

Abstract

Intergenerational transmission of parental goals and beliefs, parenting styles and parenting practices across generations were examined in the present study. The effects of parental goals and beliefs, and the educational level as determinants of parenting were also investigated. Data were collected by self-reports of pairs of mothers and grandmothers. Results indicated a number of intergenerational correlations among parental goals and beliefs, parenting styles and practices. Most of the parental goals and beliefs were found to correlate with parenting styles and/or practices, and the magnitudes of correlations tended to be somewhat larger among parenting styles than among parenting practices. Educational levels can be used to predict the parenting of grandmothers but not mothers. Comparisons between generations showed a high degree of commonality in some aspects of parenting, which indicated that continuity with the past still remains strong. This is a pioneering study on the intergenerational transmission of parenting in a Chinese context, that maintained a clear distinction between parental goals and beliefs, parenting styles and parenting practices. This study has shown the relations between them using mostly indigenous-to-Chinese measuring instruments.