How educational aspiration affects high school students’ well-being in the context of Gaokao

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Key Words: Well-being, Educational Aspiration, Gaokao

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
This current research examined the effects of college aspiration on well-being among Chinese high school students. There are three research questions:
Q1: Are there any demographic differences in educational aspiration and well-being?
Q2: Does educational aspiration correlate with Gaokao students’ well-being?
Q3: How does educational aspiration predict Gaokao students’ well-being?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Diener’s well-being theory (1984, 2009)

METHODS, SAMPLING AND DISTRIBUTION
Questionnaire survey (on-site):
Note: The median and mode of college goal is "key universities" (2 with the Maximum 4); College importance is 4.268 (5-point, SD=.971).

RESULTS
Correlation and Regression Analysis:

Note:
*p<.1, **p<.05, ***p<.01
Gender: 0=male, 1=female; Region: 0=Beijing, 1=Xuzhou; Family: family income
ANOVA:
College goal has significant effects on life satisfaction (F=6.141, p=.000), positive affect (F=3.037, p=.009), negative affect (F=4.119, p=.003), flourishing (F=8.768, p=.000) with the significance at the level of .05.
The findings revealed an inverted u-shaped polylines relationship of life satisfaction, positive affect, flourishing and college goal, and a u-shaped polylines relationship of negative affect and college goal.

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