Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations

VOC Workshop
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Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations

➢ The Original VOC Study
  - Theoretical and methodological deficits

➢ The Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations Study
  - Revised and extended model
  - Connecting context and individual development over the life-span
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Conceptual model for the Value of Children Study

**SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS**

**Background**
- Education
- Urban experience
- Wife’s employment history
- Age
- Sex
- Age at marriage

**Situation**
- Income
- Wife’s current employment
- Parity

**PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ORIENTATION**
- Decision mindedness
- Modernity
- Media exposure
- Small-family press
- Childbearing press

**VALUE OF CHILDREN**

**Positive values**
- Emotional benefits
- Economic benefits and security
- Self-enrichment and development
- Identification with children
- Family cohesiveness and continuity

**Negative values**
- Emotional costs
- Economic costs
- Restrictions or opportunity costs
- Physical demands
- Family costs

**Large-family values**
- Sibling relationships
- Sex preferences
- Child survival

**Small-family values**
- Societal costs
- Maternal health

**FERTILITY AND FAMILY PLANNING**

**Birth control**
- Knowledge
- Attitude
- Use

**Family size**
- Actual
- Desired
- Ideal
Modification of Mediational Model

- Economic VOC
  - Son preference
  - Socio-economic development
  + Psychological VOC
  + SES
  - Fertility
    - Parenting
    + Transmission of VOC

- Fertility
Why is the study of VOC and Intergenerational Relations necessary?

• World wide demographic changes (population growth and decline; increasing longevity) and

• Related socio-economic and cultural changes
Value of Children and Intergenerational Relations
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In a famished land, children as barter

Akhtar Mohammed watching his son, Sher, 10, whom he traded to a wealthy farmer in exchange for a monthly supply of whea
Questions for a Revised VOC Study
From the Original VOC Study to the VOC and Intergenerational Relations Study

- Basic research questions and design: from context to behavior: economic status and fertility rate)
- **Extension** of the original model: sociological and psychological questions
  - Values, parenting, life long development, and intergenerational relations in times of social change
  - Using more differentiated methodologies: multilevel; person and variable approach
Bridging Context and Individual Development

The role of cultural context, values and parent-child-relations over the life-span and during socio-economic change for

- positive and negative value of children
- intergenerational relations (support; solidarity)
- life-long development
- transmission of values over the generations
- life satisfaction
Design

Replication Study Sample

300 Mothers of Young Children (aged 2 to 5)

3-Generations-Sample

100 Grandmothers

300 Mothers

300 Adolescents (aged 14 to 17)
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Cultural and socio-economic context

Person variables

- Grandmothers
  - Experienced Parenting
  - Attachment (working model)
  - Independence/Interdependence
  - Value(s)
    - of children
    - of family
    - individualism/collectivism

- Mothers
  - Attachment (working model)
  - Independence/Interdependence
  - Value(s)
    - of children
    - of family
    - individualism/collectivism

- Adolescents
  - Attachment (working model)
  - Independence/Interdependence
  - Value(s)
    - of children
    - of family
    - individualism/collectivism

Relationship variables

- Relationship quality
  - closeness
  - conflict

- Parenting
  - acceptance
  - control
  - conformity

- Invested support
  - in children
  - in parents
Thank you for your attention!
Culture, values, and parent-child relations

Values
- VOC economic
  - High son preference
- High fertility
  - High parental control
- High normative
  - Material support
  - Low distance

Child-bearing Child rearing
- Low son preference
- Low fertility
- Low parental control

Support of old parents
- Low normative
  - Emotional support
  - High distance

Socio-economic context low

Socio-economic context high
Intergenerational Relations (Voc revisited)

Culture
independence/interdependence

Values
of
- children/family/parents
- economic
- physical
- social
- emotional

Intergenerational relations
socialization experience
(harmony, control, warmth)
parent-child relation
(interaction quality)
attachment
(security; help seeking)

Intergenerational investments
Prosocial Attitudes/Motivation
- reciprocal
- normative
- egoistic
- altruistic

Prosocial Intergenerational Activities
- economic
- physical
- social
- emotional

Intention to have children
- number
- sex
- age