

Impact of Mattering on Parental Attachment: Social Support Mediation and Self-Efficacy Moderation in Rural Chinese Children

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Abstract

Strong emotional relationships between parents and children are thought to be essential for developing a child's emotion of mattering, according to earlier research. Through the investigation of these relationships, the study aims to improve knowledge of the psychological and emotional elements that support normal growth in the population. To offer regulation for reinforcement of parental support networks in marginalized groups, it draws attention to the importance of these variables in determining the quality of attachment. This study explores the connection among mattering (MAT) and Parental Attachment (PA) with a focus on the dynamics that affect Social Support (SS) and Self Efficacy (SE) between rural Chinese children. Validated questionnaires assessing PA, MAT, SS, SE, and Parental Support (PS) are utilized to collect data from a sample (190) of Chinese children living in rural areas. Significantly favourable connections, especially between MAT and PA, are revealed by correlation analysis. These results reveal avenues for improving the development of rural Chinese children by underlining the significance of social networks and emotional attachments in fostering psychological well-being.

Keywords: Social Support, Mattering, Parental Attachment, Self-Efficacy, Rural Chinese Children.

One important component affecting a child's emotional, social, and psychological development is parental connection. Fostering healthy child development in rural Chinese communities requires knowledge of the processes that influence parental connection, particularly in light of the socioeconomic obstacles and resource limitations that are common. The emotional connection that exists between children and their primary caregivers typically their parents is known as Parental Attachment (PA) [1]. The attachment is an

affectionate tie formed in the early years of life with main caregivers. However, attachments have an impact on an adolescent's psychological. To develop into more independent and autonomous from family, adolescence is seen as a difficult transitional time, leading to an increasing investment in relationships [2]. Parents continue to be a vital source of emotional support for their teenagers. The attachment bond between parents and children can influence the development of problem behaviors in people; however, since attachment is a good aspect of

behavior development, it is unknown how parent-child attachment affects positive behavior habits and possible mechanisms [3]. The parental involvement and psychology play a mediating role in the relationship between parent-child attachment and kids' positive behavior patterns. The family environment element includes the bond between parents and children as a key component [4]. Its ability to impact an individual's problem behavior has been validated by empirical investigations. For example, several studies have shown that parent-child attachment influences people's violent conduct and problematic internet usage behavior in addition to having a negative correlation with unpleasant feelings in children, such as anxiety and sadness. The establishment and growth of healthy behavior patterns is also influenced by parent-child attachment, which is a positive element of an individual's behavior development [5]. China is the greatest civilization that exemplifies interdependence and collectivism at the social and familial levels. Confucian ideals place a strong emphasis on the notion of filial piety and parental control. Chinese youngsters have a unidirectional duty to their family and elders, and they are raised to appreciate obedience and respect from their parents. Given this, greater focus has to be placed on the variables influencing early children's positive behavior patterns. Attachment between parents and children is bidirectional, meaning that it influences parents' thoughts, emotions, and actions in addition to the development of their children. While it is true that parents who have a stable attachment bond with their children are sensitive, parent-child attachment can also have an impact on parenting style. It has also been shown a positive parent-child bond is better able to attend to their children's needs [6]. Mattering, a psychological concept, refers to how important and cherished people feel by others, especially parents. Social support (SS) is crucial for physical and mental health, enhancing positive affect and reducing psychological stress. Self-efficacy and SE are also important aspects of SS,

as they influence a child's self-worth and attachment to their parents. More social SS strengthens child-parent attachment [7]. A child's self-esteem (SE) can moderate the influence of MAT on their attachment to their parents. This is particularly relevant in rural China, where traditional family structures are threatened by social and economic changes. Understanding the role of MAT in parental attachment can help promote resilience and guide initiatives to improve parent-child interactions [8]. To better understand how mattering affects parental attachment in Chinese rural children, this study looks at the moderating and mediating effects of SE as well as SS. It aims to comprehend how this link is reinforced by SS and how SE affects MAT's overall effect on attachment. Knowing the complexities of parental attachment becomes crucial in rural China, where child-rearing methods are heavily influenced by traditional family structures and cultural beliefs.

Related works (这个部分应该是文献探讨，但是这样表述感觉有点迷惑)

To assess the chain mediation role of SE in the association connecting control of emotions by parents and the resilience of migrant children, the study [9] included 745 migrant children from 4 educated as well as their Chinese parents. Family adaptation and teenage depression have been correlated in previous studies. Studies on the fundamental process between family adaptability and teenage despair, however, are few. Research [10] founded the ecological systems theory and looked at the connection between adolescent depression and family adaptability, as mediated by the respective roles of SE and SS. The goal was to [11] investigate the way the children's learning methods are affected by their parents' warmth, as well as how SE functions as a mediator and the teacher-child closeness functions as a moderator in this connection. Together with their parents and

instructors, 414 Chinese youngsters between the ages of 5 and 6 participated in the study using a whole-group sample technique. In-person surveys about self-efficacy, learning styles of the children, and parental warmth were given to the parents of the children. Research [12] investigated the connections between parenting SE, parental participation, and children's preparedness for school. In a longitudinal research conducted greater than ten months, 438 Chinese couples with children were enlisted as participants. The results indicated that there was no highly significant correlation connecting the degree of parental and maternal engagement and the chance that children would be ready for school. 248 Malaysian secondary school teachers participated in the study [13], which investigated the impact of dispositional optimism, MAT, and SE on instructor tenacity. It used cluster random sampling and an online survey service for data collection. The study [14] was informed by attachment theory, looked at the relationship between parents' attachment styles and children's dictatorial emotional self-efficacy, which includes controlling negative affect and expressing good affect. It also investigated the mediating function of parent-adolescent attachment in this relationship. They analyzed if resilience performs as a moderator in the organization connecting self-reliance behaviors and a model of the interaction between Chinese school students' grades as well as their mothers' psychological flexibility as parents. Participants in the study included N = 497 pupils from three primary schools in two elementary schools in the People's Republic of China's Fujian Province [15]. Investigation [16] assessed how pre-schoolers in rural China were left behind (LBC) in terms of resilience and emotion control. In the Chinese province of Anhui, 620 preschool LBCs from rural regions were registered. The relationships between factors and resilience were assessed using multivariate logistic regression. According to the data, 20.2% of LBCs show more resilience. Among preschool LBCs, there was a correlation between

emotion control and resilience. Research [17] examined the factors that influence Chinese pupils enrolled in schools' academic achievement and looked at the parents' impacting support, the favourable shares of proximal social surroundings, and the supporting school weather. A strengths-based transfer based on the recommendation of positive youth development was used in the study. The perceived anxiety unenthusiastically impacts the development that arises subsequent to anxiety. The potential regulating and mediating mechanisms, mostly for children are left behind, remain unclear. Consequently, the study is to investigate the unenthusiastic connection between supposed anxiety as well as post-anxiety development in a group of Chinese children moderating function of SE and the mediating role of SS [18].

Hypotheses Development

The hypothesis developed based on the children in rural China engage in more parental attachment based on their sense of mattering, potentially improving their SE. Among Chinese youngsters living in rural areas, greater levels of MAT are favourably connected with increased PA (parental attachment). Children basically get more parental attachment when their activity levels rise.

H1: Higher levels of MAT are positively associated with stronger PA in rural Chinese children.

A mediating component between MAT and PA is suggested to be SS in this instance. Hence, increased MAT levels promote an additional robust SS system, which in turn promotes increased engagement in parental attachment. Children who feel important and appreciated by others are more likely to get assistance from others, which has a good impact on their levels of parental attachment.

H2: SS mediates the connection between MAT and PA, like that higher levels of MAT lead to increased SS, which in turn enhances PA.

The link between MAT and PA is moderated by SE. It implies that the beneficial effects of MAT on PA are greater for children's who have higher self-esteem. MAT cannot have the same impact on parental attachment levels in those with lower SE, suggesting that self-esteem is a critical factor in how youngsters understand and act upon their feeling of MAT.

H3: SE moderates the connection between MAT and PA, with the relationship being stronger for rural children with higher levels of SE.

Children from rural Chinese families who have greater levels of MAT also have better PS. Research indicates that children who have a sense of significance are more likely to exhibit positive mental health outcomes, such as resilience, emotional control, and general psychological stability. This connection emphasizes how crucial social and emotional elements are to a child's growth.

H4: A higher level of MAT has been positively associated with stronger PS in rural Chinese children.

3.1 Research Methodology

A cross-sectional survey approach is employed in this study to investigate the relations between Chinese rural children's SE,

MAT, PA, SS, and PS. Standardized questionnaires are given to children, especially in rural communities, to collect data.

3.2 Data collection

Chinese children in rural areas are selected to represent the developmental stage in which SE and PA play a major role. This study examines the effect of MAT on PA, with 190 participants from rural locations assessed. These participants were chosen to represent the community in a varied way since they came from a range of age groups and backgrounds through survey. This survey was distributed both offline and online to offer a representative sample of all demographics. Participants are selected with the help of survey using varied questionnaire based on the PA. This study used both online and offline data collection techniques to collect information from 190 participants are selected and examine the effects of PA on Chinese children growing up in rural areas, as well as the ways in which specific PA characteristics influence aspects of child development, including Mat, PA, SC, SE, and PS. The perceived SS measure has been categorized into dimensions. Table 1 shows the profile for the demographic.

Table 1: Demographic profile

Variable	Category	Frequency (n=190)	Percentage (%)
Children Age	8-years	47	24.74
	9-years	53	27.89
	10-years	40	21.05
	11-years	35	18.42
	12-years	15	7.90
Gender	Male	96	50.53
	Female	94	49.47
Parental education level	Primary school	45	23.68
	Secondary school	36	18.95
	Higher education	80	42.11
	No Formal Education	29	15.26
Parental employment status	Employed	110	57.89
	Unemployed	80	42.11
Household income	Low <20,000	50	26.32
	Moderate (20,000-50,000)	95	50
	High >50,000	45	23.68
Family structure	Single-parent family	70	36.84

	Two-parent family	120	63.16
Rural Region	Eastern	72	37.89
	Central	60	31.58
	Western	58	30.53

3.3 Data Analysis

The data (190) analysis process for the study examines how the MAT affects PA, using SE as a moderator and SE as a mediator. Descriptive statistics are used to summarize the averages and Standard Deviations (SD) for each variable; the data initial is cleaned to remove several missing values and outliers. To investigate potential correlations between the variables included in the model, the SEM approach is applied to the closing data. In this study, descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, SEM and Cronbach's alpha are assessed. The mediation and moderation hypotheses are tested using SEM, with rigorous model definition and fit evaluation using indices like CFI, and TLI. To assess the internal consistency of the MAT, PA, SS, SE, and PS measures, reliability analysis is performed using Cronbach's alpha, with an acceptable threshold set at 0.70. A statistical method for determining the direction and degree of correlations among one or more variables is correlation analysis. The correlations between the variables are investigated using correlation analysis, which is educational direction and intensity of these relations. SPSS software is used to analyze the data to assess the study hypotheses and assessed the outcomes matching the conceptual model.

3.4 Conceptual framework

This study's conceptual framework aims to investigate, within the context children statements, the interaction between MAT, SS, PA, SE, and PS for moderation in rural Chinese children. According to this approach, the main independent variable that favourably affects both PA and PS is proposed to be MAT. The SEM

approach makes it easier to assess the mediating effect of SS. Furthermore, the approach allows SE to be evaluated as a mediator in the MAT → PA relationship and additionally, an evaluation of the direct link between MAT → PS is conducted, demonstrating the correlation between a greater level of significance and PS. The usage of SEM facilitates a thorough comprehension of the complex dynamics via which MAT impacts children's emotional attachments to their parents, highlighting the functions of SE and SS in this study. The conceptual framework for the research is displayed in Figure 1.

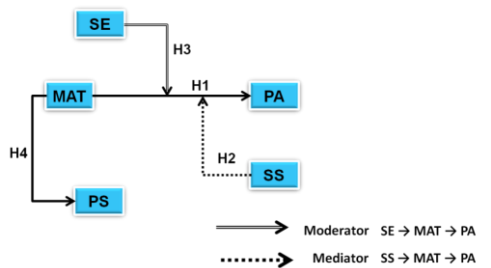


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3.5 Variables

Study variables are the particular devices and equipment that are employed in a research study to evaluate and measure the important variables. Validated scales intended to capture many dimensions are included in the measures in a study on the influence of MAT on PA in Chinese children living in rural areas. Instruments for every variable are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Instruments of each variable

Variables	Item	Coding
Parental Attachment (PA)	I have total faith in my parents	PA 1
	Speaking with my parents about my issues makes me feel at ease	PA 2

	I can depend on my parents for support when I need it	PA 3
Social Support (SS)	I'm supported by friends in times of need	SS 1
	My family is a reliable source of support	SS 2
	I think I have a strong support system	SS 3
Self-Efficacy (SE)	I have faith in my abilities to succeed in my endeavors	SE 1
	I think I can do most of the things I set out to accomplish.	SE 2
	I believe I can conquer challenges in my life	SE 3
Parental Support (PS)	When I need emotional support, my parents give it to me	PS 1
	My parents provide me with helpful advice when I need it	PS 2
	I'm encouraged to follow my hobbies by my parents.	PS 3
Mattering (MAT)	I feel important to my family	MAT 1
	My parents value my thoughts.	MAT 2
	I think my contribution to my community is substantial	MAT 3
	My efforts are valued by others in my life	MAT 4

A MAT, which measures children's views of their importance within their family and community, is used to evaluate mattering. The inventory of PA, which emphasizes communication and trust with parents, is used to evaluate parental attachment. The multidimensional scale of considered SS is used to measure social support by assessing how readily friends and family are considered to be there. The generalized SE is used to evaluate self-efficacy, which is a measure of children's belief in their capacity to accomplish objectives. Finally, a modified PS scale is used to measure parental support, gauging the practical and emotional assistance that parents offer. To investigate the connections between these constructs, data is to be gathered using surveys that are given in a controlled setting and then analyzed using SEM.

Result and discussion

The results of the study demonstrate strong SE properties for the constructs involved, with CFA confirming reliability and validity. Correlation analysis reveals a significant positive relationship connection associated with MAT, PA, SS, SE, and PS. SEM substantiates all hypotheses, indicating that MAT positively influences PA. The findings underscore the significance of MAT and social networks in fostering strong PA among rural Chinese children.

4.1 Variables model testing

The construction of the components in this study is theoretically based, and the measuring scale is developed using already validated scales; therefore, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) tested convergent validity, discriminant reliability, single dimension validity, and structural reliability. The evaluation model fits the data rather well, as seen by all the indications meeting the recommended threshold. Evaluated

construct dependability using Cronbach's α values and composite reliability scores. Since all of them exceeded the recommended cut-off point of 0.70, the idea of dependability was supported.

Table 3 provides support for the hypotheses and highlights the significance of several constructs in comprehending PA and support networks among Chinese children living in rural areas.

Table 3: Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA)

Variables	Item code	Loading (λ)	Cronbach's α	Composite Reliability (CR)	AVE	t-value	p-value
PA	PA 1	.82***	.87	.92	.62	9.88	<0.001
	PA 2	.78***				8.54	<0.001
	PA 3	.79***				8.77	<0.001
SS	SS 1	.74***	.84	.87	.57	7.89	<0.001
	SS 2	.76***				8.22	<0.001
	SS 3	.75***				8.15	<0.001
SE	SE 1	.81***	.86	.89	.60	9.12	<0.001
	SE 2	.79***				8.99	<0.001
	SE 3	.77***				8.45	<0.001
PS	PS 1	.83***	.85	.90	.62	9.56	<0.001
	PS 2	.79***				8.71	<0.001
	PS 3	.76***				8.11	<0.001
MAT	MAT 1	.75***	.85	.88	.58	8.12	<0.001
	MAT 2	.80***				9.46	<0.001
	MAT 3	.72***				7.95	<0.001
	MAT 4	.77***				8.10	<0.001

The findings of the measurement model testing show that the study's conceptions have excellent psychometric qualities. α MAT construct is (.85), showing strong internal consistency, and CR is (.88), indicating trustworthy measurement. Suitable convergent validity is shown by the AVE of 0.58. All MAT items exhibit significant loadings; MAT 2 (λ = .80) has the strongest loadings, with t-values more than 7.95 and p-values less than 0.001. With a CR of .92 and α of .87 for PA, the internal consistency is also strong. High-quality convergent validity is indicated by the AVE of .62. T-values range from 8.54 to 9.88, indicating statistical significance and considerable loading for each item, especially PA 1 (λ = .82). SS has a valid α of .84, CR of .87, and an average variance of .57. With SS 1 displaying a loading of .74, every item is statistically significant. The SE construct's reliability and validity are established by its Cronbach's alpha of .86, CR of .89, and

AVE of .60. All of the components have significant t-values, and SE 1 loading is exceptionally high at .81. PS has an AVE of .62, a CR of .90, and α of .85. PS 1, the component with the greatest loading, has a significance coefficient of .83 in the construct. The measurement model testing table offers significant information on the validity and dependability of the study's constructs. It validates the reliable and accurate measurement of MAT, PA, SS, SE, and PS.

4.2 Correlation analysis

To evaluate the convergent validity, item loadings, and AVE values were employed. Table 4 shows that the hypothesis established good convergent validity, with item loadings above the ideal value of 0.70 and AVE values exceeding the optimal value of 0.50. The component correlations were less than the square roots of the AVEs.

Table 4: Correlation analysis

Variables	SD	Mean	MAT	PA	SS	SE	PS
MAT	0.79	4.22	1	-	-	-	-
PA	0.85	4.12	0.52**	1	-	-	-
SS	0.82	4.17	0.47**	0.55**	1	-	-
SE	0.88	3.97	0.36**	0.40**	0.37**	1	-
PS	0.81	4.20	0.50**	0.54**	0.46**	0.38**	1

Notes ** $p < 0.01$

Table 4 displays the averages, SD, and correlation coefficients between the study's variables, which contain SE, PS, SS, PA, and MAT. The average levels of each variable are shown by the mean scores; MAT has the highest mean of 4.22, indicating that the youngsters place a high value on it. Each variable's SD is displayed, with SE showing the highest SD of 0.88, suggesting a greater variety of participant decisions of SE. Significant positive correlations between all variables are shown by correlation

coefficients, especially between PA and MAT ($r = 0.52$) and SS and PA ($r = 0.55$). These interactions suggest that stronger PA is linked to higher levels of MAT and SS.

4.3 SEM Analysis

The findings of the hypothesis testing for connections between the study's constructs are summarized in Table 5. The Beta coefficient (Beta), SD, T-statistics, and p-values for each hypothesis have examined a particular relationship.

Table 5: Outcomes for Direct, Mediator, Moderator, connection

Variables	Connection choice	Beta	T-statistics	SD	P-value	Decision
H1	MAT \rightarrow PA	0.54	6.52	0.08	<0.001	Supported
H2 (Mediator)	SS \rightarrow MAT \rightarrow PA	0.49	5.24	0.10	<0.001	Supported
H3 (Moderator)	SE \rightarrow MAT \rightarrow PA	0.38	4.54	0.09	<0.001	Supported
H4	MAT \rightarrow PS	0.52	5.00	0.12	<0.001	Supported

The associations between MAT, PA, SS, SE, and PS are summarized in Table 5 based on the findings of hypothesis testing. The choice of link for each hypothesis is assessed, and the beta coefficients, T-statistics, and p-values of each hypothesis are used to determine whether to support it. The significant effects are shown by the strong beta values, especially for the direct impact of MAT on PA ($\beta = 0.54$) and the mediating role of SS ($\beta = 0.49$). SE has a strong moderating influence on the MAT-PA connection ($\beta = 0.38$). Since all of the p-values are less than 0.001, the null hypotheses are rejected due to their strong statistical significance. This provides an overview of the study's hypotheses, highlighting the significance of MAT and SS in enhancing PA in Chinese

children from rural areas, offering statistical metrics for efficient study. It reveals a direct connection between MAT and PA, suggesting higher MAT levels lead to stronger PA. SS mediates this relationship, indicating children who feel valued receive more support. SE modifies this relationship, highlighting the importance of confidence in one's abilities in fostering healthy emotional bonds. Figure 2 shows advanced statistical techniques, beyond SEM, to further elucidate complex relationships and interactions among variables influencing moderation in rural Chinese children.

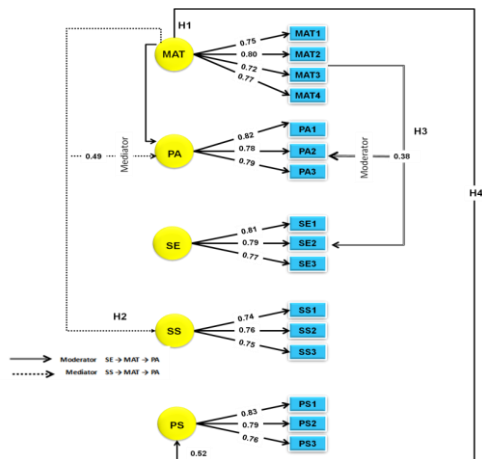


Figure 2: Structural model

Conclusion

The current study looked at how parental SE and attachment affected Chinese children growing up in rural locations in terms of social support. A child’s growth and social health depend on the emotional bond between parents and children. Factoring, a sense of importance in a social context, can improve self-esteem, social skills, and emotional resilience, strengthening bonds with parents in rural settings. This study

looked at the way MAT affects PA in Chinese children living in rural areas. It examined SE as a moderator and SS as a mediator. To test hypotheses, data were analyzed using SEM on a cross-sectional survey of 190 children. The findings demonstrated that MAT affects PA both directly and indirectly, with SS and SE having major effects. The results offer insightful information about the nature of family relationships in rural areas. With a significant beta value of 0.54 ($p < 0.001$), the findings show a strong positive association between MAT and PA. By mediating this association ($\beta = 0.49$), SS strengthens the bond between MAT and PA. This association was moderated by SE, which amplified the effect of MAT on PA ($\beta = 0.38$). Additionally, the results indicate a significant and direct correlation ($\beta = 0.52$) between MAT and PS. Results that are statistically significant support every hypothesis. To evaluate the stability of mattering and its impact on parental attachment across time, future research should investigate longitudinal designs. Furthermore, broadening the research to encompass a range of age groups and cultural contexts can offer a more profound understanding of the dynamics of SE, SS, and MAT in varied children configurations in rural areas.

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