

The Situation and Needs of the Parentified Children in the Needy Families in Taiwan

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Abstract

During the child development, the function of the family consists of the financial support, protection and education. However, when their parents might be busy at work, irresponsible for rearing children or having severe illness or disability, those parentified children will need to take the roles of parents and the responsibility. Those children are playing roles reversal acting as a parent in the family. It is also known as parentification and those children are called parentified children. Therefore, we should pay a closed attention to those children for what they have suffered, the impact on roles reversal and their needs.

In order to better understand the current situation and the needs of the parentified children in the poor families, we have interviewed 11 our supported children in this study for more details. Through the survey, it will help us more realize their actually needs of 504children.

There are two research findings: in taking care of roles and work situations, the daily duties of children in the housework are the most frequently assumed roles and work for children, followed by the role of sibling carers. It is recommended that the government provide the family cares in addition to the daily domestic work assistance, in the academic counseling and Supporting and counseling in the behavioral management of young brothers or sisters can reduce the burden on the parentified children.

The parentified children will accumulate a lot of negative emotions. They need psychological counseling services. The parentified children also face problems interpersonal relationship and academic studies, suggesting provide the tutoring , increased interpersonal skills and increased opportunities for interpersonal interaction.

Keywords: Poor family, Parentified children, Housework loading, Need