
NEWSLETTER

Maternal Occupation Status, Child Educational Attainment and Gender Differences: An Empirical Study Based on the Data from the Chinese General Social Survey

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NOWADAYS, Chinese women have made considerable progress in their career development. How mothers' career advancement affects offspring education and gender differences in child education is an important issue in the research on gender equality in education. Based on CGSS2015 data, this study used regression analysis with instrumental variables to investigate the effects of maternal occupation status on child educational attainment and gender differences. The robustness test was subsequently carried out by re-screening the samples and changing the measurement methods of child educational levels. The heterogeneity effect of maternal occupation status on the gender difference in educational attainment was examined according to distinct family social classes and varying educational levels of parents.

The results of the study:

- Maternal occupation status significantly promotes child education, and the improved maternal occupation status enhances mothers' power in family decision-making, more likely to increase family input in child education.
- Maternal occupation status can significantly and negatively moderate the gender gap in offspring educational attainment; that is, the higher the mother's occupational status, the more equal the educational opportunity of male and female offspring in the family.
- Heterogeneity analysis shows that the impact of maternal occupation status on gender gap in child educational attainment only exists in the family group with relatively higher parental education levels and higher family status, and that the impact is not significant among families from lower social classes and with lower levels of parental education.

To conclude, the advancement of the maternal occupation status in the family has a significant effect on the improvement of the overall educational

level of children and can effectively reduce gender differences in child educational achievements. Therefore, the mother's career advancement is of great significance to family educational reproduction and woman educational opportunity. The improvement of woman labor market status is conducive to the accumulation of offspring educational capital and the reduction of gender inequality in child education. Public policy makers should take this variable into account and formulate pertinent policy measures to support woman career advancement to promote equity in education.

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