

INTERGENERATIONAL ISSUES IN CHINESE MIGRANT FAMILIES

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- ▶ Filial piety is a Confucian concept which refers to the traditions of respect, reverence, care, obedience, and fulfilling duties to one's parents and grandparents (Li, 2013).
- ▶ Six detentions of filial piety
 - ▶ Living arrangements
 - ▶ Support to parents
 - ▶ Respecting parents
 - ▶ Ancestral worship
 - ▶ Gender norms
 - ▶ Children's achievements

CONCEPT GOVERNED INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: FILIAL PIETY

- ▶ *My wife cooks for us every day. A bad phrase from our daughter can ruin our day. For example, after a meal, she said, “The meal’s not good, too salty.” Both my wife and I were very unhappy. It seemed what we had done was worthless. (A 66 yr old man)*

CASE ANALYSIS

- ▶ *When I told my parents that I had gambled and lost everything, they were heartbroken. My father called me an **unfilial child** because I “lost” my family’s “face”. My relatives and friends all blamed me for being an **unfilial child**. (A 26 yr old male student)*

CASE ANALYSIS

- ▶ *My parents had implanted their dreams in my mind since I was a little boy. Studying overseas was their dream. They expected me to live their dream. They therefore sent me here to make their dream come true. Fulfilling my parents' wishes was my obligation as a filial child. (A 29 yr old male student)*

CASE ANALYSIS

- ▶ Filial piety is the key concept that governs intergenerational relationships.
- ▶ Filial piety emphasises the collective relationship among family members.
- ▶ While filial piety remains an important value for Chinese people, it has evolved in the contexts of immigration.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE