
NEWSLETTER

The Impact of the Household Educational Burden on Family Well-being

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AMID INTENSIFYING SOCIAL COMPETITION, household human capital investment has gradually become a heavy burden for the families, which instigates widespread educational anxiety. Educational involution not only hinders the overall improvement of educational quality but is also detrimental to students' physical and mental health. The household educational burden is a pronounced issue in the implementation of the Double Reduction policy. Based on data from the China Family Panel Studies 2010-2020, this study empirically investigates the impact of the household educational burden on family well-being using an Overlapping Generations model.

Research Findings:

- An increase in the household educational expenditure substantially reduced family well-being, and this suppressive effect was more significant in those regions with intense academic competition or low investment in educational resources.
- A rise in out-of-school tutoring expenses as a form of household educational expenditure had a significantly negative effect on family well-being, whereas home expenditure on normal in-school education had no such adverse effect.
- According to the analysis results of the influencing mechanism, the household educational burden reduces family well-being by creating inordinately high educational expectations in the parents, increasing intergenerational conflicts, and impairing the child's physical and mental health.

Policy Implications:

- i. The government should promote the provision of low-cost educational resources, such as lectures, tutoring programs, and research activities, by communities and public organizations to ensure that children and adolescents have access to adequate educational opportunities. Additionally, it should offer educational subsidies to families, particularly low-income households, to alleviate education-related financial burdens on them.

ii. It is important for the local educational authorities to strengthen the regulation of off-campus tutoring institutions, including establishing fee charging standards for training services, encourage non-profit organizations to participate in the off-campus tutoring market, and improve on-campus after-school services to reduce the family's reliance on off-campus training programs.

iii. The government needs to increase investment in compulsory education to enhance the teaching quality of schools, particularly in under-served regions, so as to narrow inter-school gaps and alleviate the pressure of competition associated with school choice.

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