

# Cultural Transmission of Diligence: Parenting and Worldviews

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## Abstract

To uncover the mechanism of cultural transmission, this paper empirically analyzes the effects of parenting on child's diligence. We use study hours as a proxy of diligence. There can be a reverse causality problem because parents may change their parenting behaviors according to their children's characters and behaviors. In order to investigate causality, we need to overcome this endogeneity issue concerning parenting. We employ an instrumental variable method and a treatment-effect model. Our instrument is a parent's worldview about suffering that governs economic behavior. Our empirical results show, firstly, that, tough parenting tends to increase child's study hours. Secondly, a parent's worldview about suffering has an impact on child's study hours through the parent's discipline behavior. These results indicate that tough parenting by a parent with a worldview that experiencing a hardship is helpful for the child's personal development tends to help the child grow to be diligent.

**JEL classification:** D10; J13; Z10

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