

# Study on College Students' Acceptance of Their Parents Having A Second Child and Their Money View

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**Abstract:** A questionnaire survey was conducted on 432 college students using the Scale of College Students' Money Views and the Questionnaire on College Students' Acceptance of Their Parents Having a Second Child. It was found that there are significant differences in gender, whether they are an only child and grade in college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child; there are gender and grade differences in college students' money view; the simple correlation between college students' acceptance of parents having a second child and their money view reaches a significant level, but the partial correlation is not significant. The conclusion is: among college students, boys, non-only children, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are more accepting of their parents having a second child.

**Keywords:** College students, Acceptance, Money view.

## 1. Introduction

At the end of 2015, the communiqué of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee pointed out that the basic national policy of family planning should be adhered to and the policy that a couple can have two children (referred to as the "comprehensive two-child" policy) should be fully implemented. The implementation of the "universal two-child" policy immediately aroused keen attention from society. At the same time, negative messages frequently appeared in public opinion and news reports about some only children threatening their parents with suicide in order to resist the birth of a second child, and forcing parents to sign agreements to protect their rights and interests. The relationship between the only child and the second child has attracted attention from all parties. Since China implemented its family planning policy, many experts and scholars have conducted a large number of studies on only children. Nowadays, the eldest child in many families who have two or more children has entered college. After losing their status as only children, what is their attitude towards their parents having a second child? Have they accepted a younger brother or sister who is older than them? Their mental state is worthy of attention.

In psychology, acceptance is manifested as the subject accepting the object's attitude and behavior, and the subject being able to empathically experience the object's thoughts and feelings, and understand the object's words and deeds, rather than being blindly stubborn or being swayed by negative emotions. [1]

Some children will consider the damage to their material interests (such as reduced property inheritance) when their parents have a second child, which reflects the child's attitude towards material wealth (mainly money). The money attitude is a localized concept. Most Chinese scholars believe that the money view is the understanding and attitude of money. Some scholars have also discussed the relationship between the outlook on money and the world outlook, values, and outlook on life. They believe that the money view mainly refers to people's understanding, attitudes and opinions about money, and it is closely connected with a person's outlook on life and

values [2]. In the investigation and research on "whether to support the birth of a second child" and the reasons for the gender preference of the second child, it was found that many only children show excessive emphasis on material interests when faced with the issue of having a second child. At the same time, their attitude of money also affects their judgment and orientation towards various values in society, which can easily lead to deviations in their values [3]. It can be seen that a healthy view of money provides a sense of security and self-efficacy, allowing people to participate with confidence and competence in other social situations, which makes it easy for positive acceptance to occur.

In summary, it can be seen that the two variables of acceptance and money view are closely related. This study explored the first child's acceptance of the second child from the perspective of money, summarize the causes, and propose corresponding educational countermeasures.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Respondents

432 college students were taken as the survey subjects, and the distribution of respondents is shown in Table 1.

### 2.2. Material

#### 2.2.1. Questionnaire on College Students' Acceptance of Parents Having A Second Child

The researchers compiled 6 items to investigate college students' acceptance of parents having a second child. Item 1: "Do you support your parents to have a second child?" Item 2: "Are you willing to help your parents take care of your younger brother or sister?" Item 3: "If the parents die unexpectedly, are you willing to be the guardian or caregiver of your younger brother or sister?" Item 4: "Do you think your parents had a second child so that they could have more people to accompany you?" Item 5: "Do you agree that more children means more happiness?" Item 6: "Do you think your younger siblings can help you support your parents in the future?" A 5-point Likert scale is used, the higher the score, the higher the degree of acceptance. Cronbach's Alpha of this

questionnaire is 0.862.

**Table 1.** Distribution of 432 College Students Surveyed

	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	84	19.4%
	Female	348	80.6%
Only child or not	Yes	171	39.6%
	No	261	60.4%
Grade	freshmen	71	16.44%
	sophomores	97	22.45%
	juniors	99	22.92%
	165 seniors	165	38.19%

### 2.2.2. The Scale of College Students' Money View

The Scale of College Students' Money View compiled by Xie Chao, Zhang Dajun and others was used, including two dimensions: money values and money behavior views. There are 35 items in the questionnaire, 10 of which are reverse scored, using a 5-point scale. The higher the score, the more the respondent values money. This questionnaire has been proven to have good reliability and validity[4][5].

### 2.3. Testing method

In November 2022, a total of 432 pieces of data from college students were collected using the "questionnaire Star" and "Love Experimental" online platform.

### 2.4. Data statistics

SPSS26.0 was used to conduct descriptive statistics, independent sample T test, variance analysis and correlation analysis on the data.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Current status of college students' acceptance of parents having a second child

Descriptive statistics were made on the results of the six items in the questionnaire. The results are shown in Table 2 and Table 3.

**Table 2.** College Students' Acceptance of Parents Having a Second Child (n=432)

	Strongly Disagree Frequency/Percentage	relatively Disagree Frequency/Percentage	Uncertain Frequency/Percentage	Somewhat Agree Frequency/Percentage	Totally Agree Frequency/Percentage
Item1	50/11.6%	86/19.9%	139/32.2%	78/18.1%	79/18.3%
Item2	79/18.3%	101/23.4%	64/14.8%	109/25.2%	79/18.3%
Item3	45/10.4%	66/15.3%	58/13.4%	146/33.8%	117/27.1%
Item4	87/20.1%	82/19.0%	106/24.5%	117/27.1%	40/9.3%
Item5	142/32.9%	116/26.9%	84/19.4%	71/16.4%	19/4.4%
Item6	25/5.8%	33/7.6%	93/21.5%	181/41.9%	100/23.1%

**Table 3.** Statistics of College Students' Acceptance of Parents Having a Second Child (n=432)

	Item1	Item2	Item3	Item4	Item5	Item6	Meam
Mean	3.12	3.02	3.52	2.86	2.33	3.69	3.0887
SD	1.251	1.398	1.314	1.273	1.214	1.086	0.96829

### 3.2. Differences in acceptance of parents having a second child and their views on money among college students of different genders

Comparing the gender differences in college students' acceptance of parents having a second child and their views on money, it was found that among college students, boys'

acceptance of their parents having a second child and their views on money are significantly higher than that of women ( $p < 0.001$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).

### 3.3. Differences in the acceptance of parents having a second child and their views on money between only children and non-only children

**Table 4.** Gender Differences in College Students' Acceptance of Parents Having a Second Child and Their Money View

Variables	Gender	Mean	SD	t	sig
Acceptance	Male	21.262	5.054	4.925	0.000
	Female	17.874	5.794		
Money view	Male	117.941	16.405	3.496	0.000
	Female	111.201	13.340		

**Table 5.** Differences in College Students' Acceptance of Their Parents Having A Second Child and Their Views on Money Depending on Whether They Are An Only Child or Not

Variables	Only child or not	M	SD	t 值	sig
Acceptance	Only child	17.467	5.940	- 3.114	0.002
	Non-only child	19.229	5.626		
Money view	Only child	113.725	14.860	1.437	0.151
	Non-only chil	111.717	13.757		

It can be seen from Table 5 that there is no significant difference in the money view of only children (whose parents have not given birth to a second child) and non-only children (whose parents have given birth to a second child) ( $p>0.05$ ); only children are less accepting of second children than non-only children ( $p<0.01$ ).

### 3.4. Differences in acceptance of parents having a second child and their views on money among college students of different grades

**Table 6.** Variance analysis of college students' acceptance of their parents' second child and their views on money by grade

Variables	Grades	M	SD	F	Sig
Acceptance	Freshman	19.310	5.615	6.536	0.000
	Sophomore	19.660	5.271		
	Junior	19.434	5.875		
	Senior	16.994	5.871		
Money view	Freshman	108.183	15.961	3.224	0.023
	Sophomore	111.804	13.501		
	Junior	114.212	14.049		
	Senior	113.770	13.651		

There are significant grade differences in college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child and their views on money. After post hoc multiple comparisons, the acceptance score of senior students was significantly lower than that of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors; the money view of freshman students was significantly lower than that of juniors and seniors. There were no significant differences

between other grades.

### 3.5. The relationship between college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child and their money view

**Table 7.** Simple Correlation between College Students' Acceptance of Their Parents Having A Second Child and Their Money View

	Money View	Money values	Money behavior view
Acceptance	-0.177**	-0.084	- 0.245**

\*\*means  $P<0.01$

It can be seen from Table 7 that college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child is significantly negatively correlated with their money view and money behavior view, but the correlation between acceptance and money values is not significant.

Since grade and gender both affect college students'

acceptance of their parents having a second child and their money view, partial correlation analysis was used to calculate the relationship between college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child and their money view. The results are shown in Table 8.

**Table 8.** Partial Correlation between College Students' Acceptance of Their Parents Having A Second Child and Their Money View

control variables	Money View	Money Values	Meney behavior view
Grades&Gender	Acceptance	-0.213	- 0.288

It can be seen from Table 8 that although college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child is negatively correlated with their money view, neither of them has reached a significant level.

## 4. Discussion and Suggestions

The average score of college students' acceptance of parents having a second child (3.089) is slightly higher than "not sure " (3 points) on the 5-point scale set in the questionnaire. At the same time, the average score of the

item "Do you think your parents had a second child so that they could have more people to accompany you?" was 2.86, and the average score of "Do you agree that more children means more happiness?" was only 2.33, indicating that college students have a negative attitude toward their parents having a second child. College students have left home to study alone, their life centers have changed, and their cognition has gradually matured. They have realized that their younger siblings cannot accompany them. The cost of raising children is very high, and having a second child will bring a heavy burden to parents, so nowadays young people may not necessarily agree with the traditional concept of "more children, more happiness".

Among college students, boys are significantly more accepting of their parents having a second child than girls. Many parents in China still favor boys over girls. Parents who gave birth to a girl in their first child are more likely to have a second child in the hope of giving birth to a boy. After having a younger brother, girls are more likely to receive fewer resources and love from their parents. The reason why female college students are more reluctant to let their parents have a second child may be related to their concerns in this factor. There are gender differences in college students' views on money, with men significantly higher than women. Chinese men are often required to become the breadwinner of the family and assume more responsibilities, so men must have successful careers and obtain money through more ways. The financial pressure on women is less than that on men. At the same time, parents often give girls less pocket money than boys [6], so boys have more opportunities to freely spend money than girls. Affected by factors such as traditional gender roles and differences in economic status between men and women, male college students have a richer understanding of the value of money.

Non-only children are more accepting of their parents having a second child than only children. This result shows that when the second child is really born and the first child has become a non-only child, the degree of rejection of the second child will decrease. No matter what the attitude was before, when the younger brothers and sisters appear in front of them, the family relationship will gradually deepen and the degree of acceptance will naturally increase. There is no difference in the money view between only children and non-only children. In recent years, China's economic development has been relatively high, and the income of residents has increased significantly. The younger siblings are still young and have not seriously reduced the living standards of the first child. Therefore, college students' money view has not changed due to their younger siblings.

Comparing the acceptance of their parents having a second child and money views of college students in different grades, it was found that the average acceptance score of senior students was significantly lower than that of the other three grades. This is the same as the research results of Guo Liping [7], the older the students, the less they accept the second child. The possible reason is that senior students are about to enter the society, and the pressure to make money and survive comes one after another. Their parents are no longer young. If they have a second child, seniors will also have to bear part of the responsibility of raising the second child in the future. Therefore, senior students are less accepting of second children than the other three grades. The score of money view of freshmen students is significantly lower than that of junior and senior students, and there is no significant difference

between other grades. Freshman students pay less attention to money. The possible reason is that freshmen have less time to control money alone. They are still some time away from graduation and becoming financially independent, and they are more focused on their studies. Therefore, their needs for money are relatively simple and they pay less attention to money. Juniors and seniors have gradually come into contact with society and realized the importance of money. Their social activities have increased and they spend more, so they pay more attention to money.

A simple correlation between college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child and their money view shows that there is a significant negative correlation between the two. Partial correlation analysis showed that after controlling for gender and grade variables, there was still a negative correlation between college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child and their money view, but it did not reach a significant level. This result overturned our previous hypothesis. Although it can be inferred from a simple correlation that college students who pay more attention to financial interests are less willing for their parents to have a second child, because the arrival of the second child will share the material interests of the first child, but there are many factors that influence fertility issues. When facing a second child, people need to consider not only material interests, but also other complex factors, such as family ties, traditional cultural concepts, etc.

In order to improve adolescents' acceptance of their parents having a second child, based on the research results, we make the following suggestions:

First: At the social level, further publicize the idea of equality between men and women, improve the social status of girls, and reduce parents' preference for boys over girls. In reality, parents whose first child is a girl are more likely to have a second child. Because of the existence of this traditional thought, girls are more worried that their parents will reduce their love and resources after raising a second child. This worry brings pressure to girls, so they will be more resistant to the arrival of younger brothers or sisters.

Second, while reducing childcare costs, improve social security. In the study, we found that senior students are less accepting of their parents having a second child. Senior students are faced with employment and various financial problems after graduation, and they prefer their parents to give them all resources. Our country's social security system is still in the process of improvement, and supporting the elderly and raising children mainly relies on family members. If parents give birth to a second child at an older age, not only will the resources that the first child can enjoy be taken away, but when the parents grow very old, the first child will not only have to support their parents, but also help their parents raise the second child. This will put huge financial pressure on them.

## 5. Conclusion

Among college students, boys, non-only children, freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are more likely to accept parents having a second child. The simple negative correlation between college students' acceptance of their parents having a second child and their money view is significant. After controlling for gender and grade variables, their partial correlation does not reach a significant level.

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