A study on the learning motivation deviation of children in single-parent families

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Keywords: Children of single-parent families; Learning motivation; deviation

Abstract: The education of children in single-parent families is not only a problem that educators cannot ignore at present, but also a major issue that the whole society cannot avoid. In view of the current research status at home and abroad, this paper investigates the status quo of learning motivation of children from single-parent families in Tai'an City, clears out the actual needs of children in single-parent families, and analyzes various factors that restrict the solution of the problem. On this basis, it puts forward countermeasures and suggestions to promote the learning motivation of children from single parent families, in order to help children from single parent families establish self-esteem and self-confidence awareness, improve the attention of all sectors of society, establish a coordinated education mechanism of government, school, family and society, and effectively enhance the learning motivation of children from single parent families.

1. Introduction

With the continuous progress of reform, opening up and modernization, the traditional concept of family and marriage in China has also undergone great changes. According to relevant data, the divorce rate of Chinese families is increasing year by year, and the number of children in single-parent families is also increasing significantly. The so-called "single parent family" refers to the family mode after the death of one parent or the husband and wife relationship cannot be maintained and the marriage relationship is dissolved through legal procedures\(^1\). Children of single-parent families refer to minors under the age of 18 in single-parent families who do not have the ability to live independently.

Due to family changes, the children of these single-parent families are under great psychological pressure, and their own growth and learning are seriously affected\(^2\). The problem of children of divorced families is even more acute. Today, we are faced with the status quo: Most single-parent families have serious defects in family education for their children, and the society does not pay enough attention to the children of divorced families, and the school lacks effective, especially targeted guidance. A very serious and urgent problem is before us. How to understand the particularity of single-parent families for children's education? How to educate the children of single-parent families in a targeted way? In view of the education problems of children from single-parent families, some experts and scholars have conducted relevant studies and put forward some feasible and effective measures, but there is no effective education model that can be promoted.
Through the investigation and research on the children of single-parent families, the following understandings are obtained:

2. The main manifestation of single-parent family children's learning motivation deviation

A large number of facts and studies show that the learning problems of students from single-parent families are not optimistic, and they are often "problem students" in schools. Most of them do not have a strong motivation to study, arbitrarily skip school; Without good learning methods and habits, academic performance declines. A small number of students ideological and moral decline, psychological abnormalities, the problem is very serious. It is mainly manifested in the following aspects:

2.1 In terms of academic performance

The vast majority have poor academic performance. Only a few students due to the divorce of their parents, but mature and sensible, academic performance is particularly excellent.

2.2 Learning motivation

Most students from single-parent families have no strong motivation to study, and their learning goals are not clear. In the past, their goal and motivation were to get the love and admiration of their parents. But now their parents are divorcing and their families are breaking up, destroying their simple goals. Without the goal, there is no motivation for learning, and academic performance drops sharply.

2.3 Learning attitude

Students from single-parent families lack a better family education environment and learning guidance, and family breakdown brings serious psychological trauma to them, resulting in their lack of confidence in learning. They regard learning as a drudgery and think that going to school is suffering.

2.4 Learning methods

Most students from single-parent families have poor learning foundation and no good learning habits and learning methods. I can't concentrate in class, I can't keep up with the teacher's ideas, and my homework can't be completed on time or there are many mistakes.

2.5 Learning interests

Students from single-parent families are not interested in learning and lack correct learning goals. Most of these students have unsatisfactory academic performance and are often criticized by teachers. They are bored with their studies and do not actively participate in extracurricular activities.

3. The main causes of single-parent families children learning motivation deviation

3.1 Personal reasons

The loss of a complete home has greatly hurt the children's hearts, and it is almost difficult for
them to settle down to study seriously, and some even feel discouraged about learning. Some children are pessimistic and inferior because of the long-term cold war or quarrel in the family. Due to the incomplete family, students from single-parent families lack self-confidence, lack of motivation in learning, and lack of enterprising spirit in learning. They feel like they can't do anything right, and they get worse and worse. Muddling through, "break the can break the fall", and eventually become a problem student.

3.2 Family reasons

First, the changes in the family make the children forced to put themselves in a bad educational environment, and the obvious changes in the family atmosphere have a negative impact on the children's studies. Many children in single-parent families suffer from the great pressure of losing their father or mother and are in poor mood. For a long time, it directly affects the academic performance. The decline in academic performance makes them lose self-confidence, forming a vicious circle, and gradually lose interest in learning. Second, the influence of single parent's own quality on children. Our survey found that the vast majority of parents in single-parent families are of low quality. They almost have no learning habits, do not pay attention to children's emotions and learning, and cannot regularly or irregularly carry out homework and extracurricular knowledge guidance for children. Even some parents often complain because they raise their children independently, and bring pain to their children while venting their own pressure. Third, improper family education is another important reason for the learning motivation deviation of children in single-parent families. Through our observation and visit, we found that the vast majority of families have adopted excessive and extreme education methods. Or too spoil, regardless of learning, do not ask the results; Or too strict, even domestic violence education. These are easy to cause children's reverse psychology, not interested in learning, poor academic performance, no ambition.  

3.3 School reasons

The education of single-parent families has brought serious challenges to school education, and many teachers feel that students from single-parent families are more and more difficult to teach. Indeed, many students from single-parent families have many defects, and they are the "double poor students" in the class. In this regard, some teachers can take the initiative to understand and care for them, psychologically help them establish self-confidence, let them find themselves again, and continue to progress. But there are also some teachers who are rather cold and let them go. There are even individual teachers because of the "poor students" affect the honor of the class and ridicule them, completely give up the education of these students. 

3.4 Social and governmental reasons

First, the children of single-parent families bear the pressure of public opinion to varying degrees, especially the children of divorced families. In social interaction, it is easy to have inferiority, fear of being looked down upon, and fear of interacting with others. Second, at present, there is no specialized agency to deal with the problems related to children of couples before divorce, and it is not yet able to provide systematic and professional services for the raising, education and guardianship of children of divorced families. There is also no established education tracking mechanism for children from single-parent families, and there is no special organization to guide children how to properly face the great changes brought about by the loss of parents or parents divorce.
4. The countermeasures and suggestions to enhance the learning motivation of children from single-parent families

For many years, educators have been keen on the research of the education theory of adolescent success, and have achieved promising results, such as the key role of parents in the growth of children, the influence of social environment on the growth of adolescents, and so on.

Based on the relevant theoretical results, we made an in-depth investigation on the learning motivation of students from single-parent families, explored the objective needs of the growth of children from single-parent families, found out the shortcomings and misunderstandings of their family education, and innovated the educational guidance methods and strategies of schools for students, so as to provide theoretical guidance for the next step to enhance the importance of schools and society to the education of children from single-parent families and carry out targeted education. Through careful investigation, analysis and summary, this paper puts forward the following countermeasures and suggestions on how to improve the learning motivation of children in single-parent families:

4.1 Children from single-parent families lack the love of a complete family, and parents and teachers should give them more care and encouragement to protect their self-esteem.

It is found that it is urgent to strengthen the psychological counseling of the problem students in single-parent families to cultivate their healthy psychology and sound personality. Therefore, we should fully create conditions to give full play to their talents and help them build up confidence. At the same time, schools and guidance teachers need to use more guidance and educational means to communicate openly and encourage children from single-parent families.

First of all, let the child establish confidence in learning. Parents and teachers should be more equal, trust, respect the mentality, with them to carry out ideological and emotional exchanges, try to help them solve practical difficulties, so that children feel warm, trust, which will make them emotionally satisfied, self-confidence gradually enhanced.

Secondly, it is necessary to educate students from single parent families to take the initiative to face the reality and realize that there will be many difficulties and twists and turns on the road of life. Give them more love, give them more encouragement, let them in the love and encouragement in the middle of life enthusiasm and confidence.

Thirdly, teach them to set up correct learning goals. With a clear learning purpose, it will gradually generate power, so as to overcome the mood of weariness, and can gradually realize the fun of learning, obtain a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

4.2 Parents should strive to improve their own quality, improve the level of family education, and create a good and healthy environment for their children.

Family education plays a special and important role in the ideological and moral construction of minors. Therefore, parents should actively participate in the study of their children's internal needs, and establish a correct view of children's education in single-parent families. Most parents of single-parent families need to have a correct attitude towards their children's education, and their education methods also need to be improved.

First of all, parents should love their children moderately, love without drowning. Parents of single parent families should have enough patience, perseverance, and consciously continue to improve personal literacy, learn and master the scientific knowledge and methods of educating children, and strive to be strict and moderate to their children, love and do not drown, education, and create a good and healthy environment for their children to grow up[6]. At the same time, parents
of single parents should adjust themselves, do not complain every day because of family changes or divorce, all aspects of pressure increase, which will lead to children's self-blame, guilt, affect their learning.

Secondly, parents should establish a correct family education concept and educate their children in a scientific way. Learn to appreciate children, children will gain confidence from their parents' affirmation. As long as we can really respect them and appreciate them, we can enhance the child's sense of superiority and self-confidence, and they can feel the fun of learning and life, and then have a strong interest in learning, and steadily improve performance.

Third, parents should learn to respect their children, communicate with their children equally, and strive to help their children solve some puzzles in study and life. Parents should learn to listen to their children's distress in learning, pay attention to their children's psychological feelings, share their worries for them, give them more support, and help them solve the practical problems they encounter. Establish a close relationship with children through communication, so that children have a sense of security and happiness, help children establish a positive and optimistic attitude towards life, and create a happy and healthy family growth environment for children.

**4.3 Through school education, awaken students' internal motivation for learning and enhance their learning initiative.**

At present, the special education of children from single parent families has become a topic for educators. Nowadays, most children of single-parent families are only children, and their psychological bearing capacity is relatively poor. Once they encounter life changes, they are easy to lose confidence in life and lose interest in learning. In view of this situation, school teachers should take the initiative to communicate with students. Through honest talk, understand students, enlighten students, and encourage students to face reality. Through home visits, we can better communicate and coordinate the relationship between parents and children, family and school. Teachers must have enough patience and confidence for these single parent children, find the right time, adopt flexible methods to help the children of single parent families out of the psychological misunderstanding, wake up the internal motivation of students' learning, so that students can experience the happiness of success. In this way, students realize the necessity of learning, and feel that learning is actually very pleasant, they will not tire of learning, no longer regard learning as a burden, but treat learning with a proactive attitude.

**4.4 Give play to the leading role of the Government to better protect children of divorced families.**

First of all, the establishment of special service agencies for single-parent families, at any time to solve the children's learning, life, psychological and emergency problems. Through new media, television, newspapers and other forms of education and training for divorced couples, provide basic consultation and advice, in order to better help minor children through the beginning of the divorce period of parents, reduce the harm to children; When dealing with the ownership of minor children, more consideration can be given to how to benefit the growth and education of children and better protect the children of divorced families; After divorce, we will follow up and master the couple's rearing and education of children and children's psychology, so as to ensure the healthy growth of children in divorced families to the maximum extent. Secondly, government departments should also strengthen publicity, advocate social forces such as grass-roots organizations to pay more attention to and protect the children of single-parent families, and use love to soothe their spiritual trauma caused by family changes, so that they can grow up healthily.
4.5 Strengthen the ties between the government, society, family and school to form a four-in-one educational synergy.

It is far from enough to promote the learning motivation of children from single-parent families by relying on only one aspect of efforts. It is necessary to closely combine family education with social education and school education, give full play to the role of various family education academic groups, and actively carry out scientific research in view of outstanding problems existing in family education, so as to provide theoretical support and decision-making basis for guiding family education work. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the connection between government, society, family and school to form a four-in-one educational joint force.

First of all, school education and family education should be closely combined. The school must often contact the parents of the children of single parent families, fully understand the changes and needs of the children, help them overcome psychological and learning problems, make up for the trauma brought by family changes, so that they can feel the warm and healthy family life again. Teachers should try their best to guide parents, so that students' parents realize the importance of family education and sense of responsibility, although the family is broken, parents should still do their duty, bear the heavy responsibility of educating their children. Teachers should also provide advice to parents according to the situation of students, so as to formulate reasonable learning plans for children and improve their academic performance. In addition, families and schools should also communicate with various departments of society to understand some activities of single-parent children in society, etc., and call on the whole society to care about the problem of single-parent children's learning and becoming, so as to better and faster solve this increasingly prominent social major issue.

5. Conclusions

Paying attention to the children of these single-parent families and giving them a space for healthy growth and happy learning has become an inescapable responsibility of current school education, and it is also a major social issue that cannot be ignored and avoided. Solving this problem is of great social significance. It not only has a close relationship with the physical and mental development of children and the formation of personality, but also has a close relationship with personal happiness and family harmony. It is also closely related to the quality of children's socialization and the degree of civilization of the whole society. More related to the improvement of national quality and social stability.

In this investigation and research, we are looking for the universal law of establishing good learning motivation of children in single-parent families, and basically achieve the research goal. In the theoretical research results, but also harvest practical results. It can be seen that the parents of most families have changed their attitude towards children's education, and the education methods have also been improved to varying degrees; Children have varying degrees of progress, some children even have significant changes and progress, they have a close relationship with parents, classmates, teachers, and a positive attitude to life. The children gradually formed a good learning habits, weariness and truancy have been controlled to a certain extent, and their grades have also been greatly improved. That's really gratifying for us.

However, single-parent families have a long way to go. A single study is far from being able to solve the learning problems of children in single-parent families. We appeal to the whole society to care for their healthy growth. All social forces have joined forces to strengthen investigation and research, and strive to create an environment for the healthy growth of children from single-parent families.
References