
NEWSLETTER

The Impact of Parents' Marital Quality on Children's Prosocial Behavior

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PUBLISHED in *Psychological Development and Education*, the study attempts to explore the relation between children's prosocial behavior and parents' marital quality, emotional expression, and parenting behavior. The research uses the couples' adaptation scale, parental emotional expression scale, parenting behavior scale and strength scale to investigate 442 parents of school-age children in grades 1-6 from two schools in a city in Guizhou Province. The findings are shown as follows.

- Parents' marriage quality is significantly and positively correlated with children's prosocial behavior. However, the direct relation between parents' marriage quality and children's prosocial behavior is not significant when mediating variables included, which indicates that the relation may not be independent and needs to be moderated by other conditions.
- Parents' positive emotional expression and parental acceptance and company play intermediary roles between parents' marriage quality and the children's prosocial behavior, through three intermediary paths: the independent mediation of parental positive emotional expression, the independent mediation of parental company and acceptance, and the chain mediation of parents' positive emotional expression- parental company and acceptance.
- There are gender differences in the chain mediation of parents' positive emotional expression- parental acceptance and company. The mediation of parents' positive emotional expression works among both boys and girls, with a greater effect for the group of girls, whereas the mediation of parental acceptance and companion only works for the boy group, which may stem from the differences in children's personal factors and parenting behavior.

The study also proposes several suggestions: First, parents should adopt constructive strategies to improve the quality of their marriage and increase intimacy. Second, they are supposed to develop a disposition of positive emotional expression at home and provide emotional behavior para-

digms such as love, reciprocity, and cooperation for family members in order to cultivate children's prosocial motivations and behaviors. Third, they should exert both rigorousness and tolerance in parenting behavior to help children learn rules and regulations, develop empathy, build interpersonal trust, and show more prosocial behavior. Finally, parents should keep pace with the times, learn more scientific gender education knowledge, and improve their personality and gender education skills.

Source: Psychological Development and Education, 2022; 2022(3):1-8.