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The Effect of Inequalities within Families on Occupational Aspirations of Adolescents

The paper investigates to what extent the sibling constellations and inequalities *within* the family affect the formation of occupational aspirations. It is assumed that differences in supportive parenting between siblings are an important non-shared environment and reduce the occupational aspirations of the child that is less supported. Based on the assumptions of the theories and research on social comparisons it is further assumed that these effects are stronger for more similar sibling pairs. The second focus of the paper is on the question whether there is a difference in the influence of the supportive behavior of the father and the mother and whether these influences differ between girls and boys.

The analysis is based on household panel data from the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) for the years 2000-2012 using the data of the youth questionnaire and relevant informations of the family- and household-structure from other SOEP-datasets. Due to the longitudinal design of the GSOEP I have the possibility to compare the informations of all the siblings in the SOEP-household that participate at the survey in different years.

On the basis of "Sibling-Fixed-Effects-Models" I estimate the effect of the difference in the perceived parenting behavior on the ISEI-Values of the aspired occupation. First results show that particularly the supportive parenting of the father increases the ISEI-Value of the child that perceived a higher support. The results also reveal a stronger effect for same-sex siblings in comparison to opposite-sex siblings. In particular, the effect is stronger for sisters than for brothers. The use of interaction terms revealed that girls have higher occupational aspirations in comparison to boys when the fathers' support is higher than the mothers' support.