

Abstract

By adopting a qualitative method among 5 Chinese parents, this study explores specific challenges and the following parenting behaviors taken by parents in contemporary Mainland China. In the context of a rapid changing society with deeply rooted Confucianism cultural tradition, the participants worry about their children's disobedience, character cultivation and the conflicts among family members while perceiving their own solutions as inefficient because of their lack of parenting knowledge and skills. They tend to attribute the problems in parent-child interaction as external, such as their own parenting behaviors and the current socio-cultural environment. Added to this, further analysis of the results shows parents' motivation and expectation of seeking professional help. Practical parenting knowledge and skills which are compatible with the situation in contemporary China are needed. The situation of a society with inadequate social support to the unexperienced parents should be modified. The situation where our society seriously lacks in bolstering and providing consultation for the unexperienced parents, should be modified and promoted.

Keywords: parents in Mainland China, parenting challenges, parenting behaviors, seeking professional help