

# Chinese Parents' Attitudes About Sexual Abuse Prevention

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## Introduction

Child sexual abuse is a common and serious issue in Chinese society (Chen, Han, Lian, & Dunne, 2010; Lin et al., 2011). In China, research related to parents' views about child sexual abuse prevention education is very limited. Only a few studies about this topic have been conducted in North Eastern and Central China, yet data from South Western provinces remain unexplored. *This study aims to explore South Western Chinese parents' attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention education in order to develop more comprehensive educational resources for Chinese parents.*

## Methods

### Participants

This is a mixed-method study. A 20-question survey was distributed through a Chinese social media/chat platform (WeChat). There were 1,763 participants. The quantitative sample included 28.6% males (505) and 71.1% females (1253), and 0.3% other genders (5). Snowball sampling was used to recruit for the qualitative portion, which involves a semi-structured interview (N=20). Among the interviewees, there were 6 fathers (30.0%) and 14 mothers (70.0%).

### Procedure

Participants were invited to complete the questionnaire, and then to opt-in for the interview, if they wanted to.

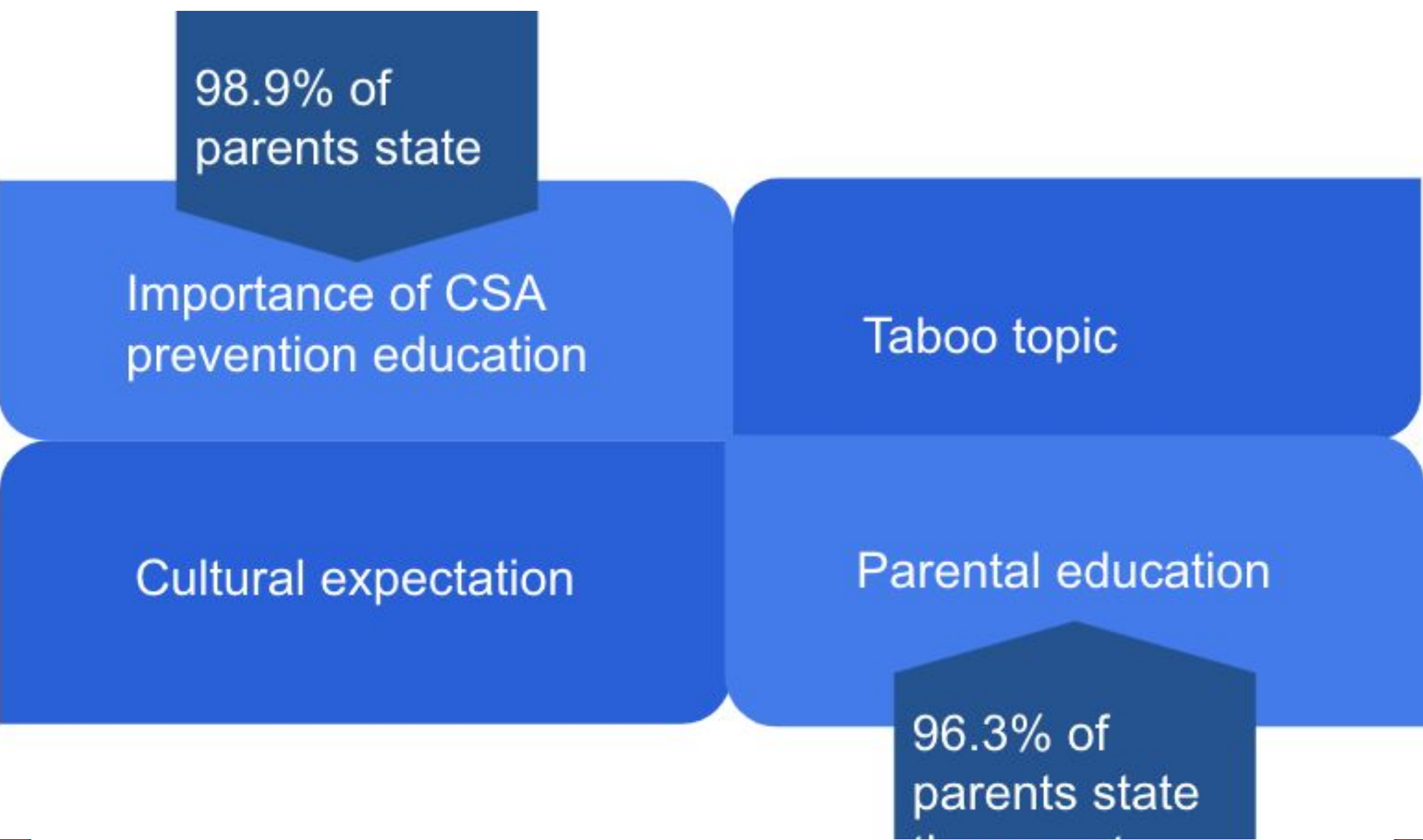
## Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed for descriptives and the qualitative data was analyzed using constant comparative analysis: initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining themes, and writing-up findings.

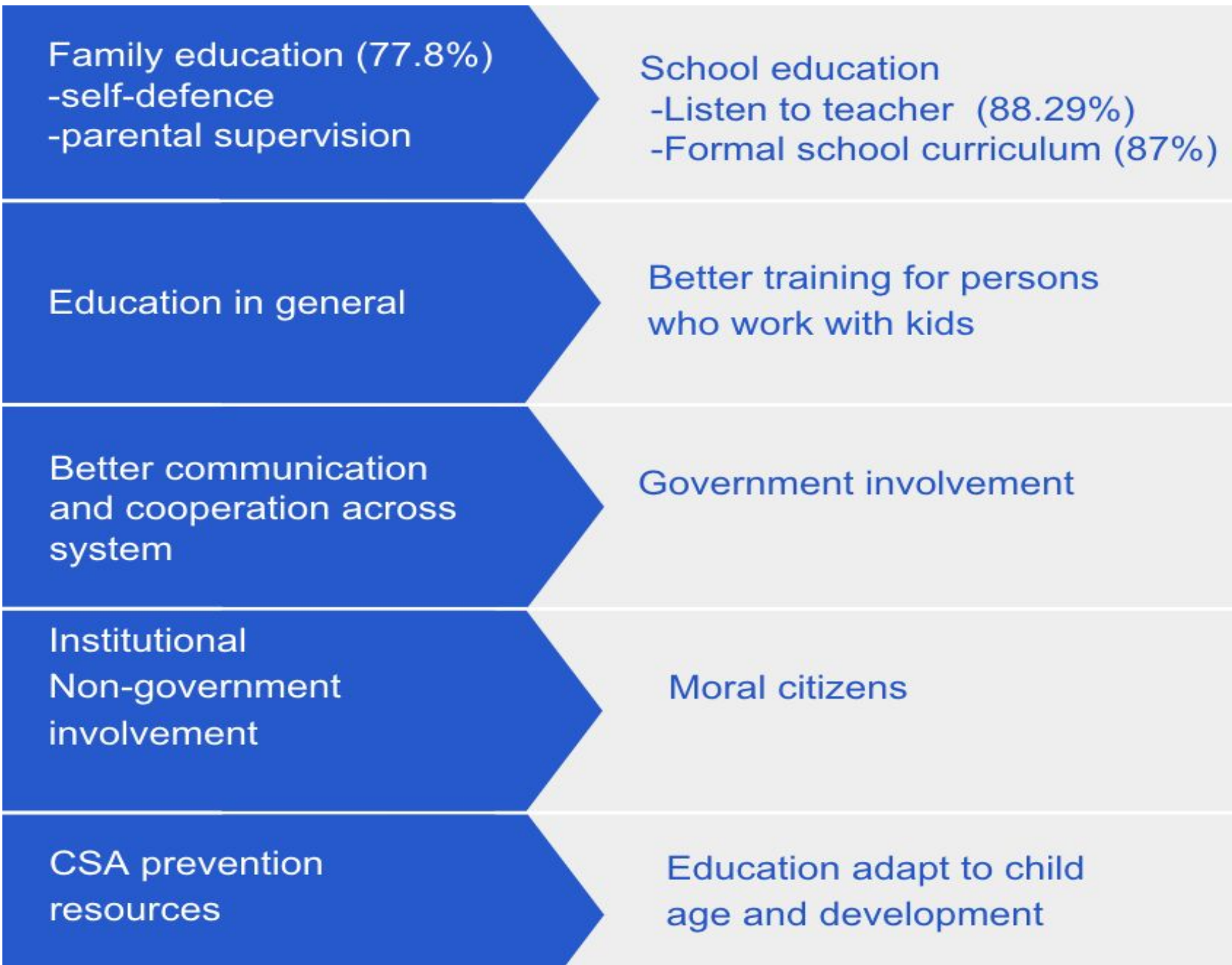
## Results & Findings

### 1. Parental attitude

The overall parental attitude toward CSA prevention education is very positive. Almost all parents agree with the importance of CSA prevention education. They are willing to let their children learn about related knowledge, and they are also willing to learn and teach their children. Some parents did point out concerns regarding sexual abuse as a taboo topic, but they still hold cultural expectations which will allow them to discuss and teach CSA prevention more openly.



### 2. Strategies for prevention



*"Maybe we didn't talk about it a lot, but we used some real cases to remind her, both directly and implicitly." (Interview parent #4)*

*"I think school is very important too, because school is a big environment that kids need to be in for a long time." (Interview parent #7)*

Parents feel CSA prevention education should start at differing ages: under age 5 (24%); 5-10 years of age (44.4%); and 10-15 years of age (26.2 %).

### 3. Limitations to Preventing CSA

Parents identified barriers to offering CSA prevention programming. Among the barriers were the child's age and development;

limited access to resources; parents' bias; lack of law development and government involvement; as well as lack of communication and cooperation across systems.

## Discussion

This study provides information to design comprehensive educational resources to Chinese parents in a way that takes China's relatively conservative social environment into consideration. This study also invites the continued investigation into offering sexual abuse prevention in China, particularly outside of the wealthier provinces who may have less access to this information. This study demonstrate that parents want to have this type of information and would like to have it taught to their children. This can impact educational policies. Nonetheless, this study has various limitations, for example due to the use of convenience samples, this research may have limitations in terms of generalization.

## Conclusion

Although some countries have more traditional and conservative attitudes, we should not assume parents are not interested and willing to have their children learn about sexual violence prevention.