Analysis of the Reasons for Contemporary Young Women's Fear of Marriage and Pregnancy—Based on Bengbu

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Abstract: *In order to explore and evaluate the variables influencing young women's "fear of marriage and pregnancy," this study employs a questionnaire survey approach. The weight of each component is then determined using the entropy weighting method. We evaluate the several significant aspects with higher weights using the theories of planned behavior and psychoanalysis. From the standpoint of negative social information, women's subjective intentions are impacted by the dissemination of negative information via Internet media, which discourages them from desiring to have children; from the standpoint of personal ability, the rapid economic development has resulted in an increase in the cost of marriage and childbearing; According to the viewpoint of the family of origin, women's fear of marriage is a result of the mental suppression and projection brought on by a bad family situation; women's fear of marriage is reflected in their own cognition and pursuit, which also represents their fear of traditional feudal marriage in the modern era. According to the viewpoint of the family of origin, women's fear of marriage stems from the mental repression and projection caused by unfavorable family circumstances. The "fear of marriage and pregnancy" will eventually fade as the family, the economy, and husband and wife relationships catch up with women's thoughts in this new era.*

Keywords: *fear of marriage or pregnancy, reason, Entropy weight method, questionnaire*

1. Introduction

China's overall fertility rate in 2023 dropped from 1.30 in 2020 to a record low of 1.09, and it is still far lower than the global average. It is anticipated that there will be fewer than 8 million births in 2023. The state has demonstrated its commitment to changing the current fertility status quo by enacting a number of fertility policies since 2013. These policies range from the "two-child alone" policy to the gradual implementation of the "three-child policy" in 2021. Optimising China's fertility structure and mitigating population aging can be achieved with a constant population mortality rate and rising fertility rates. According to data and reports from the National Bureau of Statistics, China's population decline is mainly due to a decrease in the number of births caused by the continued decline in the fertility level of young women.

"Fear of marriage and pregnancy" is a significant issue that influences young women's desire to have children in a modern culture. The people who do not get married and have children do not necessarily mean that they are terrified of marriage and pregnancy; there is a big difference between those who are afraid of marriage and those who do not get married and have children. Individuals who choose not to marry and start a family may not be scared of getting married or becoming pregnant; rather, it could be that they are more focused on their own interests than on marriage and raising a family. An undesirable psychological disorder known as "marriage-phobia" is contagious and spreads throughout the community through social interactions. "Fear of marriage" will destroy the individual's vision of marriage and family, inhibit the individual's desire to get married and have children, affect the functioning of the family, and

finally threaten the stability of social relations and the social system [1]. This paper uses the questionnaire survey method and entropy power method based on the theory of planned behavior, Leibstein's child cost-utility theory and psychoanalytic theory combined with sociological and psychological research to analyze and summarize the factors affecting young women's "fear of marriage and pregnancy".

2. Methodology Of The Survey

This paper mainly adopts the questionnaire survey method to investigate and analyze the influencing factors of the phenomenon of "young women's fear of marriage and pregnancy" in the current era of young women, and carry out research on the crack method.

On the basis of reading relevant literature, collecting social phenomena related to "fear of marriage and pregnancy" and organizing information, the factors affecting "fear of marriage and pregnancy" are initially summarized. We searched for similar questionnaires and summarized the topics related to the influencing factors in the questionnaire, and designed the questionnaire.

According to the results of the questionnaire, the entropy weighting method was used to find out the weights of the influencing factors, and the factors with larger weights were analyzed on the basis of the behavioral planning theory and the cost-utility theory of the children of Leibenstein.

3. Investigative Fundamentals

3.1. Preparatory Process for Determining Sample Size

3.1.1. Theoretical Basis of Sample Size Calculation Formulas

This paper studies the phenomenon of "fear of marriage and pregnancy" among young women in Bengbu City based on Bengbu City. According to the seventh census data, the resident population of Bengbu City is 3296408 people, of which the proportion of women is 49.36% totaling 1626962 people. According to the age segmentation determined by the World Health Organization, this study set 15-24 years old as young women, according to the display of young women in Bengbu City totaled 152497 people.

Survey sample size n is too large, will increase the cost of the survey, the sample size is too small will make the results of the survey is not representative, so the scientific and correct determination of the sample size n is a prerequisite for sampling survey, for the study is crucial. The process of determining the sample size is as follows: 297 mm). The margins must be set as the following:

Sample size calculation under infinite totals

Overall mean estimator formula:

$$n_1 = \left(\frac{Z_{\alpha/2}\sigma}{\delta}\right)^2 \tag{1}$$

Overall rate estimation formula:

$$n_1 = \frac{Z_{\alpha/2}(1-p)p}{\delta^2} \tag{2}$$

In the above formula, 1.96 is often obtained at a 95% confidence level; σ is the standard deviation of the data; p is the overall rate; and δ is the allowed absolute error. It is advisable to keep all the given values.

Calculation of Sample Size under Finite Population In this study, the overall population is finite, then the sample size formula is adjusted as follows Set the page alignment to top alignment and the margins of the header and footer to:

$$n_2 = \frac{n_1 N}{(N+n_1)} \tag{3}$$

In the above formula, n1 is obtained from formula (1) or (2), and N is the overall population size of the young women in the study.

In this study, the confidence level is selected as 95%, the absolute error is taken as 0.04, and the p-value is the overall rate without prior data, which is set as 0.5. Substituting into the above formula to calculate and round the sample size n2 can be obtained as 305.

This survey in Bengbu City, a total of 310 questionnaires, in the respondents with a lower degree of cooperation, more casual questionnaires and only fill out part of the questionnaire labeled as invalid questionnaire, the final recovery of valid questionnaires 305.

3.2. Basic Information On The Questionnaire

3.2.1. Basic Information About The Respondents (questions 1 to 5)

Table 1 shows that: the age of the respondents is mainly between 19 and 22 years old accounting for 58.36%, the rest are 15 to 18 years old accounting for 3.28%, 19 to 22 years old accounting for 58.36%, 23 to 25 years old accounting for 38.36%; the occupation distribution of the respondents is uniformly school students 22.30%, civil servants 15.74%, unit employees 17.05%, freelance 16.72% , 13.77% unemployed, 14.10% self-employed, and 0.33% others; the education level of the respondents is 71.80% undergraduate or specialized, 23.61% high school and below, and 4.59% master's degree and above; the family structure of the respondents is 9.51% single-parent family, 43.28% two-parent family, 38.36% restructured family, and deficient family (The family structure of the respondents is 9.51% single-parent family, 43.28% two-parent family, 38.36% restructured family, 8.85% defective family (parents are absent, living with grandparents); the relationship status is 25.57% not having been in love, 20.98% being in love, 20.98% having been in love, but do not want to be in love now, 19.02% having been in love, and still longing to be in love now, and 13.44% being married;

Table 1: Basic information on respondentsit.

Content	Options	Numbers	percentage
Age	15-18 years old	10	3.28%
	19~22 years old	178	58.36%
	23~25 years old	117	38.36%
Careers	School student	68	22.30%
	Civil Servants	48	15.74%
	Employee	52	17.05%
	Freelancer	51	16.72%
	Unemployed	42	13.77%
	Self-employed	43	14.10%
	Others	1	0.33%
Educational Level	Master's Degree	72	23.61%
	Undergraduate or Specialized	219	71.80%
	High school and Below	14	4.59%
Family Structure	Single Parent Families	29	9.51%
	Two Parent Families	132	43.28%
	Reorganized Families	117	38.36%
	Defective Families	27	8.85%
Relationship Status	Not in a relationship	78	25.57%
	In a relationship	64	20.98%
	Had it and don't want it now	64	20.98%
	Had one and still want it	58	19.02%
	Married	41	13.44%
Total		305	100.00%

3.2.2. Survey Content

Question 6: In the question "How much do you trust your marriage now (the more stars, the greater the trust)?" Those who chose 1 to 5 stars were 11.80%, 6.23%, 31.15%, 26.89% and 23.93% respectively.

Question 7: "Do you think your level of fear of marriage is? (The more stars, the greater the degree of fear.)" Those who chose 1 to 5 stars were 6.89%, 4.92%, 28.20%, 25.90% and 34.10% respectively.

Question 8: "Do you think your level of fear of pregnancy is? (The more stars, the greater the degree of fear.)" 4.59%, 4.92%, 28.20%, 25.57%, and 36.72% of those who chose 1 to 5 stars respectively.

Question 9: "What are the reasons for your fear of marriage and pregnancy?" is illustrated in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Reasons for fear of marriage and pregnancy.

Question 10: "Are you aware of our Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China?" 40.00% of the respondents chose to know it very well, 35.41% chose to know it slightly, and 24.59% had heard of it but did not know the details.

Question 11: In the question "Through what channels do you learn about people's marriages?", 75.41% of the respondents used online media. 75.41% of the respondents chose the Internet media, some chose the experiences of people around them, and some chose the experiences of others.

Question 12: 49.84% of the respondents chose yes and 50.16% chose no to the question "Do you have the desire to get married in your heart but are afraid to do so because of the reasons mentioned above?

Question 13: "Will you really not get married because of fear of marriage or will you choose to get married under pressure from all sides", 23.61% of the people who are afraid of marriage don't want to get married, 46.23% of the people who don't know for the time being don't know, and 30.16% of the people who still choose to get married.

Question 14: "The main reasons why you think you or others are willing to get married and have children" is illustrated in Figure 2 below:
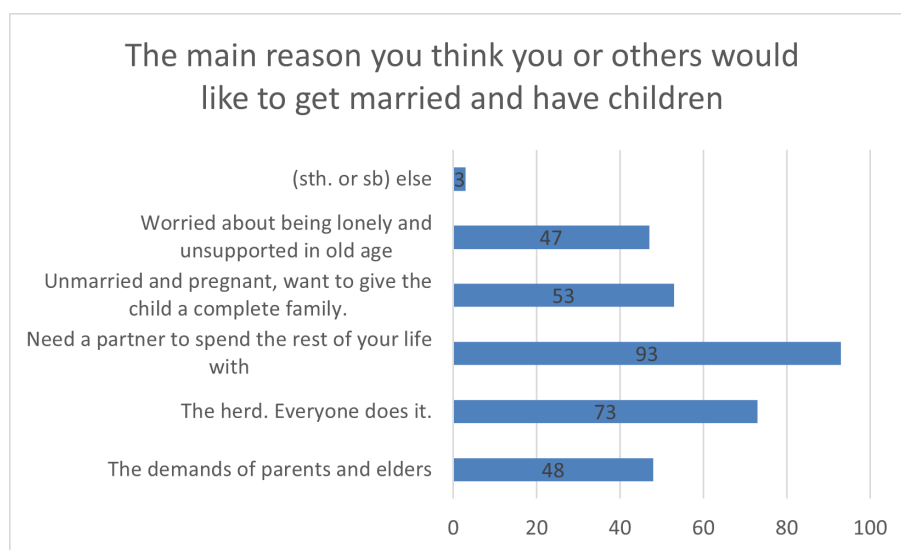

Figure 2: Main reasons for willingness to marry and have children.

Question 15: "Do you think that marriage and childbearing is an inevitable part of life?" 56.39% of the respondents chose yes, while 43.61% chose no.

Question 16: "What measures do you think the State can take to effectively alleviate the concerns of women who are afraid of marriage and pregnancy?" is illustrated in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: Measures to be taken to alleviate concerns.

3.3. Reliability and validity analysis of the questionnaire

3.3.1. Reliability Analysis

The Cronbach'sα coefficient is first analyzed, and it is usually considered that if the Cronbach'sα coefficient is above 0.9, the reliability of the test or scale is very good, between 0.8 and 0.9 indicates good reliability, between 0.7 and 0.8 indicates acceptable reliability, between 0.6 and 0.7 indicates fair reliability, between 0.5 and 0.6 indicates less than ideal reliability, and if it is below 0.5 or less should be considered for reformatting the questionnaire.

Table 2: Table of Cronbach's alpha coefficientsine.

Cronbach's alpha coefficient	Standardized Cronbach's alpha coefficient	item count	sample size
0.907	0.909	13	305

The above Table 2 shows the results of Cronbach's coefficient of the model including the coefficient value, standardized coefficient value, number of items, and number of samples for measuring the level of reliability quality of the data.

The coefficient value of the model is 0.907 which indicates that the reliability of the questionnaire is very good.

3.3.2. Validity Analysis

KMO and Bartlett's test for question 9 of the questionnaire: for the KMO test, 0.9 on is very suitable for factor analysis: between 0.8-0.9 is more suitable: between 0.7-0.8 is suitable: between 0.6-0.7 is fair: between 0.5-0.6 indicates poor: under 0.5 should be given up, through the KMO value of the test indicates that there is a correlation between the variables, the It meets the requirements of factor analysis. For Bartlett's test, if the significance is less than 0.05, the original hypothesis is rejected, indicating that the factor analysis can be done, if the original hypothesis is not rejected, indicating that these variables may independently provide some information, and is not suitable for factor analysis. [9]

Table 3: KMO test and Bartlett's test.

KMO and Bartlett's Test		
KMO value		0.866
Bartlett's test of sphericity	approximate chi-square (math.)	691.324
	df	78
	P	0.000***

Note: ***, **, * represent 1%, 5%, and 10% significance levels, respectively.Affiliation(s) should be justified, including organisation, address and e-mail.

The above Table 3 demonstrates the results of KMO test and Bartlett's sphericity test, which are used to analyze whether factor analysis can be performed. If it passes the KMO test (KMO>0.6), it shows that there is a correlation between the variables and meets the requirements of factor analysis. If it passes the Bartlett's test: p<0.05, which is significant, the factor analysis can be performed.The results of the KMO test show that the value of the KMO is 0.866, meanwhile, the results of the Bartlett's spherical test show that the significance p-value is 0.000***, which shows significance at the level, rejecting the original hypothesis, there is correlation between the variables, and the factor analysis is valid to the extent that it is suitable. [9]

4. Analysis Of The Significance Of Influencing Factors

4.1. Steps For Weighting By Entropy Weighting Method

4.1.1. Data Normalization And Standardization

The indicators in this paper are all of the larger and better type. The maximum and minimum normalization is chosen to normalize the data of each indicator, assuming that given k indicators $X_1, X_2, ... X_k$, where

$$X_i = \{x_1, x_2, ..., x_n\}, \tag{4}$$

Assuming that the data for each indicator is normalized to the value of $Y_1, Y_2, ... Y_k$, then

$$Y_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij} - \min(X_i)}{\max(X_i) - \min(X_i)}, \tag{5}$$

4.1.2. Find The Information Entropy Of Each Indicator

According to the information entropy definition, the information entropy of a set of data:

$$E_j = -\frac{1}{\ln n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_{ij} \ln p_{ij} \tag{6}$$

$p_{ij} = \frac{Y_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} Y_{ij}}$,if $p_{ij} = 0$,then define $\lim_{p_{ij} \to 0} p_{ij} \ln p_{ij} = 0$

4.1.3. Determination Of The Weights Of The Indicators

According to the information entropy calculation formula, the information entropy of each indicator is calculated as $E_1, E_2, ... E_k$, and the weight of each indicator is calculated by information entropy:

$$W_i = \frac{1 - E_i}{k - \sum E_i} (i = 1,2, ..., k) \tag{7}$$

4.2. Results of Solving the Weights of the Influencing Factors

Using the above formula to solve with the help of Python, we get the weights of family of origin factors, negative social information, insecurity and fear of family conflicts after marriage, personal freedom and independence, not wanting to be bound, fear of changing roles to take on the responsibility of the family, fear of physical and mental harm brought about by childbearing, the economic pressure of raising children, fear of children's education, doubt of the marriage system, bad relationship experiences, not yet met the right person, trouble with children, and other factors (with four weights reserved). The weights (with four decimal places) of the five factors, trouble in bringing up children, and other factors are 0.0297, 0.0261, 0.0185, 0.0331, 0.0190, 0.0159, 0.1888, 0.0199, 0.0252, 0.0186, 0.0175, 0.5694, and 0.0184, respectively.

The five factors with the highest weights are trouble bringing up children, financial pressure of raising children, personal admiration for freedom and independence not wanting to be tied down, family of origin influence, and negative social information. We focus our analysis on this result.

5. Analysis of Influencing Factors

5.1. Individual Capacity Factors

The main pressure on young people today comes from the double burden of old age and raising children. Especially in this society, which is characterized by intense internal strife, parents invest a lot

of energy and financial resources in order to let their children "win at the starting line". In the traditional society in the past, most people had children out of their own "sense of mission", they think that they need a child when they reach the age, and did not consider their own financial situation whether they can afford this responsibility, and even later appeared the phenomenon of "nibbling on the little one". This article argues that "the trouble of bringing up a child" is not a problem. In this paper, we believe that the factor of "the trouble of bringing up children" can be attributed to the fact that modern young people are more comprehensive and prudent in considering the birth of a child, as well as more responsible. Compared with those parents who can provide the best material and spiritual protection for their children, most ordinary young people are skeptical about whether they can become a qualified parent and are not confident. One of the most prominent manifestations of this is the young people's concern about the financial aspects of raising children.

As for the young women in this paper, the government has formulated a series of maternity incentives and compensation policies to protect women's rights and interests, but they have, to a certain extent, played a restrictive role in women's career development and become a shackle for women's employment. In addition, the occupational risks associated with childbearing have also become a stumbling block to women's fertility intentions [2], causing women to face greater economic pressures at the same time as the indirect costs of raising children are increasing.

In Leibenstein's cost-utility theory, with the continuous development of society, people's requirements for raising children continue to increase, which means that the economic cost of raising children is also increasing, and the willingness to have children will decrease. From the social point of view, the current childbearing age group is facing greater economic and employment pressure, especially women in the workplace gender discrimination, difficult to balance the relationship between career and family, that childbearing will have a negative impact on their own career development, but also worried about work may lead to their own neglect of children. To summarize, the economic pressure and the changing roles in society and the family have made it difficult for young women to adapt, and conflicts have intensified amidst the difficulty of weighing them, thus contributing to the phenomenon of "fear of marriage and fear of pregnancy" among young women.

5.2. Negative Social Factors

Negative social information refers to information spread through the Internet media that brings adverse effects. This includes information such as "killing wives after marriage", high divorce rates, and cheating that appears on the Internet, as well as movie and television information about unhappy marriages that is disseminated through television dramas, videos, and other Internet channels.

Things have two sides, and so does marriage, but nowadays, in order to get the so-called traffic flow, marketing organizations on the Internet magnify the negative side of things under the guise of reflecting reality. Emotional posts in the social media arena have a clear advantage in communication [3], and often negative emotions are infected faster and have a greater impact than positive emotions [4]. In opinion science, "fear" also often appears as a negative, high arousal typical online emotion [5]. Marketing numbers and social media take advantage of the transmission mechanism of online emotions and fear to report bad public opinion, and through the rendering of negative marriage cases, they subconsciously change the modern young women's view of marriage and aggravate their fear of marriage. As a result, people gradually ignore the original meaning of marriage and the value it brings to people, as well as the positive significance of the family, and even when people think of marriage, the only word that comes to mind is "grave".

According to Freud, the energy of human spiritual activities comes from instincts, which is the internal motivation of individual behavior. The most basic instincts of human beings are life instincts and death instincts. Life instincts include libido instincts and individual survival instincts, which aim at maintaining the reproduction of the race and the survival of individuals. [10] In the modern society where the information network is so developed, negative information such as "mistress", "cheating", "wife-killing", "mother-in-law-daughter-in-law conflicts "and other negative information filled the entire network, people increasingly believe that the disadvantages of marriage and childbearing outweigh the advantages, people tend to avoid harm instincts make people more and more reject the marriage, so as to carry out self-protection to avoid the risk.

In the theory of planned behavior, human subjective norms control human behavior, and social and cultural factors will indirectly affect subjective norms by influencing behavioral beliefs, and ultimately affect behavioral intentions and behavioral performance [11]. The surrounding environment and the negative information received by the individual affects the subjective norms of the individual, and the excessive negative social information makes the individual's willingness to marry and give birth lower, and even further transforms into the fear of marriage and childbearing, thus greatly affecting the behavior

of marriage and childbearing.

5.3. Family of Origin Factors

The influence of the family of origin on an individual can be manifold, such as the way of dealing with people, habits of thinking, mentality, personality, and childbearing preferences. The damage caused by the family of origin stays with the child, and everything that happens in front of the child, such as quarrels and fights, due to the breakup of the parents' relationship can also leave a deep psychological shadow on the child.

For women, family disharmony and the failure of their parents' marriages make them resist marriage and intimate relationships, and they do not believe that they can have a perfect marriage and are afraid to love. This point we use psychoanalytic theory to analyze. According to Freud, the essence of repression lies in distancing or taking something away from consciousness in the mind. He called all restrained suppression or distortion of reality "repression" [6], and the motive and purpose of repression is to avoid unpleasantness [7]. Some marital phobics are in families where they do not feel cared for, such as when their parents argue, and at an age when they should be loved by their families, they can only feel the pain of their parents' unhappy marriages. The repressed painful experiences are transferred into the subconscious realm as they grow up, resulting in growing up afraid to love and not being able to love. This "repression" makes them lose their confidence in marriage and their hope for a better family life in the future. "Projection" causes individuals to presume that the psycho-behavioral traits present in themselves are also present in others [10]. For example, a woman who has experienced misfortune may project her own childhood experiences onto her future children and become fearful of childbearing.

5.4. Personal Perceptions and Pursuits (Traditional Model)

Women believe that marriage is a constraint on their freedom. In fact, most of them default to the traditional form of marriage. It can be argued that "fear of marriage" stems from the traditional concept of marriage and family. In traditional marriages, women have a low status and are required by their in-laws to give birth to a boy, and marriage is not an independent choice. In modern society, especially for families that emphasize sons over daughters, when women witness the unequal treatment of their mothers in the in-laws' family when they are young, a sense of resistance is born from the bottom of their hearts, and when they grow up, they are eager to pursue equality and freedom, refusing to be the subordinate of the family and the victim of marriage. When they think of marriage, they think of bondage and neglect of their personal values. Even in modern society, where technology is so advanced, the dregs of feudalism still exist in many people's minds, as can be seen in women's choice between family and work after marriage. Many mothers-in-law do not allow their daughters-in-law to continue to work after marriage, and husbands rightly believe that their wives should stay home to bring up their children, so the legacy of feudalism has made it easy for women to sacrifice their careers for the sake of their families. According to psychoanalytic theory, the imbalance between the "ego", "self", and "superego" is divided into two situations, one of which is that the "ego" is greater than the "superego". One of them is that the "ego" is greater than the "superego" [10], which is influenced by traditional marriage, and these people will feel incompetent or anxious once they are subjected to traditional marital constraints [10]. They may consider the bondage of married life as a shackle on their souls, which leads to an overwhelming fear. To put it in another way, young women's strong resistance to traditional marriage also reflects their expectation of a new type of marriage gender relationship.

5.5. Summary of the Analysis of Factors Affecting the Fear of Marriage and Pregnancy

Behind the emotion of "fear of marriage" is not "not getting married", but a kind of emotional strategy to cope with the difficulties of survival and ideological conflicts, which contains the skepticism of the social reality and the pursuit of self-realization, social self-reconstruction of the demand, looking forward to exploring new gender relations in the new model of marriage in the future. It is an emotional strategy to cope with the existential difficulties and ideological conflicts, which contains doubts about the social reality and the pursuit of self-realization and social self-reconstruction, hoping to explore the new gender relationship in the new marriage model, exploring self-will and breaking away from the unequal relationship of the traditional division of gender roles[5]. Whether it is caused by "social negative factors" or "personal cognition and pursuit", "fear of marriage and pregnancy" reflects the knowledge, dissatisfaction and resistance to the issue of gender equality in today's society. The equality between men and women in society has become more and more important with the progress of the times. The gender equality in society has become a low degree of inequality with the progress of time, but its hidden and diffuse nature is likely to become another obstacle to promote gender equality [8]. The difference in gender leads to the difference in ideology and way of thinking, which makes different genders have different

feelings and perceptions about the status quo of gender inequality, and similarly, this feeling of women is expressed in the phenomenon of "fear of marriage and pregnancy".

6. Summary

Information on social networks is mixed, and the emergence of a social phenomenon can be caused by a variety of factors. As a hot topic in recent years, "fear of marriage and pregnancy" has been constantly discussed, and the underlying reasons behind it have also been analyzed. This paper adopts the questionnaire survey method and the entropy power method to analyze and discuss the reasons for fear of marriage and pregnancy on the basis of previous studies and theories. Negative social information is the factor that people are most exposed to, and negative information spread through the media network triggers people's instinct of avoiding harm and influences people's behavioral intention, which ultimately affects people's emotion of fear of marriage and pregnancy; the personal ability factor tends to be more realistic, and the increase of economic and other costs of raising children reduces women's willingness to give birth; the factor of the family of origin fundamentally affects a person's character and the view of marriage and childbearing when one grows up; personal cognition and pursuit is a disconnect between thought and the status quo.

In the new era, we advocate the freedom of marriage and the freedom of love, and we expect young people to be able to embrace their own beauty after they are free from the constraints of old-time thinking. But from the freedom to be seriously oppressed by the old society and completely detached from the matter is not overnight, when the young people's thinking jumped out of the feudal circle, the social phenomenon of the old ideas that remain in the past can not keep up with the progress of the mind in a short period of time. Advanced and backward collide to produce a gulf, contemporary young women will not go against their own heart to comply with the backward ideas, thus producing "fear of marriage and pregnancy", the essence of everything stems from the idea of a disconnect with the status quo of Chinese society.

We follow the individual's will and choice, we should always respect those who do not take marriage and children as the necessary path of life; for those who want to get married and have children but have difficulties, we should give policy and other support; for those who have the "fear of marriage and pregnancy" mentality, we should give help and correct guidance.

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