

Effects of poverty on mental health of school-aged children: the mediating role of social capital

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1. Aim

According to a report released by World Bank in October 2013, the number of people living in extreme poverty around the world has sharply declined over the past three decades, but in 2010 it still influenced roughly 400 million children, which is account for one-third of those living in such abysmal conditions. Child poverty is a worldwide problem, and well-documented researches have been conducted on it. The adverse effects of poverty on a young child's development have been well documented, including negative educational and cognitive outcomes, social and emotional behavior problem, poor economic outcomes as adults, and poor health outcomes .Besides the effect research of poverty on children's mental health, the research focus has been shifted to the relationship between poverty and children's mental health. Some researchers gradually paid more attention to the process that poverty could make influence on children's mental health. This research aims at detecting the effects of poverty on mental health of school-aged children in China, and also discuss the mediating role of social capital.

2. Data & Methods

Under the guidance of post-positivism research paradigm, this study plans to apply quantitative method to validate the theoretical model and answer questions that proposed by it. Cross-sectional survey and questionnaire methods are adopted to collect related data. The sampling method is through questionnaire and the sample is extracted with the method of multi-stage cluster random sampling. 1314 questionnaires of school-aged children have been collected in this research. This study adopts SPSS21 and Amos21 statistical analysis software for data processing.

3. Results

After analyzing, the result of this study are as follows: first, there is a significant effect of poverty on school-aged children's mental health in China. Second, the integrated social capital could affect children's mental health. The family social capital and peer social capital can influence the mental health of school-aged children, while the school social capital and community social capital have non-significant effects on school-aged children's mental health. Third, in terms of the influence of poverty on children's mental health, the integrated social capital really plays the mediating role between poverty and mental health. The family social capital and peer social capital can be the