Study on the Personality Traits of Left-behind Children in a Certain County

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Abstract: To explore the personality traits and psychological conditions of the left-behind children. Selected 400 children in a certain country of Shaanxi Province, aged between 7 and 15 were randomly selected as subjects for the test, divided into control group (non left-behind children) and observation group (left-behind children). There were 198 left-behind children in the observation group and 202 non left-behind children in the control group. Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ), self-created basic information scale were used to analyze personality traits of left-behind children. The results were analyzed by SPSS11.5 software package for descriptive analysis, single factor X test and multi-factor unconditional logistic regression analysis. Results: Compared with the control group, the factors level in the observation group was significantly lower than that in the control group, and the difference between the two groups was statistically significant (p<0.05).

1. Introduction

Left-behind children refers to those whose parents worked in other areas, and because some certain reason, their children have to stay in their hometown. These children under the age of 16 couldn't live together with their parents for more than one year. This special group of children is emerged from the new period of our country. By 2018, there are about 242 million migrant workers and more than 67 million left-behind children in China [1].There are more than 25 million people in the compulsory education stage, accounting for one-fifth of the total number of children in the country. In recent years, the problems come from left-behind children have become more and more prominent. Behind these problems are the psychological problems of left-behind children.

2. Objective and Methods

2.1 Objective

In this study, 400 children in a certain country of Shaanxi Province, aged between 7 and 15 were randomly selected as subjects for the test, with an average of 12.51±1.72, there were 196 boys and 204 girls. There are 189 middle school students and 211 primary school students. Divided into control group (non left-behind children) and observation group (left-behind children). There were 198 left-behind children in the observation group and 202 non left-behind children in the control group. Before the enrollment, all the children had normal intelligence, no history of mental illness, mental disorders and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. Their parents and guardians were informed and agreed, accepted and willing to cooperate with the follow-up issues.

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2.2 Methods

2.2.1 Survey implementation

Choosing our university Students who have received specific training of psychological nursing as investigators. These investigators will explain the purpose and significance of the survey to the respondents, explain the items in the questionnaire, and guide the respondents to collect the answer. After completion, the investigators will collected the whole of questionnaire.

2.2.2 Self-created basic information scale

Self-created basic information scale were used to analyze personality traits of left-behind children. This scale is used to investigate the basic information of left-behind children, including gender, age, left-behind time, cared by their grandparents or other relatives, the education degree of caregivers and education received by their parents.

2.2.3 Eysenck personality questionnaire (EPQ)

Eysenck personality questionnaire (EPQ) was used to investigate the mental health status of left-behind children. The questionnaire consists of 4 sub-scales, including 3 personality dimensions scale and validity or disguise scale (L), 3 personality dimensions scale is mental quality scale (P), introversion and extroversion scale (E), neuroticism or emotional stability scale (N); validity or disguise scale (L) is used to test the validity and disguise of questionnaire[2]. The original score calculated shall be calculated to obtain its corresponding T score. The calculation method is T method, M and SD respectively represent the average and standard deviation of the population sample. Sores between 43.3 and 56.7 is the intermediate type, indicating that the personality is not obvious, between 385 and 43.3 is the tendency type, between 56.7 and 61.5 is also the tendency type, and below 38.5 and above 61.5 is typical type.The questionnaire (EPQ) has high reliability and validity. There were 198 left-behind children in the observation group and 202 non left-behind children in the control group. There was no statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of age, gender and education and so on ($p>0.05$). (as Table 1)

Table 1. General information in gender.

Groups	Boy	Girl	p
observation group (left-behind children)	100	98	0.053
control group (non left-behind children)	96	106	0.061

$X^2=0.36, p>0.05$

2.2.4 Analye the data

The results were analyzed by SPSS11.5 software package for descriptive analysis, single factor X test and multi-factor unconditional logistic regression analysis.

3. Results

3.1 Comparison the general data

Comparison of general data between control group (non left-behind children) and observation group (left-behind children). There was no statistically significant difference between the control group (non left-behind children) and observation group (left-behind children) in age, gender, education degree and so on($p>0.05$).(as Table 2)

Table 2. General information in education

observation group(left-behind children)	110	88	0.076
control group(non left-behind children)	109	93	0.069

$X^2=0.10, p>0.05$

3.2 Comparison the scores of EPQ factors

The results showed that the score of observation group was significantly lower than that of the control group in introversion and extroversion (E), and significantly higher than that of the control group in neuroticism (N) dimension. There was no significant difference between the observation group and the control group in psychoticism (P) and lie (L) dimensions. Compared with non-left behind children, left behind children are more introverted and more emotionally unstable. Left-behind children scored lower than non left-behind children in terms of spiritual quality, introversion and introversion(E), and higher than non left-behind children in terms of neuroticism and concealment (P<0.05).(as Table 3)

Table 3. Data of characteristic traits in four factors

Factor	Observation Group(n = 202)	Control Group(n =198)	t	P
E	40.66±11.53	47.92±13.01	-2.740	0.061
P	47.18±9.97	50.78±11.97	-5.544	0.058
N	49.78±6.03	46.62±7.11	2.818	0.005
L	56.63±4.90	51.48±5.27	3.208	0.001

3.3 Behavior characteristics of left behind children

The study showed that left behind children are higher than non left-behind children in terms of neuroticism and concealment. In daily life, left-behind children are easy to feel anxiety, nervousness, irritability, depression and along with poor sleep and strong emotional response. Because left-behind children are separated from their parents for a long time, they can't get enough care and love, they are likely to feel lonely in their hearts. Under this circumstance, they are easy to feel anxiety, depression and even suspicion psychology [3].When left-behind children encounter troubles in life and study, they didn't have a beneficial way to seek for help, love and effective guidance from their parents. It is a tendency to form psychological characteristics of being withdrawn and indifferent. The survey study found that in personality characteristics, there are differences between left-behind children and non left-behind children, there was a significant difference between the main performance in the spirit of quality, internal and external to the dimension below the left-behind children, left-behind children can get along with people, good at self-control, but are more introverted, loneliness, full of introspection, stray, lack of family love hinders left-behind children to express normal emotional communication[5].(as Table 4)

Table 4. Different characteristic of behavior in four factors

Scale	Characteristic of Behavior
Extraversion	High scores: sociable,adventurous and impulsive.
	Low scores: introverted,quiet, rich in introspection, relatively silent to the general person indifferent, mood STable, orderly life.
Neuroticism	High scores: anxious, worried, depressed, emotionally reactive and irrational.
	Low scores: emotionally sTable, rational, happy.
Psychoticism	High scores: lonely, indifferent to others, difficult to adapt to external environment, slow reaction, aggressive, unfriendly.
	Low scores: gentle, sensitive.
Lie	L measure the validity of the answer. The higher the score, the more untrue the answer is and the invalid the answer is.L on behalf of a sTable personality relationship.

4. Conclusion

As left-behind children are separated from their parents for a long time, they can't get enough care and love, they are likely to feel lonely in their hearts [6]. Under this circumstance, they are easy to feel

anxiety, depression and even suspicion psychology. When left-behind children encounter troubles in life and study, they didn't have a beneficial way to seek for help, love and effective guidance from their parents. It is a tendency to form psychological characteristics of being withdrawn and indifferent [9]. The survey study found that in personality characteristics, there are differences between left-behind children and non left-behind children, there was a significant difference between the main performance in the spirit of quality, internal and external to the dimension below the left-behind children, left-behind children can get along with people, good at self-control, but are more introverted, loneliness, full of introspection, stray, lack of family love hinders left-behind children to express normal emotional communication. Children couldn't get enough love, care and emotional needs, they will feel psychological loneliness and pain. High scores of neuroticism and concealment indicate that left-behind children are prone to anxiety, tension, depression, emotional fluctuations and other psychological problems [7]. High concealment may be that left-behind children are relatively self-abased in psychology and have less communication with the outside world. They want to hide something because they are worried about more problems. Personality characteristics are the sum of individual psychological characteristics. Sound personality is the basis and important sign of mental health. 7 to 15 years old are in an important stage of psychological development and Personality quality formation[8], left-behind children's parents should their mental health and personality development needs the attention of family, school and society, to help them form a good personality characteristics is to ensure the foundation of mental health.

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