Research article

Summary Of Trust Between Mother And Child Among Rural Junior High School Students

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ABSTRACT

This article elucidates the importance of mother child trust from the emergence of "killing off" in Chinese society, difficulties in rural family education, and the crisis of identity faced by middle school students. Summarize from four aspects: trust types, trust factors, trust connotations, and trust fields, and point out the shortcomings of existing research. Research has found that research methods on maternal child trust among rural junior high school students focus on quantitative research, lacking qualitative research; The selection of research samples has limitations and has not fully considered the diversity of rural areas; Current research mainly focuses on the trust relationship between mother and child, while ignoring the impact of other family members, schools, communities, and other factors on mother child trust; The existing foreign theoretical framework may not be fully applicable to rural areas in China; At the same time, there is also a lack of attention to practical applications.

Keywords: Trust; Parent-child relationship; Rural junior high school students
0 Background

(1) The rise of "deceiving acquaintances" in Chinese society: the onset of a crisis in family trust

Since ancient times, China has been an "acquaintance society," where individuals know and understand one another deeply. This long-standing practice fosters trust, making it easier to get things done with those one knows. Although the phrase "deceiving acquaintances" did not emerge in ancient China, there are idioms that bear similarities. Following the founding of the People's Republic of China, the nation embarked on a series of ideological transformation campaigns, which included criticism and self-criticism. The depth of self-criticism and the proactive nature of exposing and criticizing others became pivotal. Under the influence of various temptations and motivations, family members have become stepping stones to success. The trust between relatives is gradually being fragmented. Deceiving acquaintances is not only evident in politics but also in economics. Pyramid schemes are the quintessential form of economic deception among acquaintances. The proliferation of pyramid schemes in China is primarily due to the large number of individuals who, in their quest to regain personal gains, cross moral boundaries and engage in unethical practices.[1] Moreover, with the transformation of rural society, trust in individuals and authority has shifted from traditional to

systemic, and family trust has been progressively eroded.

（2）Family Education Difficulties in Rural China: The Emergence of a Trust Crisis between Mothers and Their Children

According to the 2010 National Statistical Department's "Third Survey on the Status of Women", the average length of education for women is 7.9 years, with 9.8 years for urban women and only 5.9 years for rural women. This suggests that the majority of rural women have only a primary school education. When rural women become mothers, their parenting concepts and methods are mostly informed by their own experiences, and their scientific nature needs to be verified. In modern life interactions, rural mothers' time for "nurturing" is often "robbed" by schools. Rural students are "locked away" in school from the start, and their homes become a "hotel" for the evenings or two days a week. Compared to urban mothers, rural mothers not only struggle to guide their children academically, but also lack interaction with their children due to time constraints. In traditional society, the mother-son relationship represents a mother's love for her son and the son's affection for his mother.[2] Yet, this subtle and unspoken love is absent in rural areas. Rural mothers blindly admire "violence", believing that the crude solution of "children will become obedient after being hit often enough" is highly effective. They often remain superficial in their observations, hoping for

tranquility, without delving into the true thoughts of children. Over time, the accumulated confusion, grievances, and resentment within children gradually lead to a trust crisis between mother and son.

![Average Years of Education for Women in China (2010)](image)

Figure 1 Average Years of Education for Women

(3) Middle school students are at a pivotal stage: the emergence of an identity crisis.

The question of "who am I" becomes crucial during adolescence. To address this, teenagers increasingly distance themselves from their parents and turn to peer groups. During this phase, they not only undergo rapid physical changes but also experience psychological distress related to making future decisions. If the mother continues to view the adolescent as a child who will never mature and fails to recognize significant psychological changes, she may resort to authoritarian measures, which
can harm the mother-child bond. The adolescent, in turn, may resent the mother's unwarranted reprimands and accusations. Such reprimands, often influenced by biased cognition, can foster alienation and distrust. As teenagers gradually shed their reliance on their mothers and assert their independence, there is a need to summarize research on mother-child trust.

1 INTRODUCE

Mother child trust, as a core component of family relationships, plays a crucial role in individual growth and development. On a psychological level, mother child trust is an important source of children's psychological security. In the early stages of children's development, as the primary caregiver and caregiver, the mother's words, actions, and emotional attitudes have a profound impact on the child's mental health. When children feel their mother's care, support, and trust, they are more likely to form positive self-awareness and emotional responses, which is conducive to forming healthy personality and psychological traits. In terms of emotional connection, mother child trust is the bond of emotional connection between parents and children. This trust relationship not only enhances the intimacy and attachment between parents and children, but also promotes the development and maturity of children's emotions. On the basis of trust between mother and child, children are more willing to express their emotional needs and inner
feelings to their mothers, and mothers can more accurately understand and respond to children's emotional reactions, thereby strengthening emotional communication and connection between parents and children. In terms of social adaptation, mother child trust has a significant impact on children's social adaptation. On the basis of trust between mother and child, children are more likely to form positive social attitudes and behavior patterns, and are more likely to establish harmonious interpersonal relationships with others. Meanwhile, as the initial social guide for children, the mother's attitude of trust and support can provide a safe exploration environment for children, promoting their social and cognitive development. In terms of educational effectiveness, mother child trust is a key factor in the effectiveness of family education. On the basis of trust between mother and son, the mother's educational approach is more easily accepted and internalized by children, and children are more willing to abide by their mother's teachings and expectations. Therefore, mother child trust can not only improve the effectiveness of family education, but also promote positive development of children in academic and moral aspects. In terms of long-term impact, the importance of mother child trust for children's long-term development cannot be ignored. This trust relationship can not only affect children's childhood, but also continue to affect their adolescence and adulthood. On the basis of trust between mother and child, children are more likely
to form positive attitudes and values towards life, and are more likely to face challenges and difficulties in life. 

In summary, mother child trust plays an important role in psychological development, emotional connection, social adaptation, educational effectiveness, and long-term impact. Therefore, in academic research, attention should be paid to the issue of mother child trust, and in-depth exploration of its formation mechanism, influencing factors, and action mechanism should be conducted to provide useful inspiration and guidance for family education and children's development. 

2 LITERATURE REVIEW 

2.1 Research on trust types 

In the study of trust types, various scholars categorize trust according to their distinct interpretations. Max Weber distinguished trust based on various subjects, with trust rooted in acquaintance relationships termed as "special trust," adhering to the principle of particularity. Conversely, trust rooted in unfamiliar relationships is termed "general trust," adhering to the principle of universalism.[3] Luhmann and Giddens, on the other hand, categorize trust according to its origins. They refer to trust arising from interpersonal emotional interactions or an individual's own moral principles as interpersonal or personal trust. Trust founded on external

social institutions is termed as institutional or systemic trust.[4][5] The development of interpersonal trust or personality trust to institutional trust or systemic trust is due to the large-scale personnel mobility caused by the development of modern society, making it impossible to establish trust based on direct interaction between people in traditional society, and external rule constraints must be established. Chinese scholars conduct localized research on trust classification based on China's national conditions. Zheng Yefu(2015) classified trust according to its different structures, and trust in a specific character is called personality trust; The trust in the institutional system composed of anonymous individuals is called system trust.[1] From a historical perspective, Zhang Kangzhi(2005) referred to trust that occurred in agricultural and acquaintance societies as customary trust; The trust that occurs in industrial and stranger societies is called contractual trust; The trust that occurs in the post industrial society and is associated with multiple unfamiliar individuals is called cooperative trust.[6] He analyzed the development process from the connection of trust groups through acquaintance relationships to the fragmentation of trust groups into individuals through external systems, and then to the establishment of trust between individuals based on rules. Zhang Xin'ao(2002) inherited

the views of his predecessors, dividing trust into ethical trust and contractual trust, and ethical trust includes family trust and friend trust.[7] Zhai Xuewei (2014) classified trust from a cultural perspective and referred to trust without any constraints as trust without any mechanism, such as asking strangers to help check luggage, where there is no mechanism of constraint; The various constraint mechanisms such as moral constraints, customary constraints, rule constraints, or legal constraints are referred to as trust with constraint mechanisms, such as the establishment of a family. He believes that trust is the intermediate zone formed during people's social interactions, and the emergence of trust represents questioning. Although both sides of the trust zone are untrustworthy zones, they represent two different meanings. One meaning reflects the very close relationship between people, which is the place where individual life or sense of security are placed; One meaning reflects the formation of a complete social system due to frequent behaviors such as fraud.[8] Unlike other scholars, he categorizes the constraints of morality and customs as institutional constraints. In intimate relationships, adolescent cognition is not yet fully formed, and they are in a zone of distrust towards their family and mother. However, society, schools, and families impose tangible or intangible restraining behaviors on adolescents through their primary caregivers (mostly

mothers), in order to achieve the cultivation of adolescent socialization. People push mothers to the forefront of nurturing teenagers, gradually awakening doubts about mothers and creating a crisis of trust between mother and son.

2.2 Research on Trust Factors

Through literature review, it was found that there are similarities and differences in the factors that influence trust between the East and the West. The consensus lies in the fact that both have studied personal and interpersonal factors. Differently, Western scholars place more emphasis on the abilities and responsibilities of the believers. For example, professional skills and trustworthiness;[9] Ability, motivation, and talent; [10] Behavior consistency, ability, obligation, and sense of responsibility;[11] Predictability, reliability, and conviction are used to assess the credibility of the other party; [12] ability, honesty, and reliability[13] and so on. Chinese scholars, on the other hand, place greater emphasis on interpersonal factors in their research on interpersonal trust, including preexisting and post existing relationships, as well as interpersonal relationships. For example, research on factors

such as familiarity[14]; work relationships[15] and so on.

2.3 Research on the Connotation of Trust

Influenced by the division of Western disciplines, the connotation of trust is also divided according to disciplines. For example, in psychology, trust is understood as an individual's psychological behavior, believing that trust is not an interactive concept, but an individualized concept that arises within the individual. Deutsch and Rotter believe that trust is a psychological expectation. Deutsch is one of the earliest people to explore trust issues in conflict resolution. He believes that if a person has expectations for the occurrence of an event and their expectations lead to positive behavioral consequences, then they can be said to have confidence in the occurrence of that event.[16] Rotter believes that the general expectation of trust or distrust is the foundation of interpersonal relationships, and he defines trust as a general expectation of the reliability of verbal promises made to others. [17] Trust is a psychological judgment made by an individual in a specific environment to interpret the past and future behavior of another party.[18] Economists, starting from

the theory of rational choice, view trust as a rational calculation for people to avoid risks and reduce transaction costs, or as a social cost or resource. Williamson believes that special governance structures, such as organizations or contracts, can become substitutes for trust, thereby reducing dishonest behavior in business.[19] Dasgupta emphasizes that trust is the core of all transactions, and trust is built on reputation, so trust is also an important goal of the game.[20] Sociology's understanding of trust is to place trust within specific contexts of social relationships and systems. Émile Durkheim believes that trust stems from family and blood relationships.[21] Barber pointed out that social actors need to understand trust from the expectations placed on each other in social interactions.[11] Chinese scholars have also conducted some research on trust, and different scholars have different understandings of trust. Zheng Yefu believes that trust is an attitude of believing that someone's behavior or the environment around them aligns with one's own expectations.[1] Zhang Jianxin defines trust as a psychological expectation, in which one party in interpersonal communication expects the other party to make behavioral judgments about themselves under uncertain conditions of

cooperation or competition.\[22\] Peng Siqing and Yang Zhongfang believe that trust is a sense of security, that is, in the process of interpersonal communication, both parties can fulfill the responsibilities and obligations entrusted by the other party.\[23\] Based on this, this article defines trust as whether the other party's behavior aligns with one's own psychological expectations in uncertain situations.

In daily contexts, people's discussion of trust is associated with many vocabulary, such as belief, confidence, belief, honesty, credibility, commitment, and contract. There is substitute between belief, confidence, and trust, but sometimes there is a significant difference. When we use belief, we say: I believe the sun rises from the east. Instead of saying: I believe the sun rises from the east. So, when believing is followed by a factual proposition statement, trust is distinguished from belief. And believe that it ultimately exists in the existing static form of a noun in both thinking and mind. There is a certain similarity between confidence and trust. When we use confidence, it means having a certain degree of confidence in the future behavior or development trend of people or things, driving individuals to put it into practice. For example, I have confidence in myself. Confidence can be directed towards oneself, while

trust is generally directed towards others. The relationship between honesty, credibility, and trust is mutually reinforcing. Honesty is an inherent requirement of trust and a potential foundation for trust to occur. Honesty, as a human character, is a positive effort aimed at gaining the trust of others. Similarly, credit is an important indicator of trust's credibility, providing a beacon for trust and avoiding the blindness of trust. In life, the consequence of not being trustworthy is not being trusted. There is a derivative relationship between commitment, contract, and trust. When honesty and credit step out of their free state and become language, they rise to the level of commitment and fulfillment. Commitment is a way of linking one's actions with words, remaining only at the level of moral obligation. The contract goes further on the basis of the promise, and as a formal and legally binding agreement, it is protected by law.

2.4 Research on Trust Field

2.4.1 Research on Social Field Trust

Research on social trust in the field mainly focuses on the crisis of social trust. Some scholars believe that the crisis of trust is caused by the structural rupture and moral absence during the transition from traditional morality to modern morality.[24] the deviation between "sincerity" and

"reality",[25] and the characteristics of social homogenization[26]. The crisis of social trust manifests in two aspects: on the one hand, it is at the level of intangible moral constraints. The first issue that attracted public attention was the issue of helping the elderly, and there was a debate over whether to help or not. The problem of supporting the elderly has shifted from the initial problem to a crisis, going through a process of moral credit crisis, ethical trust crisis, and then cultural trust crisis.[27] For example, patients believe that it is necessary to increase the credibility of doctors through giving gifts and finding acquaintances;[28] Some "experts" have put forward unrealistic "suggestions", leading to a large number of "anti expert" discourse in the media and platforms[29]. On the other hand, at the level of tangible institutional constraints. For example, scandals among civil servants, public service awareness, and accidents;[30] Network credit issues;[31] Food safety issues;[32] Issues related to the use of charitable funds by charitable organizations[33].

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emergence of these issues has led to a crisis of trust among the public.

2.4.2 Research on School Field Trust

Research on school field trust mainly focuses on three aspects: first, research on trust between parents and schools. The level of trust parents have in the school can affect their choice of school.[34] In order to establish a trust relationship with parents, schools conceptualize trust as collective property formed through emotional, cognitive, and behavioral norms, and can adjust policies and practices to meet the emotional needs of parents and reduce the risks perceived by parents in their school relationship.[35] The second is research on trust between teachers and parents. Strengthening the trust connection between teachers and parents is mainly aimed at reducing various conflicts that arise during teaching.[36] The homeroom teacher can increase parents' trust in the teaching skills of teachers through open communication and transparency, thereby reducing conflicts. [37] Moreover, parents with high levels of trust in teachers will actively participate in relevant activities organized by the school, while also strengthening their trust in teachers, thus creating a virtuous cycle.[38] The third is research on trust between

teachers and students. Wu Junru (2009) believes that there is also a crisis of trust between teachers and students.[39] The teaching ability, professional ability, sense of responsibility, and professional outlook of teachers can affect the establishment of student trust in teachers.[40] Students' teachable ability, students' ability to meet teachers' expectations and school organizational environment affect teachers' trust in students.[41] The establishment of trust between teachers and students can also reduce the potential number of dropouts.[42] The trust between teachers and students is the logical starting point for the construction of teaching ethics, and the transformation of the trust model from ethical to contractual requires the integration of ethical trust and contractual trust, highlighting the moral identity of teachers, and constructing a long-term mechanism of trust between teachers and students to overcome the "modern consequences" encountered.[43]

2.4.3 Research on Trust in Family Field

In the book "Trust in Chinese Society", scholars conducted a questionnaire survey on trust among residents of four cities. The survey
found that there is a phenomenon of distrust among family members (complete distrust accounts for 0.2% of the total sample, distrust accounts for 0.5% of the total sample, a total of 0.5%).[44] The social structure of China is presented in a "differential order pattern", spreading outward from the family, and trust should also start from the family. Research on family trust mainly focuses on three aspects: first, research on marital trust, mainly divided into two aspects: first, the impact of marital trust on marriage. For example, active expression and trust from both spouses can promote marital adjustment.[45] The second is the role of husband and wife trust in the family. Richard (1985) believes that couples' trust affects their desire to have children.[46] Sakai (2005) believes that for mothers in nuclear families, couple trust is directly related to nurturing behavior.[47] Secondly, research on parent-child trust. Hakim and other scholars (2012) conducted an open-ended questionnaire to inquire about children's level of trust in their parents and the reasons for trusting them. They found that children's trust in their mothers is often built on emotions and care, while trust in their fathers is built on teaching and demonstration.[48] Keer and other scholars (1999) believe that family dysfunction depends on whether

parents trust their children; And parents' views on family dysfunction are based on their own trust in their children, and they point out that their past behavior can create a sense of trust or distrust in their children's minds, which determines their willingness to express information.[49] Trust can not only help children establish emotional connections with their parents, but also meet the needs of their children's deficiency. The third is the research on brother sisters trust. Through literature review, it is found that there are few research literature on brother sisters trust, and only a few foreign literature. Persram, Howe & Trost (2022) conducted a psychological measurement of brother sisters trust, which assessed the multidimensional trust perception (i.e. reliability, emotion, honesty) of adolescents towards brothers and sisters and its relationship with relationship satisfaction.[50]

2.5 Research on Mother Child Trust

Through literature review, it is found that there are few research literatures on brother sisters trust, mainly focusing on foreign literature. Seok (2015) revealed four patterns of trust formation in mothers among adolescents: mother child relationship, mother's role and upbringing, mother's characteristics, and mother's attitude and behavior.[51] The

fulfillment of a mother's promise to her children;[52] Children's satisfaction with the mother child relationship;[53] The honesty, reliability, empathy, dedication, closeness, blood relationship, and character of a mother[54] play an important role in cultivating and establishing trust between mother and child. Adolescents have incomplete cognition, and the more anxious, impulsive, and autonomous their cognition of their mothers is, the more likely they are to adopt avoidance strategies rather than trust strategies. [55] And there is a negative correlation between the level of trust between adolescents and mothers and the negative explanation of maternal behavior.[56] Sheftall (2010) believes that maternal child trust during adolescence can affect the quality of the co-parenting relationship between spouses. [57] From this, it can be seen that children's trust in their mothers is not entirely based on natural trust of blood ties, but is generated through the interaction of various factors in daily interactions. In the interaction between mothers and adolescents, a single behavior or sentence can have an impact on the establishment of trust between mother and child.

3 CONCLUSION

(1) Limitations of research methods: Current research may mainly rely on traditional methods such as questionnaire surveys or interviews, which may have some subjectivity and bias in obtaining data. In addition, there is a lack of longitudinal tracking or experimental research, making it difficult to delve into the dynamic changes in mother child trust and the underlying mechanisms.

(2) Representative of research samples: The selection of research samples may have limitations and may not fully consider the diversity of rural areas. For example, rural junior high school students in different regions may face different family, school, and social environments, all of which may have an impact on mother child trust. Therefore, insufficient representative of the research sample may limit the universality of the research results.

(3) One limitations of research content: Current research may mainly focus on the trust relationship between mother and child, while ignoring the impact of other family members, schools, communities, and other factors on mother child trust. In addition, the formation and development of mother child trust is a complex process that involves multiple levels and dimensions, such as cognition, emotion, behavior, etc. Current research may not fully cover these aspects.
(4) Limitations of theoretical framework: Existing research may mainly be based on Western psychological or sociological theoretical frameworks for analysis, which may not be fully applicable to rural areas in China. Therefore, it is necessary to combine the actual situation in rural areas of China and construct a more targeted theoretical framework to analyze the issue of mother child trust.

(5) Limitations of practical application: Current research may mainly focus on theoretical exploration and data analysis, while lacking attention to practical application. How to apply research results to practice, improve the trust relationship between mother and child among rural junior high school students, and enhance the quality and effectiveness of family education is a key issue that current research needs to focus on.

In summary, there are shortcomings in research methods, sample representative, research content, theoretical framework, and practical application of maternal child trust among rural junior high school students. Future research needs to improve and refine these issues in order to delve deeper into the issue of mother child trust among rural junior high school students. In summary, the author believes that existing research has to some extent overlooked the exploration of "trust" in mother child relationships. Perhaps due to the fact that trust between mother and child is a priori cognition, we need to explore the underlying logic more.
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