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NEWSLETTER

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## **The Impact of Parent-Child Separation on Students' Social and Emotional Skills: The Mediating Effect of Parent-child Interaction and the Moderating Effect of Home-school Collaboration**

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**S**Ocial and emotional skills are essential to individuals' goal achievement, collaboration with others, and emotion regulation. Developing social and emotional ability in students is a meaningful practice to improve the quality of education and promote student holistic development as well as an active reaction to social changes.

The parental "absence" induced by parent-child separation can significantly influence child growth, particularly child social and emotional development. This study utilized the data from the OECD's Survey of Social and Emotional Skills (SSES) in China to analyze the mediating effect of parent-child interaction and moderating effect of home-school collaboration on the impact of parent-child separation on students' social and emotional skills. Research findings included:

- i. Parent-child separation significantly and adversely affected child social and emotional development by reducing parent-child interaction, which verified the mediating path of "parent-child separation - parent-child interaction - children's social and emotional skills."
- ii. High-quality home-school collaboration could positively moderate the above mediating effect, thus mitigating the negative impact of parent-child separation on student social and emotional development to certain extent.

The article proposed suggestions as follows:

- Parent-child separation does not necessarily mean the absence of parental instruction. Parents should increase parent-child interaction and home-school collaboration to alleviate its negative effect.
- Teachers should offer students more emotional support and provide parents with more guidance on home education to offset the negative impact of emotional deficiency caused by parent-child separation.
- Schools should improve the environment of home-school partnership to support student social and emotional development.

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