

# The Impact of Family Background on the Employment of English Graduates

Miao Dong

Xi'an International Studies University, Xi'an 710128, China.

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**Abstract:** As an uncontrollable factor, family background has a profound impact on all aspects of students' individual growth and runs through the whole process of individual growth. With the landing of the "double reduction" policy and the sharp decline of after-school training institutions, the reduction of employment opportunities for English graduates has become a real problem. Therefore, this paper takes 10 English undergraduates of a class of Y University in Shaanxi Province as the research subject, uses literature analysis method and interview method to collect data, and tries to analyze the impact of family background on the employment of English undergraduates from the three dimensions, in order to promote the scientific career decision-making of future graduates of this major. The results showed that various factors in family background had a significant impact on graduates' employment attitude, employment tendency and employment results.

**Keywords:** Family Background; Employment; English Major

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Research Background

With the popularization of higher education in China, English majors have shown saturation of demand in the talent market, but the number of graduates has increased year by year. Relevant surveys show that the professional settings of English major have expanded from Normal Universities to Universities of Science and Technology and so on <sup>[1]</sup>. The pressure of employment has increased, and the sharp decline of after-school training institutions has reduced the number of jobs, the employment situation of English undergraduates is not optimistic.

### 1.2 Research Significance

This paper focuses on the family background to explore the influence on the English undergraduates' employment, in order to provide reference for future students' professional and employment choice, college talent training and employment guidance. Firstly, English graduates should establish a realistic concept of employment, they should have an in-depth understanding of the employment needs of the market, create practical opportunities for themselves, and constantly make up their own learning deficiencies in practice to prepare for adapting to society. Secondly, universities should conduct in-depth research on the market, continuously adjust talent training programs according to market demands, improve the quality of talent training, and understand students' specialties, employment intentions, and employment needs, and provide more scientific guidance and suggestions for graduates.

This paper mainly uses literature analysis method and empirical research method, aims to provide some theoretical guidance for the employment of English graduates. From the practical meaning, the employment of undergraduates has been a key issue to the society, schools and families. By analyzing the influence on students' employment from three aspects, this paper clarifies the ways in which different dimensions of family background affect students' employment results, which has certain practical guiding significance for the employment of college graduates <sup>[2]</sup>.

### **1.3 Research Subjects and Research Questions**

This paper takes 10 English undergraduates of a class of Y University in Shaanxi Province as the research subjects, studies their job search process, psychological changes and job search results since graduation, and collects data through interviews. The thesis includes the following three questions:

- 1.Does family social capital have impact on students' employment?
- 2.Does family cultural capital have impact on students' employment?
- 3.Does family economic capital have impact on students' employment?

## **2.Definition of Key Concepts**

### **2.1 Family Background**

Li Chunling proposed that family background refers to the social, cultural, economic and political capital owned by the whole family <sup>[3]</sup>. Xiao Rikui defines the parents' educational level, occupational status, average monthly income, nature of the job and household registration system as the family background <sup>[4]</sup>.

This paper defines family background as the sum of social capital, cultural capital and economic capital, and social capital refers to the professional status of parents and the interpersonal relationship of the family. Cultural capital refers to the parents' academic qualifications and family cultural atmosphere. Economic capital includes the annual income and the living conditions of the family.

### **2.2 Employment Results**

Li Jinlin believes that employment results should not only take the employment rate as the only criterion for evaluation, but also pay attention to the subjective satisfaction of job seekers <sup>[5]</sup>. Wen Xiaofeng argues that employment outcomes should be divided into achievement of performance and continuous performance <sup>[6]</sup>.

This paper equates employment results with graduation destinations, including further study, implemented employment units and unimplemented employment units.

## **3.Research Results and Discussion**

Y University is a comprehensive university. Among 20 English teaching classes, 10 students were randomly sampled and been interviewed in this study.

### **3.1 The Influence of Family Social Capital on Students' Employment**

Family social capital refers to the professional status of the parents and the interpersonal network of the family. The research found that family social capital will influence or even determine graduates' employment concepts, which is manifested in the fact that the parents' occupation will affect the student's cognition of occupational categories, work locations and the nature of the unit, and parents affect their employment judgment and concept by providing employment guidance for related occupations. Interviewee A is from a prefecture-level city in Shaanxi Province, and his parents are civil servants in the city.

Further interviews with the subjects revealed that the parents' occupations and the family interpersonal connections also affect the employment outcomes of the graduates, which represents in the form of the work location and occupational category. It can be seen from the interviews that family social capital will affect and even determine the graduate's employment concept and results, graduates are often affected by their parents' occupation when choosing the place of work and the nature of the work unit, and with the help of their parents' cognition of the profession and the interpersonal relationship, the parents will assist their kids to evaluate career choice and conduct scientific employment guidance, and prepare for their career development and provide necessary internships and apprenticeships.

### **3.2 The Influence of Family Cultural Capital on Students' Employment**

The research found that family cultural capital will significantly affect the employment results of graduates, which is

manifested in the fact that graduates from lower parental education families are more inclined to pursue higher education levels or inclined to find so-called "iron rice bowl" jobs. Interviewee B and C both are the first generation of university students in family, and their parents are both engaged in manual labor with lower academic qualification, who took the 2020 Postgraduate Qualifying Examination in the year of graduation and successfully landed. Further interviews found that the influence of family cultural capital on employment tendency is mainly reflected in the choice of the nature of employment unit and salary level.

From the interviews, family cultural capital obviously affects graduates' employment concepts and tendencies. Relevant studies have also shown that family cultural background will have a more obvious impact on graduates' employment starting salary, employment location distribution, employment unit distribution and salary and welfare satisfaction<sup>[7]</sup>.

### **3.3 The Influence of Family Economic Capital on Students' Employment**

In this paper family economic background is expressed as the annual incomes and the living conditions of the family. As a relatively vulnerable group of students<sup>[8]</sup>, students with financial difficulties face a more severe employment situation after graduation than students with relatively good family finances. And the comprehensive factors considered in their employment choices are more complex. Studies have shown that the family with richer economic background, the students will be more able to get better educational resources in the early stage of higher education, and be more able to get more adequate financial supports in the later job search process. Through interviews with subject D and E, it was learned that the specific impact of family economic capital represents that household economic capital often influences graduates' choice of the nature of the employment unit and the level of salary.

After graduation, the interviewee E worked while preparing for the career preparation examination, and the student believes that the influence of family economic capital on his employment concept is great, and is mainly reflected in the nature of the unit and salary treatment, and he is more inclined to work within the establishment with lower risk and stable income.

From the interviews, family economic background also profoundly affects the employment choices of graduates, which is mainly reflected in the choice of salary and the nature of the work unit. In addition, studies have shown that the employment success rate is higher than that of graduates with poor family economic conditions.

## **4. Conclusion**

In summary, the three dimensions in family background all have a significant impact on the employment, tendency and results of English undergraduates. And different dimensions affect different aspects of employment results. This shows that not only universities and graduates themselves, but also families play an indispensable role in graduate career guidance, which has long been despised or ignored by us. The role of family not only affects the formation of students' employment outlook, but also provides support for the implementation of students' employment results. This also provides a new perspective for the promotion of graduates' employment work. Colleges and universities can understand students' employment tendencies in advance and actively seek cooperation with families when promoting graduate employment work, and provide humanized guidance and personalized programs for students' employment instead of pursuing the number of employment rates only.

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