

Parents' Science Capital

Core dimensions of Finnish parents' science capital and the association with sociodemographic issues



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Ella Suortti // Sari Havu-Nuutinen// Sirpa Kärkkäinen

Introduction

Science-qualified and -literate individuals are increasingly necessary in the labor market and not enough potential workforce is available. To improve science achievement and science equity across society developing mechanisms for increasing family science capital is necessary. Science capital is a sum of the science-related knowledge, attitudes, experiences and resources that families build up through their everyday life activities.

Objectives

1) What are the core dimensions of Finnish parents' science capital?

2) How are parents' age, residential area, education and profession associated with different dimensions of science capital?

Methodology

- Finnish parents N=740 (aged 26-69).
- Webropol online survey, April 2022.
- Sociodemographic variables:
 - The data represents all regions of Finland.
 - 77% females, 19% males and 4% did not say.
 - 43% had Master's degree.
- The exploratory factor analysis was used to create science capital dimensions.
- Sociodemographic variables were measured with independent samples T-test and analysis of variance test (ANOVA).

Results

CULTURAL CAPITAL

- Scientific related dispositions
- Symbolic knowledge about the transferability of science in the labor market

- Parents with higher educational degree and parents working in the science field show more knowledge about the transferability of science in the labor market.
- Parents' profession is not associated with valuing science in society.

BEHAVIOR AND PRACTICES

- Consumption of science-related media
- Informal science learning
- Community spaces
- Everyday context

- Families' residential area is one predictor of access to informal science learning.
- Parents working in the science field or studying science use more science media than parents not working in science.
- Residential area or educational degree does not affect Finnish parents' engagement in everyday science activities with their children.

SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Science Identity and Future science affinity

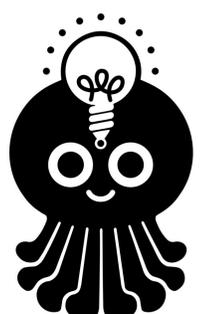
- Parents' profession and educational degree have moderate effects on social capital dimensions.

Figure 1. The core dimensions and sociodemographic issues

- Parents' age does not affect their science capital.

Conclusion

- Cultural and social capital as well as science related behavior and practices direct parents' science capital.
- There is an emerging need to develop Finnish citizens scientific literacy.
- Attention should be given to sociodemographic backgrounds to sustain science equity.
- Parents' social capital consists of parents' support for their children's future science aspirations.



FINSCI