Who benefits from Children in Highly Gendered Society? 
Exploring the Role of Children's Education in Parental Survival in South Korea

As people age, adult children become an important source of support for parents. Recent studies have focused on the relationship between adult children’s education and parents’ survival. However, most of these studies have examined the association within the Western context. Whether the relationship is consistently found in the non-Western culture has been less known. Furthermore, whether it varies by the gender of the parent and the gender of the child in East Asia, with its highly gendered patriarchal societies, is an unknown question. The purpose of this study is to explore this topic using a nationally representative survey from South Korea, the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging conducted in 2006 with respondents who followed through the end of 2014. We find that adult children's education is strongly associated with mothers' mortality beyond the mothers' own socioeconomic status (SES). The relationship is less pronounced for fathers and is largely explained by the father's own SES. In addition, sons' education rather than that of daughters is a stronger predictor of the mortality of the parents.

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