



The correlation between the level of urban integration of migrant workers and their accompanying children's depression

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Abstract. The purpose of this study is to study the correlation between the level of migrant workers' integration into the city and their accompanying children's depression, in order to make the public aware of the impact of migrant workers' integration into the city on their children, so as to be more concerned about accepting migrant workers. spss was used to analyze the data, and the results showed that there was no significant negative correlation between the level of integration into the city and the level of children's depression.

Keywords: migrant worker group, depression, city integration level

1 Introduction

With the acceleration of China's urbanization process and the imbalance between urban and rural development still exists, the number of migrant workers coming to cities continues to rise, and the number of children of migrant workers also increases. However, as migrant workers and their children are relatively marginalized in cities, less attention and intervention are paid to their psychological conditions, resulting in higher depression among migrant workers' children than normal [1]. This study aims to explore the correlation between the level of migrant workers' integration into cities and their children's depression, with a view to arousing the public's attention to this special group, so as to reduce the level of depression among migrant workers' children as much as possible.

For children of migrant workers who have just entered the city, due to differences in urban and rural customs, lifestyles, language and culture, values, etc., the disappearance of existing social relationships, the disintegration of existing social support networks, and the lack of new social relationships and support networks in the short term, coupled with policy barriers in the destination and subjective discrimination by urban residents, most migrant children have developed a certain degree of psychological and behavioral problems. In recent years, most research on migrant children in large and medium-sized cities in China has shown that their overall mental health status is not optimistic, and their mental health level is significantly lower than that of local urban children. Research has found that the incidence of various psychological

and behavioral problems among children of migrant workers is higher than that of local children. [3] They lack confidence in life and learning, have low self-esteem, sensitivity, poor peer communication skills, and are depressed and anxious. Research results indicate that in recent years, crimes committed by children of migrant workers have been on the rise year by year.

At present, the explanation for the higher depression level of migrant workers' children is mainly explained from the children's self-efficacy and social status. But for children at this age, their parents' influence on them is the most important. At present, there is no domestic research on the combination of parents' integration into the city level and children's depression level.

Depressive mood refers to the persistent negative emotional state that does not meet the clinical diagnostic criteria of depression, which may be further aggravated and eventually evolve into depression. [2]. Long-term depression can also have a significant impact on adolescents' study and life, including difficulty in making decisions and easy distraction. [3] Studies have shown that depression is not rare among normal adolescents, but long-term depression only accounts for 2%-24% of depression, and this figure may be even greater in the children of migrant workers. [4].

Some studies have shown that family economic pressure can increase parents' emotional or behavioral problems, and negatively affect teenagers' emotions or behaviors by influencing parents' parenting behaviors, thereby increasing children's depressive mood level. [5] There are also studies that believe that parents of adolescents with poor family economic foundation are less involved in their children's lives, and their children have less resources and parenting styles, so these adolescents have more prominent emotional or behavioral problems.[5]

The economic status of migrant workers' parents leads to a low level of urban integration for these families. According to the social integration theory related to urban integration, social integration is a process of mutual cooperation and adaptation between different individuals, groups or cultures [6]However, due to the imperfect social security, welfare benefits and other mechanisms of migrant workers, they are likely to be at a disadvantage in terms of social support and social resource allocation. This difference between acquired and deserved resources will have a negative impact on individuals, and this difference will have a negative impact on disadvantaged adolescents [7]. Moreover, the lack of social support could not exert its buffer effect on the impact of negative stressors on individual psychology [8]. Since migrant workers and their children were in a relatively marginal position, they had less social support. When adolescents are unable to make full use of social support to cope with stressful life events, they tend to adopt negative coping styles and experience more depression. [9]. Based on the above discussion, the hypothesis of this study is that the level of migrant workers' integration into the city is negatively correlated with their children's depression.

2 Research methods

2.1 participants

Select the migrant workers who are not registered at the work site and bring their children with them. 96 workers working in first-tier cities (Xiamen, Fuzhou) and 99 in third-tier cities (Quanzhou).

2.2 Research Tools

Urban integration level of migrant workers: The UPISMW for Migrant workers compiled by Li Haibo et al. [10] was adopted. The scale consisted of nine items, including three factors of identity, social identity and social perception, and each factor was measured with three questions. The five-point scale was adopted, with 1 point for "totally disagree" and 5 points for "fully agree". The higher the score, the higher the level of integration into the city. In this study, the correlation coefficients between the scores of each item and the total score were all higher than the critical value, the average content validity was 0.96, and the internal consistency reliability was high.

Depressive mood questionnaire.

Depressive mood level: The self-report scale KADS-11, provided by Professor Stanley Kutcher of Dalhousie University in Canada and authorized to be translated into Chinese for use in China, was adopted. KADS-11 consists of 11 items, each describing the core symptoms of depressive mood, with a score of 0 to 3 according to the frequency of symptoms, 0 (almost none), 1 (most of the time), 2 (most of the time), and 3 (all of the time). The total score is the sum of the scores of each item, and the higher the score, the higher the level of depression of the participant. The Cronbach's coefficient of the scale was 0.84. The Pearson correlation coefficient between each item and the total score was between 0.48 and 0.71 ($P < 0.01$). [11]

2.3 Program

The questionnaire should be sent on site, and the content of the questions should be explained clearly with the participants in advance. After the migrant workers have answered the questions, they should come out of the test room and ask the children of the migrant workers to enter the depression level scale. After the answer, the scales of migrant workers and their children were bound together, and then entered into the computer for analysis.

3 Results

3.1 Preliminary analysis

A total of 213 valid questionnaires were collected, with 195 remaining after removing extreme values and omissions, including 112 male and 83 female. The average age of

migrant workers was 35.3 years old, and the average age of accompanying children was 12.1 years old. The detailed analysis is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Characteristics of the participants

	Average value	Standard deviation
Workers	35.32	2.79
Accompanying children	12.07	1.43

3.2 Correlation analysis

Estimate Pearson product difference correlation coefficients between all study variables used in this study. The results obtained are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics

	Mean value	Standard Deviation
Blend into city level	34.58	2.79
Depressed mood level	2.03	1.45

Table 3. Bivariate correlation

		the level of urban integration	Depressed mood level
the level of urban integration	pearson correlation	1	-0.38
	Significance (bilateral)		.00
	N	195	195
Depressed mood level	pearson correlation	-0.38	1
	Significance (bilateral)	.00	
	N	195	195

Correlation analysis showed that lower levels of urban inclusion were positively correlated with lower levels of depressive mood, but the correlation was not significant. ($p>0.01$)

4 Discuss

Previous research has confirmed that lower levels of urban inclusion are significantly positively associated with higher levels of depressive mood. [12] This is inconsistent with the results of this study. Correlation analysis showed that a lower level of urban integration was positively correlated with a higher level of depression, but the correlation was not significant. In response to this result, a hypothesis was proposed. One possibility is that the level of inclusion caused the parents' depression to rise, but had little effect on the children.

Since the children in this study were all preteens and the age span was small, it is possible that parents did not express their depression as much, leading to less mediation of depression from parent to child.[13]

Another possibility is that the children of migrant workers have different levels of urban integration than their parents. Because the children of migrant workers are younger, their contact is limited to schools rather than the society that migrant workers come into contact with. Different contact areas lead to different integration levels. In school, the influence of urban integration level on migrant workers' children is mainly due to the unsatisfactory peer relationship and poor adaptability to the city. [14] Among migrant workers, the urban integration level is mainly reflected in the economic level and the use of infrastructure. [15]

It is also possible that because the scale used to measure the level of depression in this study is a scale used in clinical depression, the measurement is inaccurate. Participants with higher levels of depression, but not yet meeting clinical criteria for depression, were difficult to distinguish from those with low levels of depression in the measurement, leading to insignificant results.

The limitation of this study is that the sample size is too small, which may not be able to generalize the research results to a larger scale. Meanwhile, the participants were all from developed coastal provinces. Although the experiment collected data from cities with different levels of development, it may still make the results less universal. At the same time, since the depression level of migrant workers has not been measured, it is difficult to determine whether the depression level of children is affected by the depression level of parents, and irrelevant variables have not been excluded.

5 Conclusion

The level of migrant workers' integration into the city is positively correlated with the depression level of their accompanying children, but it is not significant. ($p < 0.05$, $p > 0.01$) The results differ from the expectations of this study, but can be explained by the parent-child transmission of depression levels and the different social environments in which parents and children live.

In the future, we should exclude the influence of irrelevant variables to study the relationship between the integration level of migrant workers in cities and the depression level of their accompanying children. You can set gender, whether the only child, academic performance and so on as covariates.

In conclusion, in order to avoid the continuous rise of depression in children accompanying migrant workers, we should pay more attention to the psychological status of migrant workers. While providing migrant workers with the necessary daily necessities, they should also pay more attention to their mental health and the cultivation of a sense of belonging and a sense of security.

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