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NEWSLETTER

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## **Parent-Child Interaction, Parental Academic Support, and Juvenile Deviance: An Empirical Analysis Based on Data from the China Education Panel Survey**

*By Dou, Y., Zhang, H., & Zhang, M.*

*Correspondence to: Meng Zhang, People's Public Security University of China, China. E-mail: [editorial-office@bonoi.org](mailto:editorial-office@bonoi.org)*

**T**HE HOME is the first social setting for a child. Recent years have seen extensive research on the relationship between family influences and child deviant behavior. Nevertheless, how the two proximal family factors, parent-child interaction and parental academic support, influence juvenile deviance remains unclear. Using panel data from the China Education Panel Survey (CEPS) 2014–2015, this study seeks to explore the specific mechanisms by which parent-child interaction and parental academic support influence juvenile deviance.

### Research Findings:

- Positive parent-child interaction means increased parental care and strengthened family emotional bonds, which help alleviate negative emotions such as anxiety, depression, and stress in minors. This, in turn, can encourage them to focus more on legitimate activities and largely diminish the need for seeking emotional support and satisfaction from delinquent peers, thereby reducing the opportunities of engaging in deviant activity. However, the frequency of parent-child interaction is not directly linked to the minor's deviant behavior; rather, it is their emotional state that matters the most in the regulation of their acts.
- The increase in parental academic support can result in enhanced awareness of prime objectives in the schooling stage in minors, and consequently, they will become more devoted to legitimate activities, such as learning, academic life planning, voluntary efforts, and more. On the other hand, excessive emphasis on schoolwork from parents may bring unnecessary mental pressures to minors, resulting in unwanted consequences.
- Concentration willingness, deriving from the individual's desire for social recognition of their success, plays a significant role in preventing their engagement with deviant peers and their own deviant behavior.

- Minors' deviant behavior is the result of multiple factors, among which, peer deviance is the most pronounced one.

Suggestions:

- In home lives, it is important for parents to help their children develop knowledge of personal emotions and act as role models in emotional regulation. It is their responsibility to aid the latter in combating negative emotions.
- Parents should adopt a balanced approach to academic support for children and be mindful of the harms of the “tiger-mom” style of home education.
- In providing academic support to their children, parents should focus on cultivate their concentration willingness, encouraging in them the heartfelt pursuit of meaningful life goals.
- Communities, schools, and families should collaborate to create a healthy peer interaction environment for minors and do everything possible to halt their communication with delinquent peers.

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