

The Influence of Having Sons or Daughters on Rural Mothers Life Quality after Birth: A Sample from Hebei Province in China

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Abstract : Fertility is very important for women. The gender role of women gives them the fertility ability. Giving birth to a boy or a girl might have effect on the mother's life in the past in China. However, with the shifting of traditional attitudes and views, the women's social status and living situation have been transformed. Although the pregnancy and childbirth can still bring them a major impact on their lives, the form and content of the impact have changed. So we investigated the rural women of Hebei province after birth to reflect their living situation changes before and after birth and the differences of their living situation from women in the past by using a self-made rural women life situation change questionnaire, the index of well-being, and the index of general effect questionnaire. It has shown that women's living situation after babybirth in Hebei province is well in general, and their mind and body, as well as their interpersonal relationships and social status, were all enhanced. The women's living situation after babybirth was positively related to and could anticipate subjective happiness, and specifically, the rural women's mind and body, their interpersonal relationship and social status in rural women life situation change questionnaire are the main predicted factors to subjective happiness. Furthermore, the women's self-identification on female roles was influenced by the children's gender. Specifically, women with only one daughter had highest self-identification on female roles, consisting with their families' concept about children's gender, which indicated family values have a great effect on women's self-identification on female roles in rural. Moreover, the women's living situation and subjective happiness are both impacted by home incomes.

Keywords : rural women, parturition, well-being, life quality

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