

Research on Father's Participation of Children Upbringing Issues in Rural Regions and Strategies

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To cite this article:

Pu Yongming, Xie Xiaoyu, Liang Xia. Research on Father's Participation of Children Upbringing Issues in Rural Regions and Strategies. *International Journal of Education, Culture and Society*. Vol. 7, No. 3, 2022, pp. 129-136. doi: 10.11648/j.ijecs.20220703.12

Received: May 7, 2022; **Accepted:** May 23, 2022; **Published:** May 31, 2022

Abstract: In the past few years, a hot topic on how about fathers' participation in children upbringing has been studied and concerned by researchers and the society. This study, in aspects of motivations and behaviors of rural fathers who participate in children upbringing, with data samples collected from 312 children aged between 3-6 in three kindergartens and their fathers in Town A, Bazhong City, Sichuan province, aims at knowing about the status quo of rural fathers participating their children upbringing and existing issues as well, through Quantitative Research Methods including questionnaire and so forth. As the investigation shown, fathers in rural regions are often few participating in their children's upbringing and spending few hours to accompany their children, but most of fathers who have been well educated and can earn relatively higher incomes appreciate their children's education. Because traditional upbringing concept by fathers is not changed and lack of supports from our society, the government and the society should provide supports to families in rural regions from the views of changing political conditions, to facilitate a reform for rural fathers' mind-set, to bring consensus to children's parents in rural regions, especially their fathers, to improve the quality for babysitting children given by their fathers.

Keywords: Fathers in Rural Regions, Participation in Upbringing, Young Children, Strategies

1. Introduction

Very long time ago in ancient China, people had very well known the meaning of young children's growth and development under family education conditions. Mr. YAN Zhitui, an educationist in ancient China, wrote and initiated the first works named *Yan's Family Precepts*, in which the meaning of family education for young children and its related methods were discussed in a concentrated mode. Family is the first place to let young children accept education and it is very meaningful for their body and mind growth, personality molding and literacy training etc. Urie Bronfenbrenner, a psychologist, proposed the *Ecological Systems Theory*, with special background factors herein mentioned for children's upbringing given by their father [1]. As what this theory proposed, the factors to influence behaviors of parents and

up-growth of young children are composed of macroscopic system, external system, mezzo system and microscopic system as well, in which the macroscopic system includes the family's general social and cultural background, parents' social and economic level and schooling level etc; external system includes parents' job, social pressure and supports etc; mezzo system includes family factors; microscopic system includes emotion and status to directly influence the children and intercourse time/method given to children etc [1, 2]. This study therefore highlights the analysis and discussion on young children's upbringing given by their fathers in rural regions in consideration of background in rural regions and factors such as rural cultures, family's economic conditions, parents' schooling level and their perspectives etc.

In 1760s, Mr. J. Bowlby, a psychiatrist, proposed the *Attachment Theory* regarding children. According to this theory, the attachment level of children differs to different

family members [3]. However, Lamb et al. considered that children with stronger sociality are usually shown a higher attachment level to their father [4]. This means that the roles of a father may influence the sociality of one child more than that given by his/her mother. Meanwhile, the perception development of young children influenced by their father shall never be ignored. Nugent suggested to salariat families that the perception development of children is in direct proportion to how their father has joined into children's upbringing [5]. Henderson et al. proposed that the increase of children's attentiveness and the decrease of unconventional behaviors are in direct proportion to how their father has joined into children's upbringing. As a result of above, father also plays a very important role in the daily school lifetime of a child. Secondly, the gender role molding for children is greatly influenced by how the father joined into children's upbringing. Mrs. Sears and her husband were the first couple to perform such research, as its result shown that the boy who was lack of upbringing given by his father showed us a weaker aggression while playing games [6]. Dohery described in his study that those girls who were lack of babysitting given by her father were difficult to interact with boys [7]. In addition, the behaviors of parents are closely interconnected with the development of children in aspect of morality, meant that the example and discipline of parents both play a role to influence children's emotion and their morality as well. Finally, as relevant studies shown on children's body health, those who are brought up by their father, the probability to be injured by sudden diseases or accidents is much lower than those not brought up by their father. In sum, as shown in massive studies both in China and other countries, father plays a very meaningful role to bring up children. Father, as for children's personality, gender quality, perception, as well as emotion and morality, plays an indispensable role of his children's growth.

The study abroad on upbringing given by father was much earlier than that in China, in which the earliest one was three-factor theory proposed by US researcher Lamb, including thereof participation, accessibility, children upbringing and responsibility supports [4, 8]. The factor of participation includes the babysitting while father staying together with his children; the accessibility refers to some influences given to young children by their father in an indirect mode and the responsibility includes the upbringing given to young children and related supports provided by their father [4]. After Lamb's three-factor-theory being accepted and used for long term, researchers such as Hawkins et al. proposed new dimension and considered that father's participation in children's daily life includes "from view of economics, to support children's mother; of education, to encourage their achievement of schooling and to praise children and emotional interactions as well; of chatting, to focus on health of children, to read books together for training hobbies and interests [8]. This study therefore integrates viewpoints of aforesaid two researchers, and divides the questionnaire into three dimensions including interconnectedness, accessible upbringing and responsibility supports, and then 13 sub-dimensions divided including living

life, schooling, emotion, rules, accompany, space accessibility, psychology accessibility, economics, supports provided to children's mother, examples, future planning, family contacts and environmental creations etc, aiming to fully know about status quo of children upbringing given by their father as well as how such issues occur.

With regard to earlier studies, most of studies highlight the meaning of father's role and relationship between children's perception, behaviors and children's upbringing given by their father, however, relevant studies with meaningful and real investigation for status quo, issues and solutions for how their father joins into children's upbringing are insufficient. Meanwhile, related studies on missed father's role and children's upbringing given by father in kindergartens in rural regions are quite insufficient.

2. Study Approaches

2.1. Study Target

This study selected three kindergartens in town A, Bazhong city, Sichuan province as its investigation range, and 266 valid questionnaires collected back in total. Of age, father's age between 26-30, 132 persons in total; age below 25, 61 persons in total; age between 31-35, 43 persons in total; age between 36-40, 27 persons in total; and age over 40 years, only 3 persons in total. Of education background, most of them are graduated from senior high school or vocational school, 156 persons in total; junior middle school or below, 72 persons in total; undergraduate, 7 persons in total; postgraduate or above, 0 persons in total. Of basic data for children, classified as per gender, 141 boys and 125 girls in total. Of age at different age groups of children, 51 persons at 3 years in total; 92 persons at 4 years in total; 73 persons at 5 years in total and 50 persons at 6 years in total.

2.2. Study Tools

The investigation questionnaire on children upbringing given by their father in rural regions was prepared on the basis of the model prepared by LIU Xiaohong, a semi-closed and semi-opened method used for this questionnaire, and three parts included [9]. Part I details the basic information. Part II details the investigation questionnaire on children upbringing given by their father in Town A, three-dimension divided respectively for interactions, accessible upbringing and responsibility supports, aiming to fully know about children upbringing given by their father in rural regions; this part uses a scoring rule from "Never" to "Always" counting from 0-4 as per positive number, which means that the score is higher, the level the father participated more higher; Part III details an opening Q&A, for knowing about the concept on how fathers in rural region join into children's upbringing.

2.3. Procedures of Investigating

Researchers communicated with kindergarten leader. Let them know about the meaning of such questionnaires and told them that any personal information would not be disclosed

and anonymous for persons who were investigated would be guaranteed. After that the questionnaires were distributed to parents by teachers of kindergarten, in addition, the softcopy of questionnaires was prepared for fathers who were working in other provinces and sent to them through WeChat, QQ or Email or other means. There were 312 questionnaires being distributed in total and 291 collected back, with a feedback rate up to 93.3%. Among them 25 invalid questionnaires in total were rejected and 266 qualified questionnaires were available for references, with an acceptability ratio up to 91.40%. And then the interviews were used for knowing about its influences. Finally, some tools such as SPSS etc. we used for related analysis of investigation data, and we proposed

applicable solutions for issues from data analysis based on status quo.

2.4. Data Processing

Excel 2019/SPSS19.0

3. Study Results and Analysis

3.1. Basic Information of Fathers

In the questionnaire, the basic information of fathers consists of their age, occupation, education background, incomes and job status etc.

Table 1. Sample demographic variable descriptive statistics (N=266).

	Catalogs	Numbers	%
Age of Father	25 or below	61	22.9
	26~30	132	49.6
	31~35	43	16.2
	36~40	27	10.2
	40 or above	3	1.1
Education Experience of Father	Junior School or below	72	27.1
	Senior School or Vocational School	156	58.6
	Advanced Vocational School or Junior College	31	11.7
	Undergraduate	7	2.6
	Postgraduate Diploma or above	0	0
Occupation of Father	Specialist Technician	41	15.4
	Civil Servant or Government Public Service Agent	23	8.6
	Private Business	127	47.7
	Staff of Company	43	16.2
	Others	32	12
Monthly Incomes	CNY 1500 or below	73	27.4
	CNY 1500~3000	167	62.8
	CNY 3000~5000	21	7.9
	CNY 5000 or above	5	1.9
Father's job status	Working in other places for long term, occasionally go home	51	19.2
	Working nearby his home, go home everyday	143	53.8
	Most of the time working in other places, stay at home at remaining time	46	17.3
	Few durations working in other places, stay at home at remaining time	26	9.8

Table 1 Detailed basic information of fathers in Town A, Bazhong City, Sichuan Province.

The age group distribution hereinto in Town A details that most of them are between 26-40, 136 persons in total and percentage up to 49.60%; age above 40 only 3 persons in total, percentage up to 1.10%. From the statistics data collected, it is shown that the general age of fathers in town A is quite younger. Of education background, most of them are graduated from senior high school or vocational school, 156 persons in total and percentage up to 58.60%; undergraduate, 7 persons in total; postgraduate or above, 0 persons in total. It shows that the schooling level of fathers in Town A in rural regions is commonly lower than other places. Of jobs they are engaging in, most of them work as individual business or free laborer or employee in factory, respectively up to 127 and 43. Of monthly incomes, most of fathers may get monthly incomes between CNY 1500-3000, up to 167 persons, percentage up to 62.8%. In rural regions, although most of fathers choose their jobs nearby their home, with a percentage hereinto up to 53.8% of the total, but the rest of them mostly selected to work far away from their home all the year or most

part of their time.

3.2. Overview of Father's Participation of Children Upbringing in Rural Regions

3.2.1. Father's Participation of Children Upbringing

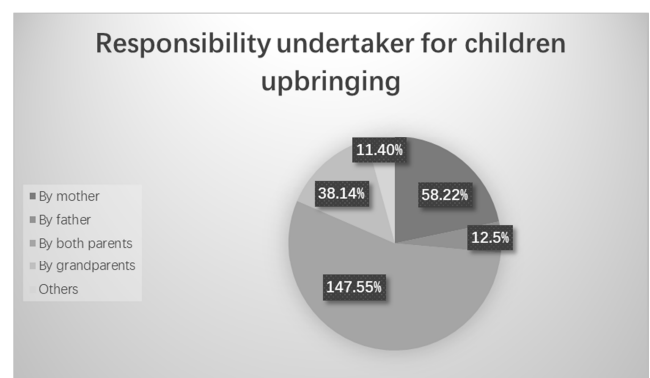


Figure 1. A statistical chart for responsibility undertaker of children upbringing.

As shown in the Figure above, and as the questionnaire questioned that "Who should undertake the parenting task for your children?", five alternative answers are available for selecting for target to be investigated, respectively mother, father, both parents, grandparents, and others. Most of fathers hereinto believe that the responsibility for bring up children should be borne by parents, but few of them neither to be borne nor by others. This shows that most of fathers in rural regions believe that the upbringing of children is inseparable from both parents, however still many of them who keep themselves out of the way, believing that the upbringing of children should be under the help of mothers and grandparents.

In the in-depth interviews with the three families, when questioned whether father agreed with the statement that father earns money to support the family and the mother brings up their children, three fathers all expressed their consent, and believed that mother should be the

responsibility undertaker to bring up their children. This illustrated that the concept for children's upbringing in rural regions is still in the process of changing from tradition to modern, and such transformations still need a long time and effective strategies.

3.2.2. Duration for Father Staying Together with Children

In the statistical chart below for duration of father staying together with their children, 56% of them may stay together with their children every day or every week. But another 30% of fathers cannot spend special time to stay with their children, just like a social activity to children's lifetime only. Only 21 of fathers, or 8%, selected that they may spend time to stay with their children. In sum, most of fathers would spend time to stay with their children every week or every day, but some of them never considered that they have time to stay together with their children exclusively, showing that less time and interactions for fathers staying with their children.

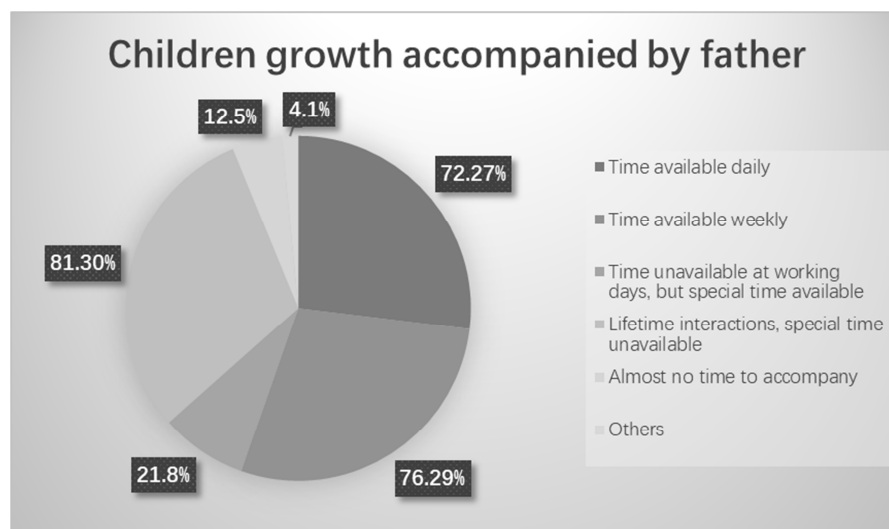


Figure 2. Statistical chart of duration for father staying together with their children (N=266).

3.3. Statistical Items for Father's Participation of Children Upbringing in Rural Regions

Table 2. Descriptive statistics for father's participation of children upbringing (n=266).

Dimensions	Sub-dimensions	M	SD
Interactions and Communications	Life care	2.21	0.61
	Schooling supports	2.71	0.73
	Emotional interactions	2.54	0.52
	Rules & Indoctrination	2.65	0.67
Approachable Upbringing	Activities and Babysitting	2.51	0.81
	Space Accessible	2.38	0.73
	Psychology Accessible	2.47	0.65
	Financial Support	3.18	0.47
Responsibility Support	Support Given to Children's Mother	2.43	0.76
	Model and Sample	2.52	0.57
	Development Planning	2.12	0.68
	Communication between Home and Kindergarten	2.36	0.74
	Environment creation	2.01	0.65

As shown in descriptive statistics above, it is known that

father's participation in upbringing, the average value and separation for each dimension are different. Average value hereinto is in a range of 2.01-3.18. As the dimension of interaction analyzed, the maximum average value was 2.71 for supporting schooling, and the minimum value for life care, indicating that father's participation in children upbringing is involved in their schooling activities, but less concerns about children's growth. The maximum score for economic support was 3.18, but minimum score 2.01 for environmental creation. This group of data illustrates that many fathers participate in children's upbringing through material support, but relatively less environment creation provided to their children and the planning and expectations for future development as well.

3.3.1. Analysis on Children's Upbringing Influenced by Self-owned Characteristics of Fathers in Town A in Rural Regions

- 1) No significant impact for father's participation of children upbringing due to their age

Table 3. Comparison for fathers' participation in children upbringing at different ages ($M \pm SD$).

	Age					P Value
	25 or below	26-30	31-35	36-40	40 or above	
Interactions and Communications	2.61 \pm 0.63	2.62 \pm 0.61	2.58 \pm 0.64	2.47 \pm 0.56	2.48 \pm 0.64	0.457
Approachable Upbringing	2.71 \pm 0.53	2.68 \pm 0.58	2.62 \pm 0.52	2.58 \pm 0.61	2.73 \pm 0.57	0.635
Responsibility Support	2.84 \pm 0.71	2.75 \pm 0.57	2.78 \pm 0.65	2.83 \pm 0.53	2.81 \pm 0.61	0.548

One-way ANOVA was performed with rural fathers at different ages as independent variables and content of participation as dependent variables. The results showed that no significant impact

of fathers' participation in upbringing at different ages.

2) But father's educational level has a significant impact on his participation in children's upbringing

Table 4. Comparison for rural fathers' participation in children's upbringing with different educational levels ($M \pm SD$).

	Education Background					P Value
	Junior School Diploma or below	Senior School or Vocational School	Advanced Vocational School or Junior College	Undergraduate	Postgraduate Diploma or above	
Interactions and Communications	2.01 \pm 0.53	2.52 \pm 0.71	2.31 \pm 0.54	2.87 \pm 0.46	0	0.027
Approachable Upbringing	2.31 \pm 0.63	2.66 \pm 0.48	2.62 \pm 0.72	2.18 \pm 0.51	0	0.034
Responsibility Support	2.34 \pm 0.51	2.25 \pm 0.57	2.58 \pm 0.75	2.73 \pm 0.56	0	0.058

By taking rural fathers with different educational levels in town A as the independent variable, one-way ANOVA was performed. The results showed that significant differences in participation of rural fathers in children upbringing with different educational

levels, that's why the educational level of rural fathers is an important factor affecting their participation in children upbringing. In sum, the higher the education level of fathers is, the more participated they are in the upbringing of children.

Table 5. Comparison for rural fathers' participation in child upbringing with different incomes ($M \pm SD$).

	Monthly Incomes				P Value
	1500 or below	1500-3000	3000-5000	5000 or above	
Interactions and Communications	2.81 \pm 0.63	2.52 \pm 0.68	2.44 \pm 0.56	2.23 \pm 0.54	0.021
Approachable Upbringing	2.53 \pm 0.63	2.65 \pm 0.88	2.62 \pm 0.52	2.57 \pm 0.61	0.452
Responsibility Support	2.24 \pm 0.72	2.45 \pm 0.57	2.78 \pm 0.75	2.67 \pm 0.57	0.032

3.3.2. A significant Impact on Fathers' Participation in Child Upbringing Due to Their Monthly Incomes

By taking rural fathers with different incomes as independent variables, one-way ANOVA was performed. In item "Interactive Communication" for upbringing, monthly income has a significant impact on rural fathers' participation in children's upbringing; in the column "Responsibility Support", fathers with an income of CNY 3,000-5,000 scored the highest, and monthly incomes have a significant impact on upbringing in "Responsibility Support"; but no significant impact on "Accessible Upbringing" due to father's monthly income.

4. Discussions and Analysis

This study, through questionnaires and interviews, highlights an in-depth understanding of status quo and issues on rural fathers' participation in children's upbringing in Yuxi Town. A detailed analysis on such issues is now made in order to propose targeted solutions.

4.1. Fathers' Own Factors

Fathers' participation in child upbringing will be influenced by multiple factors such as their own

characteristics, children's characteristics and social and cultural background [10]. From the point of view of the factors affecting fathers' participation in upbringing, there is a certain relationship between fathers' concept of upbringing, educational level and economic income. However, different studies have shown that there is a discrepancy between fathers' own factors and their level of involvement in parenting. However, it is not difficult to see that the differences in these research conclusions are related to the age of the research and the research object.

4.1.1. Rural Fathers' Backward Ideas of Upbringing

The upbringing concepts of rural fathers have not been changed yet. Long time ago in ancient China, a traditional idea of "Female Inferiority" and "Men Make Houses but Women Make Homes." was rooted, by which it is considered that women should properly handle the family affairs, including children's upbringing [11]. With the development of the era, traditional concepts have been gradually changed, and many scholars have turned the perspective of children's upbringing to men. However, as compared with urban regions and marked a sign of economic backwardness and outdated concepts, many fathers in rural regions believe that the responsibility or main responsibility for children upbringing should, partial or whole, not borne by themselves.

4.1.2. Lower Educational Level of Fathers in Rural Regions

With rapid China's urbanization progress, most of rural male with higher education background or a certain of professional skills selects to work or settle down in cities, but the remaining men in rural regions are usually less educated. In the statistics on educational background of rural fathers in town A, maximum population was graduated from high school or vocational school, only 7 undergraduates and no postgraduates. Fathers in rural regions, impacted by their education level, often much more concern the interactions and daily life given to their children, and they are able to provide sufficient supports due to their occupation, social status and higher monthly incomes. This research result is basically consistent with another domestic research conclusion, father's education level and father's participation in parenting is significantly positive correlation. The father's education level affects the father's participation in parenting. The higher the father's education level, the higher the father's participation in upbringing [12].

4.1.3. Rural Fathers' Huge Economic Pressure

Many families in rural regions are living together with three generations, including parents, children, and grandparents. Rural fathers must rely on their labor force for expenses of family, and huge cost for bringing up their children as well. Huge economic pressure has forced rural fathers to work with more efforts, that's why they have no time to take care of their children's daily life. Father's income and family economic status influence father's participation in child rearing. A scholar's research also confirms such a view that family annual income is significantly positively correlated with father's participation in child rearing, and family annual income influences father's participation in child rearing. However, this study also found that the factor of annual family income has the least direct influence on fathers' involvement in parenting [12]. However, another study showed the opposite result, that fathers with low monthly income were more involved than fathers with high monthly income [13]. Obviously, similar and different results are closely related to the research object and time and space. The object of this study is a typical rural area, where the social status and economic level are completely different from those of cities. From the interviews, it is shown that rural fathers are not willing to give up their obligation to take care of their children, but described as "Willing but unable", actually no more time to give their family members except for working.

4.2. Insufficient Supports from Our Society

4.2.1. Public Voice Puzzles in Modern Society

Studies show that the social transformation in China makes a large number of young laborers leave their hometown and go to cities. In this case, how many parents have children but have to leave their children because of livelihood, and many rural fathers are too busy with work to play a role in their children's family education [14]. Modern social perceptions

are changing, and mothers and grandparents in rural regions are supportive of fathers' participation in children's upbringing. However, it is not feasible for rural fathers to take the primary responsibility for the upbringing of children. If a rural father focuses on the family and his wife is responsible for its financial support, rural public voice will be a tiger in the road. Because most people believed that, or even in some TV plays, mothers are indeed more suitable for bringing up children than fathers. It will take a longer time to change such situation.

4.2.2. Extremely Insufficient Supports for Education

The government nowadays strongly calls for preschool education, and even parents in rural regions are aware of the importance of preschool education. However, the more important issue is that the popularization of preschool education knowledge is insufficient. Preschool education resources in rural regions are deficient, and rural fathers have to face a difficult issue that they are willing to participate but don't know how to participate children's education. Meanwhile, preschool teachers in rural regions are faced with a structural shortage because of factors such as salary, social status, etc., and deficient literacy of teachers, as well as too many persons in a class. This means that kindergarten teachers cannot provide more help to family education. A great difficulty for fathers in rural regions has to face that where do family education methods come from, that's a major challenge on preschool education we have to face in China.

5. Proposals for Education

5.1. Fathers Themselves to Improve Parenting Knowledge

Regarding issues of rural fathers' participation in children's upbringing, the study targets are connected with fathers and their children in rural regions, therefore, how to improve their knowledge on children upbringing is the most critical and important measure.

5.1.1. To Learn Parenting Knowledge Through Magazines and Internet

With increasingly developed modern Internet technology, various educational resources can be found from Internet, which is an important pathway for rural fathers to learn and educate their children. Popular online courses such as MOOC are also a way for fathers to learn relevant knowledges. In addition, more advanced educational concepts and effective solutions from Internet are available for solving such mutual disjoint issues. With gradually developed transportation and communication technology, another method is to subscribe magazines and books, by which reading books is not only to make them understand more parenting knowledges, but also to stimulate their love for books.

5.1.2. To Enhance Father's Confidence for Children Upbringing in Rural Regions

As shown from interviews with some rural families and the

status quo of questionnaire, many rural fathers are willing to participate in the upbringing for their children, but lack of confidence. They recognized that the importance on their participation in child's growth is less than mother's, they are therefore willing to let their wives take on the upbringing responsibilities. We must build up confidences for rural fathers to participate in upbringing of children, and let them know their importance to the growth of children, and make them be happy to participate in. After confidences they have gained, they would try to find knowledges and methods of parenting children, to improve their own parenting knowledges for growth of children together with their fathers, growth together with love and care for a good volition and literacy.

5.1.3. To Change over Concepts on Education

With increasingly developed economy, the traditional concepts on education have been changing, but such concepts in rural regions are deeply rooted, and such changeover is similar to a proverb "Rome was not built in a day". To change their educational concepts requires efforts of everyone who participates in the whole course. For example, through different TV variety shows, such as "Where We are Going, Dad?", rural fathers are more accessible and aware of meaning of being a father, thereby changing their educational concepts. In addition, when experts and scholars study the importance of children upbringing given by fathers, they can properly understand the status quo of rural fathers how they bring up children. As compared with cities with more resources and advanced concepts, we should pay more attention to the training on fatherhood in rural regions, thereby to arouse loves for children from their mind.

5.2. To Enhance Supports from Our Society

5.2.1. To Change Trend of Public Voice

To enhance social supports for fathers in participation of children upbringing, the first job is to change their traditional concepts in rural region through propaganda slogans or rural lectures. Additionally, mothers should be encouraged to go out and find a job, by reducing their financial burden of the family, meanwhile fathers in rural regions may participate in parent-child activities. In families where both parents are responsible for the upbringing of their children, it is able to select some of them as examples of towns, to get rid of the outdated traditional idea of "Men Make Houses but Women Make Homes" through massive propagandas, changing the trend of public voice.

5.2.2. To Build up Platform and Enhance Teacher Team for Kindergarten

In kindergartens, it is able to carry out family education lectures and other popular activities on its importance, as well as theme day activities for both fathers and mothers, to make parents properly understanding meaningful family education. In addition, parent-child sport games and other activities are recommended for children's parents, to increase the time for staying together with children and more interactions between children and parents, and to enhance the

participation achievements for fathers in rural regions.

5.3. Supports from Government

5.3.1. To Speed up Economic Development in Rural REGIONS and to Reduce Financial Burden of Rural Families

The government should enhance its supports for economic development in rural regions, especially for central and western regions of China. To revitalize and develop rural economy and industries with rural characteristics through related policies. Firstly, development of rural regions depends on talents including fathers who are willing to settle down in their hometown, that's better for their children's education. Secondly, through political means such as subsidies etc., it is able to reduce financial burden of rural fathers and their family pressure, by which fathers may participate in more effective child upbringing. The government should enhance the poverty alleviation efforts, changing its scheme from "Flooding Irrigation" to "Targeted Poverty Alleviation", and to properly understand the demands in different rural regions for providing different supports in different aspects.

5.3.2. To Promulgate Laws and Regulations Through National Legislation

In 2010, the first family education guideline in China, "National Family Education Guidance Outline" was jointly issued by multiple Ministries and Commissions, which proposed that "The role of father should be fully played, wherever and whenever education in the life scenario should be highlighted" [10]. As shown in some data, some relevant local policies have been issued in China, and many employers have set up a "Maternity Leave" for husbands to take care of their wives in infant upbringing. The enforcement of this law is helpful to rural fathers' participation in the upbringing of children, which stipulated father's obligations, and provided guarantees for issues on family economic burden [15]. Through such mandatory regulations made by government authorities, it is able to provide a certain of material guarantees for rural families, by which fathers may truly participate in the upbringing of children and both families in urban and rural regions can gain supports under such policies.

6. Conclusions

According to the findings of the study, rural fathers' participation in children's upbringing in the sample areas presents many common characteristics, mainly reflected in rural fathers' low awareness of the importance of participating in children's upbringing, less time to accompany children's growth, and fathers with relatively high education level and income level attach more importance to children's education. Analysis of the main reasons are the father's traditional upbringing concept has not changed, the lack of social support. The effective way to solve these problems requires the government and society to jointly provide support for rural families, promote the reform of rural fathers'

thinking concept, arouse the consensus of rural parents, especially fathers, and improve the quality of rural fathers accompanying their children.

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