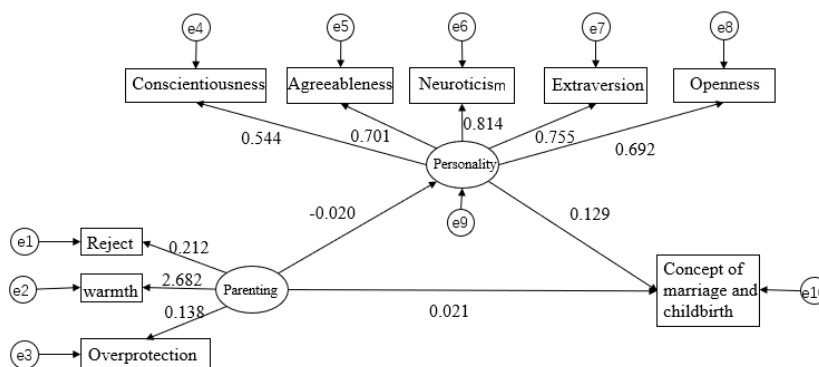


Figure 2 Structural equation model of university students' concept of marriage and childbirth

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 The current situation of marriage and childbirth concept among university students in Jilin Province

In the two aspects of the notion of marriage and childbirth, we discovered that students are more likely to agree with the concept of marital trait match than the concept of marriage resource equivalency. In terms of

marital traits of partners, students are presently more concerned about whether couples are aligned in terms of parenting, such as gender-neutral, paying attention to education, eugenics, and excellent parenting. In the dimension of marital resources, students pay more attention to whether couples have the same values in terms of psychological factors, secondly, they believe that sex plays a very important role in marital life, and whether their counterpart has the good physical quality and normal fertility cannot be ignored. The current situation of marriage and childbirth among university

students in Jilin Province may be related to these factors. In terms of fertility and parenting, the country's fertility policy and fertility culture jointly construct and influence people's concept of fertility. According to studies, as time passes, the need for the number of children and "having males" decreases, while the utilitarian demand for child utility has decreased, emotional demands grow, and more attention to the parenting and companionship of children [11]. With the development of society and the diversification of information, the channels for university students to learn scientific sexual knowledge have been expanded, and they have a more comprehensive view of sex, and sex is gradually no longer a topic to be avoided. Although sex education for students in China started later than in foreign countries, relevant courses have been gradually developed. Contemporary youth marriage attaches importance to inner match, spiritual fit, and personality and cognitive fit, which objectively increases the cost and difficulty of success in marriage [4].

4.2 Parenting positively influences the formation of university students' views on marriage and childbirth

The results indicate that parenting style has a significant positive influence on the formation of students' views on marriage and childbirth. It also has positively influenced the formation of views on marriage and childbirth through personality. Parenting is a combination of parental parenting concepts, parenting behaviors, and the emotional expression of children, which reflects the essence of parent-child interaction [5]. Studies have shown that parental care is an important influencing factor in the mental health level of university students, and the more parental care university students feel, the higher their health level [7]. A warm family environment and supportive parenting style enable children to develop a high level of self-esteem and emotional security, which leads to secure attachment and a smoother personal state in romantic and marital relationships. [12]. Parents should create a good family atmosphere for their children and run a harmonious married life, they should adopt appropriate parenting methods to provide reasonable guidance for the formation of their children's views, further guiding them to form a positive view of marriage and parenting, laying the foundation for their future partner's choice and happy married life.

4.3 Mediating Effects of Personality

We found that personality has a significant intermediary role between parental upbringing and marriage and childbirth concepts, and has an important indirect impact on the formation of university students' views on marriage and childbirth. On the one hand, path analysis revealed that parenting style had a significant negative effect on university students' personalities. The

study of Yuan G Z [1] et al. also found that the parenting style with emotional warmth was negatively correlated with worrying and nervous personality traits, there was a negative correlation between the poor parenting style of overprotectiveness and positive personality traits such as stability. On the other hand, personality has a significant positive effect on the concept of marriage and childbirth. According to the structural equation model, neuroticism and extraversion personality tendencies have a greater effect on the perception of marriage and childbirth. In the big five personalities, the neurotic personality is mainly reflected in the stability of emotions. Extroverted individuals tend to be enthusiastic, cheerful, and social. The influence of personality on marriage has been studied for nearly 70 years, [18] personality traits are the reference factors for individuals to pick a spouse in a marital relationship, individuals with varied personality traits differ in their preference for mate selection [8], which also impacts the quality of love [13]. Personality and reproductive behavior have a steady association, with different dimensions of personality tendencies having differential effects on individuals' fertility behavior [9]. It is clear that good parenting styles promote the development of positive personality traits in children, which further leads to the development of healthy marriage and parenting concepts. In order to reinforce the guidance of students' personality traits and to quickly recognize and repair unwanted personality tendencies, schools should add personality education courses to the existing education system, in addition to active parental education and student efforts.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The paper builds a structural equation model based on attachment theory, identifying the internal structure path of students' views on marriage and childbirth. The results indicate that parenting style has positively affected on students' concept of marriage and childbirth, with personality acting as a moderator. University is the stage of rapid development of love, university students falling in love has become a universal social phenomenon, students often cannot mature to face the sexual relations, which requires the joint intervention of society, schools, and families, to guide university students to establish a healthy concept of marriage and childbirth, which is not only conducive to the physical and mental health of university students but also conducive to the construction of spiritual civilization in the current era, more conducive to the harmonious development of society.

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