

## **Abstract**

### **The Process of Balancing Career and Parenting Role in Housework by Chinese Post-80s: Through Examples from Shandong Providence**

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, China has experienced a planned economic system for about 30 years and then adapted market economy for the following 40 years. During this period, enormous changes have taken place in the economic system, policy structure and social character. The relationship between the state, the family, and the individual were also in flux. The change of families in China was deeply influenced by national policies. These policy transformations, as changing from "unit" society in the planned economy period to the community development after the reform and open up policy, as well as the implementation and end of the one-child policy, had also affected people's family composition, generational relationship, and family consciousness.

In this regard, this dissertation aims at the "80s", who was born and grown up when one-child policy and the reform and opening up policy were implemented and were considered "Little Emperor" by the society. By comparing with the "70s" family, this dissertation focuses on the 80s family through the study of their work, housework, parenting issues, the adjustments between husband and wife, parents and kids, which, was also a microcosm of China's modern society.

So far, there are a large number of researches on family changes focused on all families in China. Through these studies, we understand that Chinese families have diverse forms and have gone through significant changes. In this study, the new trend of Chinese family changes was discovered through the comparison of the 80s and 70s families. In addition, this study paid more attention to gender discrimination, particularly to men in family studies. Therefore, in this study, the interaction between the wife and the husband was discussed. Moreover, in present-day China, where the market economy is developing, along with the advocacy of "female-male-equality" trend by the state and the fade of collectivism, individuals became more personalized. In this study, combined with the aforesaid social background, we viewed the Chinese families from a gender perspective. This study sets the following research objectives:

- 1) Between liberal and conservative gender norms, how did the 80s perform economic, housework and parenting roles?
- 2) In the process of implementation and adjustment, how to adjust and justify the interactive relationship between others. Specifically, this study focused on the executive process of economic, housework and parenting role when the 80s experienced the "transferring to parents". And also focused on that how did each role was given meaning and how to clarify its characteristics compared to its 70s counterparts.

This dissertation consists of the prologue and seven chapters. The first chapter discusses the changes in Chinese families over the period. The second chapter firstly proposed the definition of the 80s and the 70s. And also discussed the changes in the social structure during China's reform and open up policy, and the balance between work, housework, and parenting. Meanwhile, by summarizing the research on the family of the 80s and the family changes in China, this chapter confirmed the position of the current study in the 80s study and the family change study in China. The third chapter is the introduction of data, and from the fourth chapter to the sixth chapter is the empirical part. In these chapters, the results of the data obtained through the semi-structured interview are discussed. The seventh chapter summarizes the research results and proposes future research topics. In the gender norm of the 80s, although the elements of conservatism are observed, they have personal strategicity in their implementation. In addition, the 80s family has a tendency to be off-generation. Therefore, the 90s and the 00s, unlike the 80s, may not likely to form a big family like the one in ancient times, but tend to form a more modern family.