

Research and Analysis on Star Worship and Relative Deprivation of Vulnerable Teenagers

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Abstract: With the development of the Internet, the law of “traffic is king” in the entertainment industry has increased the importance of fans and given them more voice. Through qualitative research, this study conducted in-depth interviews with 6 vulnerable adolescents aged 15-24 years of age, gender and star worship. It is found that star worship can weaken the relative deprivation of vulnerable adolescents and rebuild their enthusiasm and confidence in life by reducing social exclusion, restoring their social ties and changing their income status. In the process of worship of disadvantaged youth stars, the role played by the stars is obvious. Therefore, communities, schools and families may consider not dealing with the phenomenon of vulnerable youth star worship and instead of rational guidance. The government should strengthen the supervision of the media industry and the control of the star industry, and help build a social atmosphere of mutual assistance, mutual accommodation, tolerance and harmony.

1. Introduction

In the 1980s, the reform and opening-up brought dramatic changes to China. The development of the Internet and the arrival of the network society also brought a shock to China's information power. The speed of information transmission is getting faster and faster. Information transmission is no longer from top to bottom but has become a large number of horizontal information exchanges among members of society (Liu Shaojie, 2012). In the entertainment industry, this change undoubtedly narrows the distance between “stars” and “fans” and gives “fans” more discourse power. Similarly, the persistent hot money in the idol industry, the worship of thousands of people also makes a large number of adolescents from different classes set foot on this road, thus providing a large number of excellent talent reserves for the industry. In addition, the arrival of the era of “traffic is king” also means that “fans” have more and more choices and voices. In this case, no matter how excellent they are, from which stratum they come from, how to “spoil” and interact with fans when they are faced with the “fans” group formed by coagulation has become one of the compulsory courses for almost all stars. For example, in the 2018 blasting variety “Idol Producer”, there was a comment “jeffrey has Maserati, Justin has been called Jia Fugui, people called Zhu Zhengting Walking Gucci, Wang Ziyi’s airport look is not less than 100,000 CNY, but still think he did not dress up, Qin Fen has been recognized by others as a rich guy, and Fan Chengcheng, I don’t have to say it... these rich children are dancing and singing for you, being gentle and bowing for you to ask you vote, what are you dissatisfied with? (“How much money the competitors of Idol producer have? Zhu Zhengting has been called Walking Gucci, Jeffrey has Maserati”, 2018). The emergence of this situation has led individuals who have suffered social exclusion, experienced social injustice, and felt social disparity have more rights to choose and help them recover part of their equality and dignity. Therefore, this study aims to explore whether star worship has an impact on the relative deprivation of vulnerable groups. If so, what is the impact path? Since this study is an exploratory study, this study will adopt a qualitative research approach, and the qualitative research method is particularly suitable for some cases where empirical research is lacking (Patton, 1990).

2. Literature Review

2.1. Introduction

The discussion of relative deprivation has been one of the key issues in Chinese sociology since the 1980s. Since China's reform and opening-up in 1978, China has chosen the road of “socialist market economy with Chinese characteristics”. It has taken a series of measures, such as restructuring of state-owned enterprises, family contract system and encouraging people go into business, to uphold the idea of “to allow some people get rich first, then rich people can have the poor, finally the prosperity of the entire population can be gradually achieved”. The guiding ideology and a series of measures results in the split and restructure of social strata, and the gap between rich and poor has gradually emerged. In this process, the concept of “relative deprivation” has attracted more and more researchers' interest. The concept of relative deprivation was first proposed by American sociologist Scouffer in *The American Soldier* in 1949, but no formal definition and theoretical framework were proposed. In 1982, Judith Blau and Peter Blau put forward the theory of relative deprivation in *The cost of inequality: Metropolitan structure and violent crime*. The theory holds that people feel deprived when they find themselves at a disadvantage by comparing their situation with a certain standard or reference. This feeling can lead to negative emotions, such as anger, resentment and discontent. Through the research of famous sociologists Merton, Gurr and Wang Ning, the relative deprivation can be divided into horizontal relative deprivation and vertical relative deprivation. The main reasons for the relative deprivation are social injustice, social ties, social disparity, and widespread social exclusion (2006; 2015; 2007). Compared with the-haves, vulnerable groups are more likely to feel relative deprivation. Studies have shown that the relative deprivation of vulnerable groups exacerbates with the emergence of social anxiety and depression, undermines the principle of social justice and reduces the degree of social integration and the breeding of hatred of vulnerable groups (Guo Xiaohong, 2012) and leads to individuals such as alcoholism, Unhealthy coping behaviors such as smoking or even suicide (Subramanyam, Kawachi, Berkman, & Subramanian, 2009; Kondo et al., 2009). In addition, the psychological and mental illness rate and crime rate of vulnerable groups due to relative deprivation are higher than the general population. In the survey of vulnerable groups in the Hebei Academy of Social Sciences, 76% of the population had mental depression and anxiety to varying degrees (Ma Jiqian & Wang Min, 2005).

2.2. Related concepts, research findings and theoretical models

2.2.1. Vulnerable Groups

The “vulnerable group” was originally proposed by Premier Zhu Rongji in the “Government Work Report” at the Fifth Session of the Ninth National People's Congress in 2002. It points out that when individuals are in a weak position, they are more likely to become disadvantage in terms of quality of life and competition opportunities, which in turn leads to unbalanced psychology and leads to the emergence of crimes (Guo Xiaohong, 2012). Although the issue of vulnerable groups has become the focus of scholars, there is no uniform definition of the vulnerable groups. Some scholars, from a political and legal point of view, believe that a vulnerable group refers to a group that cannot realize its basic rights due to obstacles in social conditions and personal abilities, and needs state help and social support to realize its basic rights (Qian Dajun & Wang Zhe, 2004). From the social aspect, some scholars believe that the vulnerable groups refer to the social groups that are vulnerable to setbacks due to their lack of responsiveness to the impact of social problems (Wang Sibin, 1998). Some scholars think that the vulnerable groups are those who have difficulties in life and production because of various internal and external reasons, and their abilities to resist natural disasters and market risks is greatly limited (Shen Hong, 1998). Although there are differences in the definition and research of vulnerable groups, most people believe that the vulnerable groups are disadvantaged in society because of some obstacles and lack of political, economic and social opportunities.

The research object of this paper is disadvantaged adolescents. This paper divides the disadvantaged groups into physical disadvantage and social disadvantage. Physiologically disadvantaged adolescents are disadvantaged due to physiological and other reasons, mainly including those with disabilities and large differences in appearance and body shape. Social vulnerable adolescents mainly refer to the lack of economic, social and symbolic capital in the family. Research shows that vulnerable groups suffer from social marginalization and social exclusion for a long time, and both their psychological endurance and economic capacity is inferior. When the vulnerable groups feel they experience unfair treatment, it is easy for them to temporarily mentally ill or directly adopt extreme methods to fight against society, such as committing crimes (Guo Xiaohong, 2012).

2.2.2. Relative deprivation

In the study of “deprivation”, the concept of “deprivation” mainly includes the following dimensions: physical deprivation, economic deprivation, political deprivation, social deprivation, and spiritual deprivation. However, these deprivations are often deprived in absolute terms and can therefore be called absolute deprivation (Wang Ning, 2007). Groups that suffer from absolute deprivation tend to have lower social and economic status and are in a lower class in society. Unlike absolute deprivation, relative deprivation can occur in any class in society. There are lots of definitions of relative deprivation. Walker and Smith (2012) define relative deprivation as the subjective perception of an individual's disadvantageous position when compared to a reference group. Guo Xinghua (2001) believes that relative deprivation refers to the inner feelings that people's self-interests are deprived by other groups when compared with the reference group. Wang Ning (2007) considers relative deprivation as a deprivation or deprivation that occurs when people compare with a frame of reference. The concept of the frame of reference is proposed by Merton in *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Merton divides the reference groups into two types: normative and comparative. Normative refers to establishing and maintaining standards for individuals. Comparative means providing a comparison framework for individuals to evaluate themselves and others, which provides a reference for individuals to evaluate their relative positions with others (2012). At the same time, Merton points out that people have different perceptions of their relative position and relative gains and losses with different reference groups. Among them, the main factors affecting the selection of reference groups are realistic comparability, value scale and expectation level (2006). When the disadvantaged group attributes their disadvantage to the deprivation from the beneficiary group, the sense of relative deprivation also comes into being. As for the causes of relative deprivation, the academic circles mainly have the following views: firstly, social injustice. For scholars hold this kind of view, social injustice mainly includes unfair distribution and procedural injustice. This view holds that when the individual's income is lower than their comparisons, the individual is prone to think the distribution is unfair. When there are problems in decision-making or reward allocation, it is easy to lead to unfair procedures (Merton, 2006). Secondly, the objective cause of relative deprivation is the actual gap between different individuals or groups in terms of economic income, social status and social prestige. The subjective reasons are social comparison and cognitive differences (Wang Ning, 2007). Thirdly, the objective condition of relative deprivation is the unfair distribution system, and the subjective condition is the irrational tendency of human self-estimation (Nie, 1989). Fourthly, the sense of relative deprivation among members of different social groups in the stage of China's reform is caused by the change of their interests (Roguifen, 1990). Fifth, the distribution system. The abnormal consumption behavior and luxurious lifestyle of the high-income people in the same area, breaking the fragile psychological defense line of the low-income group and the subjective psychological deviation of the low-income people are the causes of the relative deprivation (Tongxing, 2018). In Guo Xiaohong's research on vulnerable groups, the specific reasons for relative deprivation are as follows:

1) Mistakes in reference group selection

As Merton said, the choice of reference groups is closely related to people's relative position and the perception of gains and losses (2006). If people choose an inappropriate reference object when

making comparisons, or violate the comparison rules, it is easy to have deviations in understanding. It is easy to attribute one's own situation to social injustice, which leads to despair, aggravated psychological imbalance and social hatred (Guo Xiaohong, 2012). -

2) Fracture of social ties

With the advancement of urbanization, the population from rural areas to cities has been increasing. These migrants leave the countryside and are separated from the original rural social network formed by consanguinity, kinship and geographic relationship. It is hard for them to immediately integrate into the urban social network. This has led to the breakdown of social ties among migrants, which has led to the enhancement of their sense of social alienation (Guo Xiaohong, 2012). At the same time, the economic and cultural gap between themselves and the civic group, and the exclusion and contempt from the civic group cannot be integrated into the new group. So long-term urban exclusion at the marginal position, resulting in a strong sense of relative deprivation (Guo Xiaohong, 2012).

3) The income gap widens

Related studies have shown that in the process of China's modernization, the growth of the Gini coefficient is positively related to the growth of crime (Cao Liquan, & Zhou Wei, 2007). The larger the Gini coefficient, the greater the income gap, the more unfair the social distribution, the stronger the relative deprivation of the vulnerable groups, and the greater the possibility of engaging in criminal activities (Guo Xiaohong, 2012). Scholar Yitzhaki also suggested that the Gini coefficient can be seen as a quantitative criterion for the relative deprivation of society (1979).

4) Extensive social exclusion

This social exclusion mainly includes economic exclusion, social exclusion and political exclusion. In terms of economic rights, vulnerable groups (especially migrant workers) often cannot obtain the same employment rights as citizens. Vulnerable groups suffer from low wages, poor stability and work environment. In terms of social rights, vulnerable groups are faced with poor living conditions, and are monotonous spare time life. The most serious problem of this kind of social exclusion is that the various groups and strata of the society are alienated. Moreover, because the boundaries between groups and strata are clear, as Bourdieu said, each circle has its own rules. There is a great difference between the advantage group and the disadvantage group. The groups and classes in the comparative advantage position constantly set up obstacles to prevent the groups or classes in the comparative disadvantage position from moving forward to maintain their advantage position (1999). The isolation of society and the solidification of group differentiation make the economic capital, social capital, cultural capital and symbolic capital of the disadvantaged groups keep in a comparatively disadvantaged position. With the difficulty of class leap, the sense of exclusion and deprivation becomes very strong.

2.3. Comments and summaries

In the study of the relative deprivation of vulnerable groups, western countries start earlier and has lots of theoretical and empirical research results. Research in China is mainly based on theoretical research, supplemented by empirical research. Moreover, these empirical research is mainly quantitative research. In terms of the choice of research objects, foreign countries mainly pay attention to the minority group and directly explore subjects prone to deprivation. For example, ethnic comparison (Appelgryn & Nieuwoudt, 1988), the comparison between immigrant groups and local residents (Grant, 2008). , in China, research mainly focus on the general population, which also result in some limitations about migration of the research results (Ma, 2012). In terms of research content, for intervention strategy, both the eastern and western world, only few research provide the solutions based on empirical research. Moreover, China mainly explores the causes and influencing factors of relative deprivation in the fields of sociology and law sociology, management science and psychology.

3. Research Purpose, Problems and Significance

3.1. Research purposes

The purpose of this study is to explore the influence of star worship on the sense of relative deprivation of vulnerable adolescents in their lives, and propose policy recommendations for youth work.

3.2. Research issues

Under the framework of the theory of relative deprivation, this study focuses on the influence of star worship on the relative deprivation of vulnerable teenagers. Specifically, the sub-questions of this study are as follows:

- 1) What effect will star worship have on the relative deprivation of vulnerable teenagers?
- 2) How will star worship affect the relative deprivation of disadvantaged youth?
- 3) How should social policy respond to the “worship of stars” among vulnerable teenagers?

3.3. Research Significance

The research significance of this study can be divided into theoretical significance and practical significance. In terms of theoretical significance, the existing research on star worship mostly focuses on the development of star worship and the comparison between model worship and star worship, few research mention the advantages of star worship. Most of research hold negative attitudes towards star worship and simply attributing the reasons of star worship to curiosity, conformity, emotional needs, lack of faith, have not explored the real ideas of teenagers with star worship tendency. This study hopes to enrich the theoretical research results of adolescent culture and relative deprivation by exploring the influence of star worship on the relative deprivation of vulnerable teenagers and try to construct the theory. On the practical level, the relative deprivation can have a huge negative physical and psychological impact of the deprived subject. The “star worship” now is a popular phenomenon among youth. If the star worship can reduce the relative deprivation felt by the vulnerable teenagers, after understanding the influence path, it is a good way to help vulnerable teenagers recover from the harm of relative deprivation.

4. Research methods and design

4.1. Research methods

This study adopts a qualitative research approach, and the qualitative research method is particularly suitable for some cases where empirical research is lacking (Patton, 1990). The study was conducted mainly in the form of semi-structured interviews. In the process, this study uses the constructivist approach. Under the constructivist paradigm, this study focuses on the experiences and feelings of the vulnerable teenagers before and after the star worship and analyzes the relative deprivation feelings felt by the research subjects. In the course of the research, the author follows Bourdieu's viewpoint and deeply understands the experience, feelings and corresponding attitudes, beliefs and concepts of the researcher from the perspective of the subject, so as to avoid imposing the researcher's ideas on the interviewees. By means of snowball sampling, this study will conduct in-depth interviews with 6 disadvantaged adolescents of different ages, genders and years of star-worship to obtain first-hand information.

4.2 Research Design

4.2.1. Sample selection

The target population of this study is vulnerable adolescents star worship characteristics. “vulnerable adolescents” is defined as a group of 15-24-year-olds who are socially disadvantaged due to certain obstacles and lack of political, economic and social opportunities. The author also divides it into physical vulnerability and social vulnerability according to the different situation of

the research object. The definition of “star worship” is admired and sought after by people who have achieved or are making achievements in the entertainment industry through special talents and fierce competition in social life.

Table 1 The study

Case Coding	Gender	Age	Years of Star Worship	Vulnerable situation	Remarks
Informant 1	female	16	3	Physical vulnerability (disability)	No social vulnerabilities
Informant 2	female	16	4	Social vulnerability	N/A
Informant 3	female	18	5	Physical vulnerability (not well personal image)	No social vulnerability, good family environment and social and economic conditions
Informant 4	female	20	5	Social and Physiological vulnerability	The appearance has been significantly improved.
Informant 5	female	21	2	Social vulnerability	N/A
Informant 6	male	23	8	Social vulnerability (situation has improved)	Self-centered, Separation Tendency from family of origin

4.2.2. Data collection and analysis

Data collection and analysis in this study are mainly carried out through in-depth interviews. In terms of in-depth interviews, semi-structured interviews are adopted. The main content is the interviewer's basic personal data and the questions designed through the reference of theoretical framework. The interviews have been recorded with the informed consent from the interviewees. The research interviews were conducted in cafes, libraries and milk tea shops. The locations were mainly chosen by the respondents in order to provide a familiar place for them and help them open their minds. During the interview, the author starts with warm-up questions which are not easy to cause defense in order to help interviewees take off guard. Communication with the interviewees is usually in a colloquial and exploratory tone in order to help the interviewees unload the defense and strengthen the interviewees' desire to answer. The remaining questions has been asked in the order of descriptive, structured, and comparative questions. The duration of each interview section is approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. After the interview was completed, through listening to the recording, the author got the manuscripts. After drawing different themes and codes, the connection between data and the theory has been marked.

5. Research ethics

In the course of this research, the author has always adhered to four research principles. Firstly, the principle of voluntary participation and informed consent. This study prepares a text version of the research plan before each interview begins, all the participates need to read and sign the informed consents before the interview. Before the participants sign it, the author clarifies the research purpose and data collection methods for all participants, ensuring that all respondents are voluntarily participated in this research and understand predictable benefits and harm. Secondly, the principle of suspension at any time. During the interview, the respondent can unconditionally

terminate the interview at any time. Thirdly, the principle of anonymity and confidentiality. This study does not disclose interviewer information in any form, and the data collected are only used in this study. Data providers will be identified by numbering when data is published. Finally, after the data has been sorted out, the author provide the hard copy data for interviewees. If the respondents regret and decide to drop out from this study, we will respect their choice and delete that part of the data in order to fully protect the rights of the research subjects.

6. Research findings

6.1. Weakening of Exclusion

Disadvantaged adolescents, like ordinary adolescents, have emotional needs that need to be met in the process of growing up in adolescence, but due to inferior personal image and lack of economic capital and social capital, when they have a good impression on people and try to approach, disadvantaged adolescents often fail to get a positive response or even suffer strong rejection and resentment from others, which damages their own self-esteem and self-confidence and results in self-doubt. In the process of star worship, through the satisfaction of emotional needs, vulnerable adolescents' sense of deprivation has been alleviated.

For example, in the interview, both the second informant and the fourth informant indicated that they showed a good impression of the people they were dealing with in daily life. However, people they like did not think that informant 2 and informant 4 have the qualification to like them, and informant 2 and informant 4's like have been ignored or even hated.

"I used to have a boy I liked very much. His family background, appearance and grades were all excellent. I think many people can understand that when you like a person, you will feel inferior. Everything around me at that time made me feel that I didn't deserve to like him. Yes, many people would not be happy even if you treated him well. They thought being liked by you is a shame. You do not have the qualification to like them. (Informant 4)

"The like from you is a trouble for him." (Informant 2)

In the process of star worship, disadvantaged teenagers can get the response and feel self-affirmation through the appreciation of stars. The economic capital, cultural capital, social capital and symbolic capital possessed by stars are better than those of vulnerable adolescents who can contact and connect deeply in their daily lives which also result in that vulnerable teenagers are willing to being fans.

"Because of my parents' arrangement, I have been asked to join a blind date. During the date, he does not say anything offensive. However, a few days later, my parents told me that he was picky about me. At that time, I was really angry. For him, actually I thought he is only ok but not good. After that I became a fan of Nicole. I feel that Nicole is far more better than that guy who joined the blind date." (Informant 5)

In addition to the satisfaction of emotional needs, the self-efficacy of vulnerable teenagers in the process of star worship due to information empowerment helped them to build and repair self-esteem and self-confidence, thus reducing the relative deprivation of vulnerable teenagers.

Under the situation of "traffic is king", the stars are more likely to express their affirmation and gratitude to fans. Through the appreciation, fans feel the effort they have paid is positive which can result in the satisfaction. While gaining satisfaction, it also enhances its self-esteem and self-confidence.

"Fans are very important to them. In fact, fans mean traffic. We have to help the stars to guiding public opinion, take good photos, and clip videos to attract more fans. In this way, they (stars) can have more opportunities in the entertainment industry. It will be easier for them to receive the endorsement of big brands, get the more TV-series, movies and variety shows' invitation." (Informant 5)

"He is so nice to his fans. In order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding, he would keep away from female staffs. He said "thank you and I love you" to his fans lots of times. (Informant 3).

After the increase of self-efficacy, the disadvantaged adolescents will strive with the idea of

gratitude and hope to “pay back” to the people who have appreciated their effort and being nice to them.

“Actually, for me, I think she is more like a perfect symbol which I cannot find in my daily life. One day when I am good enough, I hope that I can see her face to face. She is very good to fans. There was a time a fan said that she should try to lose weight. That fan wants to have a good figure before her concert. That fan thought she was not good enough and wants to see her in a better shape. But she said that we are all good enough now. She likes us just as we are. In fact, the more she said things like this, for me, I hope to be better, I hope that one day I can have the chance to do her a favor. (Information 1)

“He gave me some hope for life. I think he's very beautiful, perfect and worth all the best things in this world. I hope that I can be better and better. If I can do that, one day I would like to go to his concert. (Information 5)

6.2. Repair of social bonds

In the process of star worship, vulnerable teenagers can alleviate their relative deprivation by strengthening their connection with the outside world and building social capital. In the expressions of respondents No. 3 and No. 5, after joining the fan group, vulnerable teenagers strengthened their connection with society through the online and offline cooperation.

“I watched the video of Peter's *Orange*. After reading it, I was thinking about “God, he was so wonderful, then I started to vote for him. I have liked Kevin before, at that time, I voted for him every day. In terms of my economic situation, I am not allowed to buy so much water (After you buy the water, you can have the tickets. You can vote for the star you like). but they (other fans) will give you tickets. You only need to spend time to vote. After I join the fan group, the things I have done made me feel that I am useful. It made me feel that some things I did can be helpful to the people I like. Many of us (in the same fan group) are very good friends now.” (Informant 3)

“We have different kinds of groups focus on different website, for example Douban, Weibo, Facebook, etc. We have some working groups. In the course of work, when some people maligned the star we like online, we will defend the star. In the process, we are more and more familiar with the people in our group. We also have some offline meetings and some offline activities, many people can make good friends in this group.” (Informant 5)

In the process of star worship, out of their own interests, vulnerable teenagers are willing to join the organization to meet new friends. During the process of working with other group members, private relationship can be developed to strengthen the disadvantaged young people's sense of social belonging and help vulnerable teenagers restore their social ties.

6.3. The impact on the income gap:

With the advent of the Internet era and the need of entertainment industry. Programming companies and artists' publicity teams tend to recruit people who have a knowledge of the star worship culture and fans group management experience. This trend also enables vulnerable teenagers to gain more economic capital through enhancing their skills in the process of star worship, then alleviating the sense of relative deprivation.

“I used to feel inferior because of my appearance and my figure, moreover, I am also not good at study. But in the process of star worship, I actually found my value. I am good at clip videos, when the first video I cut was posted online, I got a large number of ‘likes’, then I thought I might have a certain talent in editing. Now I have a part-time editing job. I can get about 4,000 or 5,000 CNY a month, sometimes more. I found that when you have talent, you can make your own living, not so many people will hate you because of their appearance and your figure, just like Ma Yun, although he does not have good-looking, I think, but many people admire him. (Information 4)

“I got my present job because I have fans group manage experience. (Information 6)

6.4. “Following the stars and chasing me” - the embodiment of the role of role models

In the process of star worship, vulnerable adolescents can regard stars as role models. The success of a star can encourage disadvantaged youth to strive for their lives. During the interview,

both respondent 2 and 6 mentioned that they regard the stars as their role models and motivations, and hope to be improved according to the preferences and standards of the stars they worship.

“When I liked the stars, I was particularly concerned about what kind of people he/she like. Journalists also like ask stars these questions. After the star said what kind of people he/she like, I will compare myself. I hope that I can become the person he/she appreciates.” (Informant 2)

“I might be selfish. I feel that I must try my best to make myself happy. Of course I can live in this world for my parents and family. But if I can't find a thing I like, it will be very painful for me. When I saw him. I felt that I have found the meaning of life. I thought about a question that people often asked, “what is success.” I have the answer now. Success is that one day you can be good and you can get close to all the things and people you want to get close to. Then, you can become friends with each other.” (Informant 6)

6.5. “Insiders” vs. “outsiders” – the impact on social inclusion:

With the development of the Internet, vulnerable teenagers with star worship tendencies can get lots of pleasure through internet, which may promote the social withdrawal and the phenomenon of dwelling.

“In fact, to be honest, sometimes I am curious about why the video and music charges so little money, online videos and music provide lots of happiness for us. If I can have a computer which can access lots of music and video, I am good enough, I do not need to go out, I can be very happy.” (Informant 2)

In addition, the characteristics and personal traits of the celebrities can have a direct impact on disadvantaged youth. For example, the interviewee mentioned that a star she liked has a custom: “through the bag decide to receive gifts or not”. Which means that if the bag from luxury brand, that star will accept the gift, otherwise, he will reject. If the star differentiates the star admirers by appearance and economic capital and social status that will not help to alleviate the relative deprivation of vulnerable teenagers with star worship.

7. Focus discussion

As far as the relative deprivation of vulnerable adolescents is concerned, compared with material deprivation, the relative deprivation of vulnerable adolescents is more due to the discrimination, exclusion and unequal treatment they suffer. The disadvantaged adolescents are more likely to encounter social exclusion, discrimination and unequal treatment because of their physical or social disadvantage. The analysis model of relative deprivation indicates that relative deprivation can only occur when the individual and the reference group are compared, the individual feels that his or her group is at a disadvantage and the disadvantage is regarded as unfair (Heather, 2012). Discrimination and social exclusion can lead to comparisons between vulnerable adolescents and the perception that they are inferior to others (Major, Quinton & McCoy, 2002). Due to the implementation of family planning in mainland China, the only child has a stronger sense of self-centeredness than the non-only child (Fan Cunren, Wan Chuanwen, Lin Guobin, & Jing Qicheng, 1994). Montesquieu said in *The Spirit of the Law* that life is equal without distinction between high and low (1989). This idea has also been included in the nine-year compulsory education curriculum examination syllabus in mainland China. As a result, it is easier for vulnerable adolescents to feel deprived when they are subjected to discrimination, exclusion and unequal treatment. Therefore, if we can construct a harmonious and inclusive social atmosphere and reduce the discrimination and unequal treatment of vulnerable adolescents, we can help to reduce the relative deprivation they feel.

Secondly, the cycle of violence can be broken by the social support.(Cassell, 1976; Cobb, 1976). Social support has positive effect on Vulnerable adolescents who suffer from discrimination, exclusion and unequal treatment. This is also confirmed by Tao Zhang's research which concerned about relative deprivation and psychopathology of Chinese college students (2013). Therefore, if stars can use the media platform to publicize the values that help to create a harmonious and good social atmosphere and provide social support for vulnerable adolescents who encounter unequal

treatment, the relative deprivation of vulnerable adolescents can also be improved.

In the aspect of social integration, some people believe that the development of the Internet meets the entertainment needs of users may contribute to the occurrence of social withdrawal, which is also supported by data of this study. However, social withdrawal is not a unique consequence of star worship. Films, TV, Video games and animation can also be the cause of social withdrawal. At the same time, although there is no consensus on the causes of social withdrawal of adolescents among scholars, the author agrees with the view that besides physiological reasons, the essential causes are also related to social discrimination, frustration and social support that adolescents encounter in the process of growing up. The satisfaction of entertainment needs may have a positive correlation with the withdrawal status of social withdrawal adolescents but not the main reason. Cutting off the satisfaction of entertainment needs of social withdrawal adolescents in withdrawal status is only a cure for symptoms. Therefore, the key to solve the problem is to create a harmonious and caring social atmosphere.

In the process of star worship of vulnerable teenagers, in some situation, stars has been regarded as role models. Therefore, the government should strengthen the control of entertainment industry and star industry and put forward higher moral requirements for public figures. At the same time, in addition to commercial interests, the media should shoulder the social responsibility, help promote social development in a harmonious and orderly environment.

8. Social policy response

Based on the findings and discussion of this research, the author suggests that in the revelation of star worship on the relative deprivation of vulnerable teenagers, the focus of social policy response is: the creation of a harmonious and positive social atmosphere, the enhancement of government's supervision of the media industry and the supervision of the star industry.

8.1. Creating a good social atmosphere:

- 1) The government can pay more effort on poverty alleviation and appropriately narrow the gap between the rich and the poor on the basis of maintaining a reasonable economic growth rate;
- 2) Strengthen the ideological, cultural, and moral construction, and make kind and hard-working become a standard for the society to measure whether a person is excellent or not;
- 3) Strengthen the training of emotional intelligence education and anti-frustration ability for young people;
- 4) Appropriately increase social welfare investment, build a more comprehensive pension and medical security system, and alleviate people's living pressure.

8.2. Media Industry Supervision and Star Industry Control:

- 1) Strengthen supervision and public opinion management for the media industry and pay attention to the impact of popular culture on society. For some cultures that are not suitable for promotion, they may limit their development resources or “cream off the best and filter out the impurities” and develop in accordance with the core values of China's socialism;
- 2) Strengthen the supervision of the star industry, improve the moral requirements and increase the penalties for public figures who are harmful to social security;
- 3) Cultural supervision of fab base. Avoid the emergence of bad behaviors such as excessive comparisons in the group of star worshippers.

9. Lack of research

The shortcomings of this study can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Data collection in this study mainly takes the form of self-report, which may lead to deviation between data and facts. For example, the interviewee's memory of the scene of the interview event was biased, or the interviewee glorified his experience in memory in the interview process for reasons of self-affirmation. In the future, with the consent of the respondents, we can consider

learning information through multiple channels, such as parents, friends and so on.

2) Because the research takes the form of interview, the social expectation effect in the interview process can influence the respondents' answers.

10. Research summary

In this study, the vulnerable adolescents aged 15-24 with star worship tendencies has been studied. It was found that the worship of stars with positive image can help to bring social capital to vulnerable adolescents and help them to repair social ties, change their spiritual and economic status, reduce the social exclusion they feel, and reduce the relative deprivation of vulnerable adolescents. However, due to age limitation, teenagers are not mature enough in psychology and physiology, so society, schools and parents should pay attention to strengthen guidance, avoid excessive indulgence, and help to play the positive benefits that star worship can bring to vulnerable teenagers. In addition, in the process of adolescents' star worship, the role of role models is obvious. Therefore, the government still needs to strengthen the supervision of the media industry and public opinion control, pay attention to the establishment of positive images of stars, in order to help create a harmonious and caring social atmosphere.

At the same time, the author found that the vulnerable adolescents in the process of star worship are different from other star worshippers. For example, there is a view that in the Internet society, the rights of fans have reversed, and fans often express their dissatisfaction with their acts in the form of drop out from the fans group ("What should we reflect on the rise of fans' power and the deep stirring of entertainment circles? _ Public Opinion Surging News - The Paper, 2019). However, this study found that the above phenomenon is not obvious in the process of star worship of vulnerable adolescents. Nevertheless, the sample size of this study is small and this phenomenon is not the focus of this study and the author's time and energy are limited to explore in depth. In the future, we can also discuss the worship preferences and behavior patterns of vulnerable teenagers, so as to reach a deeper understanding of the needs of vulnerable teenagers.

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