

Family Structure and Children's Wellbeing

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to examine the relationship between children's wellbeing and family structure. The participants in this study were 359 sixth-grade students of Chiayi County Elementary, and the purpose sampling and quota sampling were conducted. The research data were collected through questionnaires, and descriptive analysis, principal component analysis and multiple regression analysis were employed for analysis in order to test the hypothesis. The main research results obtained are as follows:

1. Family with marital couple owns sufficient economic resources, parents with healthy mental usually spend more time to accompany and take care of children, therefore the children's life satisfaction was significantly higher than non-marital family.
2. Most parents who pay more attention to child care are willing to spend more time on taking care of children than participating in children's learning and leisure activities.
3. There is no significant relationship between the tangible economic resources/living environment and children's wellbeing, but the children's wellbeing is usually affected by family structure through intangible social resources, such as marriage relationship, parenting style, interpersonal relationship, parenting quality, mental health, and companionship. Besides, there is some interaction between tangible economic resources and intangible social

resources.

4. Children's wellbeing is significantly influenced by parent's mental health and accompany. In other words, the healthier mental the parents own, the more positive emotion they convey to children; the more accompany time the parents spend, the stronger emotional supports they will provide. Consequently, children will have more happy lives.

Based on the research results, we have made several suggestions regarding the family education and school education, in order to provide further references for children's wellbeing enhancement program.

Keywords : Children's wellbeing, Family structure, Economic resources, Life Satisfaction , Social resources.