

The Causes and Consequences of Parental Child Snatching in China

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Abstract

This paper addresses the pervasive issue of parental child snatching in contemporary China, seeking to understand its root causes and consequences within the context of divorce cases. The primary goal of this research is to provide a comprehensive examination of parental child snatching in China, focusing on economic, cultural, and demographic factors. It adopted a multidisciplinary research method, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. Data is collected through in-depth analyses of divorce cases, examining legal documents, court records, and social narratives. The research also incorporates surveys and interviews to gather perspectives from affected parties, legal professionals, and experts in relevant fields. Comparative analyses are conducted to discern patterns and variations across different regions and socio-economic backgrounds.

The research reveals a startling 12.68% incidence rate of parental child snatching in divorce cases in China, impacting approximately 80,000 children annually. Economic factors in developed regions drive the fear of custody loss, motivating child snatching, while cultural values, especially the emphasis on family lineage, contribute significantly. Cross-regional marriages exacerbate the problem due to increased geographical distances facilitating child concealment. Domestic violence emerges as a critical factor, with 38.89% of cases linked to parental child snatching. The gender distribution highlights a disproportionate impact on women, with 63.15% male perpetrators and 36.84% female perpetrators. Historical and cultural factors, including biases against women perpetuated by ancient societal norms, are identified. The vulnerability of women is analyzed through economic, cultural, and social lenses, emphasizing disparities in occupational, economic, political, educational, and legal status. Rural women face heightened challenges, with lower family status and quality of life. This study advocates for a comprehensive approach, emphasizing the necessity of legal and societal reforms to safeguard the rights of women and children affected by parental child-snatching in China.

Keywords: Children, Women, feminism, child snatching, China