

Need or greed : young people's financial support expectations and cross-cultural differences

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Abstrak

Most parents, teachers, and guardians understand that children, no matter what their age, have needs for certain things in life to help them develop physically, emotionally, and mentally. There are many things that children themselves want. In our daily lives a "need" or a "want" may sound very similar, so that differentiation between the two is not always clear. This paper explores the distinction between needs and wants and the different ways and means young people use to achieve these ends in Western society. It also looks at how parents react and deal with their children when the expectations rise and their needs and wants become more expensive. Sixty students, all aged between 16 and 22 years old, filled in questionnaires. They were from four different school sectors, five different cultural backgrounds, and two universities in South Australia. Twenty were later interviewed to document their experiences and stories. Data was analysed qualitatively for factors affecting attitude, lifestyle, core values, culture, and their impact on the behaviour outcomes. The study further examined how these patterns of behaviour reflected on the students' life skills, achievements, and how they affected family outcomes. Results showed that many parents look the blame for their children's actions and illustrated the influence of values and cultural background on children's attitude towards their parents, their needs, and expectations.