

## **How Does the Education-occupation Mismatch Reorganize the Mechanism of Education Affects Fertility?**

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Education is an essential factor in fertility; however, the direction of education's impact on fertility is opposite in some situations. The higher-educated group has a high proportion of childlessness; meanwhile, this group also contributes a high proportion of second children in China. To explain this contradiction, this study aims to reframe a framework on how education affects fertility. This study explains this within-group variety based on the education-occupation mismatch (EOM) perspective. EOM is defined as an employee's educational diploma that does not match the job-required diploma, including over-qualification, adequate-qualification and under-qualification status. We hypothesise that EOM has a moderating effect on education's impact on fertility based on the fact that over-qualification decreases fertility; at the same time, adequate qualification does not influence fertility. Using individual-level survey data on education, occupation and fertility, we discuss fertility behaviour in a multi-level OLS model. This study found that EOM moderates education's effect on fertility. In detail, EOM moderates income and worktime flexibility, the intervening variables, then moderates the influence of education on fertility. This framework explains the contradiction of education's impact on fertility and provides a new perspective on how education affects fertility.