ABSTRACT

A Study on the Effect of Parents and Relatives' Social Capital on the Students' Academic Achievements

-Focusing on the First-Grade Students of High Schools in Seoul-

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The purpose of this study was to examine how parents and relatives' socioeconomic backgrounds and social capital influence the academic achievements, and whether parents and relatives' social capital mediate the relation between parents and relatives' socioeconomic backgrounds and the academic achievements.

The results of this study can be summarized as follows.

First, parents' socioeconomic backgrounds (fathers' education) can have the important meaning in enhancing children's academic achievements. This concluded that the trust in students based on the affection between parents and children had the direct and positive effect on enhancing children's academic achievements, and also played the mediating role in making parents' socioeconomic backgrounds (the living standard within families) had the positive effect on children's academic achievements, so that the trust between parents and children considerably contributed directly and indirectly to enhancing children's academic achievements.

Second, if relatives were rich economically because of house possession, students' academic achievements were high, whereas if relatives' occupations were sales occupation/ service occupation, students' academic achievements were not high. And, relatives' socioeconomic backgrounds (relatives' house possession, and expert occupation/ free occupation) had the positive effect on students' academic achievements through the mediation of the trust between relatives and students. Of course, here, the social capital between relatives and students had the significant, direct, and positive effect on students' academic achievements.

This study can be meaningful in that this study proved that relatives could contribute to students' high academic achievements by trusting in students with sufficient family affection. And, in the relation between parents and children and the relation between relatives and students, among trust, network, and reciprocity which were set up as the components of social capital, the trust played the pivotal role for both parents and relatives, and so this study concluded that the variable of social capital, which was very important for realizing students' high academic achievements, was families' trust which supported and believed their students emotionally.

Key words : parents and relatives' socioeconomic backgrounds, parents and children, relatives and students' social capital, the academic achievements, the relation between parents and children, the relation between relatives and students, social capital, trust, network, reciprocity