

PARENTAL ROLE ORIENTATION'S INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN'S PERSONALITY FORMATION

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ABSTRACT – The way parents approach their roles is a key factor in shaping their children's personalities. When parents have an unclear role orientation, it can have a negative impact on their children's growth and the development of a harmonious family environment. Therefore, it's important for parents to have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in order to foster a positive environment for their children's development. The objective of the research was to explore the influence of parents' perceptions of their roles and responsibilities in family education on the formation of their children's personalities. For this study, a qualitative research methodology was employed. A sample of five parents residing in X city, X province, China was selected. Data was collected through one-to-one interviews, and thematic analysis was performed to examine the impact of parental role orientation on the formation of their children's personalities. Research result showed that parents' roles and responsibilities significantly affect children's personality formation. Positive parenting roles, prioritizing responsibilities, and a harmonious family environment contribute to better development. Dissatisfaction with family dynamics may lead to different career paths. Children's perceptions of a good family are influenced by intimate relationships. Lack of clear parenting roles can cause a breakdown in parent-child relationships during adolescence. In sum, parental recognition of responsibility greatly impacts children's personality development. Effective communication, guidance, and understanding contribute to a harmonious family environment and continuity in the parent-child relationship. The implications of these findings are that parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's personalities. To foster positive cognitive and social development, effective parenting should include components such as clear communication, guidance, emotional support, and the acknowledgement of responsibility. Parents hold a significant responsibility in promoting their children's overall well-being. Future research may involve expanding sample sizes, utilizing quantitative analysis for exploring family dynamics, and merging foreign or local parenting theories.

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INTRODUCTION

Building a harmonious society relies on individuals with stable personalities and thousands of families living in harmony. The conduct of parents significantly influences the familial environment. Nevertheless, the present scenario shows a lack of clarity regarding the role orientation of men and women and their corresponding behavioural patterns within the family (Soenens et al., 2017). Parental role orientation refers to the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours that parents adopt when it comes to their roles as parents. It encompasses ideas about what constitutes appropriate parental behaviours and expectations, as well as the ways in which parents perceive their responsibilities to their children. The positions of parents, husbands, wives, family members, and societal members in terms of gender roles are frequently ambiguous, and this may hinder the development of a child's healthy personality. Therefore, it is crucial to examine the logical conduct patterns for defining parental role positioning.

According to Morris et al. (2017), parents serve as the primary and lifelong educators of their children, making them the largest teaching force globally. As we enter a new era in the 21st century, determining how parents can effectively contribute to their children's education remains a significant concern. This study aims to investigate the significance of parental role orientation in promoting a harmonious society and to raise awareness among parents about the importance of their role.

Parental role orientation can have a significant impact on children's personality formation. Specifically, children tend to internalise and adopt the beliefs and attitudes of their parents, which can shape their own perceptions of themselves and the world around them. The study aimed to investigate how parents perceived their roles and responsibilities in family education in a social context influence children's personality formation.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The main problem of this research is the influence of parental role orientation and responsibility on children's personality formation.

Examining the current state of parental role orientation and its theoretical and practical implications for children's personality development is of immense practical importance. This study seeks to delve deeper into the perceptions and expectations of the current population regarding parental role orientation, as well as the impact of parental role orientation on the formation of children's personalities. Through interviews, we aim to identify the obstacles that hinder accurate parental role positioning and to comprehend the issues and influencing factors involved in the current parental role positioning.

The results of this research carry immense significance for the healthy growth of children, family harmony, and societal stability. The consciousness of parents regarding their roles and responsibilities greatly influences the quality of parent-child relationships (Piotr et al., 2018).

The impact of diverse cultural contexts on parental perceptions, including factors such as cultural background, socioeconomic status, and individual parenting styles, is a complex issue. However, it is important to recognise that focusing solely on parental perceptions may not fully capture the complexities of family dynamics and the broader social context that shapes children's personalities. In addition, measuring the impact of parental attitudes and behaviours on child development can be challenging, given the influence of other factors such as genetics, peer relationships, and school environment. Therefore, when designing studies and interpreting findings, researchers need to carefully consider these issues to gain a more accurate understanding of the roles that parents play in shaping their children's personalities and sense of responsibility.

LITERATURE REVIEW

An Overview of Literature Review

The literature review on family environment and individual personalities indicates that the family context plays a significant role in the development of personality traits. Positive family environments characterised by cohesion, warmth, and support are linked to positive personality traits, while negative environments with conflict and neglect are associated with negative traits. Parenting styles, such as authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful, can also shape personality outcomes in children. Parental practices, including discipline, monitoring, and involvement, also influence the development of personality traits. Understanding these factors can inform interventions aimed at promoting positive personality outcomes in children and adults.

Analytical Family Environment and Individual Personalities

A review of the literature reveals that current research on child personality mainly focuses on family factors such as parenting methods, parental behaviour, parent-child relationships, and marital relationships. However, these themes have little overlap and lack integration. Family environment factors are interrelated and mutually influencing, and studying one or several factors alone is inadequate for family education (Heckman, 2008).

As a crucial factor in the family environment, the role orientation of parents has received limited systematic research attention in the field of psychology despite being a common topic in popular literature. Existing studies on the role of parents are insufficiently comprehensive. Parents' role entails

a set of rights, obligations, and behavioural patterns for both men and women in the family (Webley & Nyhus, 2006). The interplay between this behaviour pattern, parent-child relationships, family education, parental behaviour, and marital relationships within the family environment is not fully explored. To some extent, the current research overlooks the orientation of parental roles, which is a regrettable omission.

Following the establishment of the nine-dimensional framework for children's temperament by Thomas and Chess in 1977, research on children's personalities gained momentum (Kosse et al., 2020). However, in China, investigations into the impact of family factors on children's personalities only began with the publication of "The Influence of Divorce Stress on Children's Personality" by Soto and Tackett (2015). Nevertheless, this research focused on the effects of influential factors on children's personalities in "abnormal" divorce families rather than typical families. This article alerted numerous experts and scholars to the significant impact of family factors on the development of individual personalities. Subsequently, many researchers have dedicated themselves to studying the influence of family factors on personality,

There exist divergent perspectives regarding the constituents of the family environment. For instance, Bozhkova et al. (2020) contend that the family environment encompasses parenting style, parental education levels, family structure, family ambience, and birth order of children in the family. On the other hand, Lin & Chang (2017) propose that a child's personality formation is significantly influenced by the family's economic and political standing, the educational perspectives and levels of the parents, educational attitudes and methodologies, and interactions among family members. Additionally, researchers have explored the impact of the material environment, emotional climate, parenting style, and family structure on children's psychological development. Certain scholars have even distinguished between hard and soft family environments, where the former pertains to family life and play environments, and the latter is mainly concerned with the effect of family members' verbal and behavioural interactions in everyday family life. In summary, the family environment is a complex and multifaceted construct, and its definition shapes the scope and substance of research in this domain.

The literature review suggests that the discussion of family factors in current child personality studies is fragmented, focusing mainly on family education methods, parental behaviour, parent-child relationships, and marital relationships, with little integration. However, the family environment is complex, and many factors interact and influence each other, making it insufficient to study one or several factors alone. The role of parents is an essential factor that has been under-researched in psychology. Parental role refers to the complete set of rights, obligations, and behavioural patterns of men and women in the family, and this pattern of behaviour and relationships with family environment factors should not be separated. There is a growing interest in the influence of family factors on children's personalities, but the definition of the family environment is not consistent across studies, with various factors such as parenting style, parents' educational level, family structure, and atmosphere being considered. Overall, the family environment contains many complicated factors, and its definition determines the scope and content of research on this subject.

Parental Role Orientation and Responsibilities

Parental role orientation is a crucial aspect of research on the family environment, which plays a significant role in shaping children's healthy personalities, as demonstrated by domestic and international studies. A conducive family environment fosters positive personality development in children.

In a recent study examining the impact of Chinese parents' participative styles in their children's education, incorporating interviews with parents and students, it was found that awareness of parenting roles positively influences children's personality development. The study identifies three primary factors: firstly, the educational practices employed within the family impact children's understanding of the parent-child relationship (An et al., 2019).

Existing studies tend to treat parents as a homogeneous group, overlooking the physical and psychological differences between men and women. Failing to account for gender differences undermines efforts to capitalise on the unique strengths each gender brings to parenting (Sonnert, 2009).

Furthermore, men and women in families occupy various roles beyond just "parent," and studying only the parental role neglects the needs of other roles. Ignoring gender differences and individual needs can lead to biased research findings.

Current research gives greater weight to explicit behavioural factors and pays less attention to intrinsic factors, emphasising technical guidance over trait cultivation. However, overt behaviour is often the outcome of internal factors, and research should take into account the influence of these factors. Neglecting trait cultivation limits the effectiveness of research findings despite the emphasis on technical guidance (Ren & Edwards, 2015).

Research on the family environment and parental roles in child personality development highlights the complexity of family factors and the importance of studying different aspects of parental roles, including gender differences and intrinsic factors. The family environment includes multiple factors, such as parenting style, family structure, and emotional atmosphere, which interact and influence each other to shape children's personalities. Furthermore, the study of parental roles should not only focus on parenting but also recognise the diversity of roles played by men and women in the family. Finally, the cultivation of children's personality traits should not be neglected in favour of technical guidance, as internal factors often contribute to external behaviour.

Related Theories

Classic personality theory comprises psychoanalysis theory, trait theory, behaviourism theory, and humanism theory. According to Ceka & Murati (2016), individual behaviour styles are acquired through the imitation and internalisation of same-sex parents in childhood. Chodorow (2018) suggests that personality development results from the interaction of organism maturity, self-growth, and social relations. Orth (2018) proposes that family order, birth order, and family atmosphere influence a child's personality. Fleeson & Jayawickreme's personality trait theory explains the formation of personality through traits, where a list of personality traits can be used to describe individuals and explain the reasons for trait formation through external behaviour (Fleeson & Jayawickreme, 2015). Behaviourism theory posits that all behaviours are shaped by reinforcement, and personality is a habitual behaviour formed through reinforcement. Humanistic theory argues that people are born with self-actualisation motivation driven by human needs.

Social cognition theory holds that personality is a product of individual cognition during interactions with the environment (Fiske & Taylor, 1991). Social cognition theory proposes that personality and behaviour are not solely determined by inherent traits but also by the ways in which individuals interact with their social environment. It suggests that individuals actively construct their own reality through social cognition and use cognitive schemas to organise and interpret social information. Moreover, the theory emphasises the importance of social interaction and the role of cognitive processes in shaping personality and behaviour and suggests that personality can change as individuals change their cognitive schemas based on new social experiences.

According to biological theory, variations in individual personalities are attributed to variations in physiology (DeYoung, 2010). The biological theory of personality suggests that differences in individual personalities are due to variations in an individual's physiology, including genetics, neurochemistry, and brain structure. Physical traits can predispose individuals to certain personality traits, and genetic factors play a significant role in shaping personality. The theory emphasises the importance of examining the biological underpinnings of personality to gain a better understanding of human behaviour and develop more effective treatments for psychological disorders.

The theory of evolutionary psychology posits that individual variations in personality arise primarily from genetic mechanisms, encompassing both inherent biological traits and distinct social characteristics (Caporael, 2001). Evolutionary psychology theory suggests that individual differences in personality arise from evolutionary adaptations that have allowed humans to survive and reproduce in different environments. Genetic mechanisms, including inherited biological characteristics and unique social characteristics, are seen as the root cause of these differences. Certain personality traits may have evolved because they conferred adaptive advantages in different environments. The theory emphasises the role of genetic mechanisms and evolutionary processes in shaping individual differences

in personality and aims to gain a better understanding of human behaviour and develop more effective interventions for psychological disorders.

The field of classic personality theory includes several theoretical frameworks, such as psychoanalysis theory, trait theory, behaviourism theory, and humanism theory. Ceka and Murati (2016) propose that behaviour styles are learned through the imitation and internalisation of same-sex parents during childhood. Chodorow (2018) suggests that personality development is the outcome of organism maturity, self-growth, and social relationships. Orth (2018) posits that family dynamics, birth order, and the general atmosphere of the family all contribute to the formation of a child's personality. Fleeson & Jayawickreme's personality trait theory proposes that personality is related to specific traits, which can be identified through external behaviour. According to behaviourism theory, personality is formed through habitual behaviour that is reinforced over time. In contrast, humanistic theory contends that self-actualisation motivation is an innate drive in individuals, propelled by human needs. Social cognition theory posits that personality is shaped by the individual's cognition during interaction with the environment (Fiske & Taylor, 1991), while biological theory suggests that physiological differences are responsible for individual personality variations (DeYoung, 2010). Finally, evolutionary psychology theory argues that genetic mechanisms are the fundamental drivers of personality differences, including inherited biological characteristics and unique social characteristics (Caporael, 2001).

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The interview method in this research involves face-to-face conversations between the researcher and the samples, allowing for flexibility and adaptability. However, it is not commonly used in personality research due to its high cost and potential for information distortion. Nonetheless, some researchers have used this method in studying parenting styles and their impact on children's development. For example, Luo et al. (2013) used interviews to investigate the parenting styles of single mothers, while Zhang & Carrasquillo (2005) used interviews to examine the characteristics of parents' behaviour and their influence on children. Wu (2008) also used interviews to explore the influence of family upbringing on children's intelligence and personality development. In this study, five parents were interviewed to gain insights into how they perceive their roles and responsibilities in family education.

Population and Sampling

The study was conducted in X city, X province, China. The five participants were carefully selected to represent a diverse range of occupations and educational backgrounds, ensuring that the results reflect a variety of opinions and perspectives from different strata of society. To gain deeper insights into the selected topics, follow-up discussions were conducted with several interviewees who provided their consent for participation in the case study.

To ensure a varied range of perspectives, the researchers carefully selected five samples with diverse educational backgrounds and occupational experiences. These individuals were chosen to ensure that the study's results accurately reflected the diverse opinions and beliefs held within society. Following the initial interviews, several participants were invited to engage in follow-up discussions on the selected topics. All participants provided their consent before engaging in these discussions.

Data Collection

To collect data for the study, in-depth interviews were conducted with the samples to explore their perceptions of parental roles and responsibilities in family education. A pilot interview was also conducted to refine the interview questions based on the feedback from the interviewee. To accommodate quarantine measures, the interviews were conducted either online or in person. To gain a more profound understanding of individual parental issues, five samples were selected for one-on-one discussions. The samples were chosen to include diverse backgrounds in terms of occupation and

education, ensuring a broader range of opinions and experiences. Consent was obtained from all participants before the interviews and discussions took place.

Measurement/Trustworthiness

This study was to examine the impact of parents' perception of their roles and responsibilities in family education on their children's personality formation in a social context. The study included an assessment of parents' awareness of their roles, understanding of parent-child relationships, and recognition of parental responsibility. The sample size of five participants was deemed appropriate and reasonable as it represented diverse groups in society. The interview questions were meticulously chosen based on extensive consultation with academic resources and experts. Additionally, a pre-test was conducted to ensure the feasibility and smooth completion of the interview process.

RESULTS

Parents' Roles Orientation in The Family and Children Personality Formation

Parent 1

During the formative stage of their personality, children's safety and health heavily rely on their parents, particularly mothers, who have a significant impact on their children's leisure time. Effective communication between parents and children is crucial in providing guidance throughout the different phases of a child's life. Parenting is a continuous responsibility that requires ongoing effort, as children require parental support to ensure they remain on the right path. Effective guidance from parents plays a vital role in shaping the child's character and development, making parenting and child development an inseparable process. Unfortunately, communication breakdowns can occur between parents and children, making it challenging to provide proper guidance. In such instances, parents must possess specific knowledge, skills, and abilities to address any issues that arise in family education.

Parent 2

During the stage of personality formation, ensuring children's safety and health is of utmost importance, particularly with the significant influence mothers have on their children's leisure time. Single-parent families often face greater conflict between parents and children, and the absence of a father or mother can lead to mental or physical disorders in children to some extent. Personality development is a critical aspect of everyone's life, as it encompasses an individual's attitude, appearance, characteristics, mindset, and behaviour towards others, ultimately helping them establish their own identity in the world. In cases where communication channels between parents and children break down, it becomes challenging to provide proper guidance, requiring parents to possess specific knowledge, skills, and abilities to address problems that may arise in family education.

Parent 3

During the process of personality development, ensuring children's safety and health is crucial, particularly considering the significant impact mothers have on their children's leisure time. Communication issues can arise due to generation gaps, making it challenging to provide guidance effectively. Father or mother play a crucial role in their child's overall development from childhood, and parenting is an ongoing responsibility that requires constant attention. It's crucial to maintain open communication channels as children need their parents from time to time to stay on the right track, and parental guidance plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's character. However, when communication channels break down, parents need specific knowledge, skills, and abilities to address problems that may arise in family education.

Parent 4

In the period of developing one's personality, the support provided in the mother-child relationship was stronger compared to the father-child relationship. Mothers were more affected in terms of how they spent their spare time due to their children. A generation gap resulted in communication challenges between parents and children. Engaging in positive parenting practices can

enhance cognitive, social, and problem-solving skills in children, leading to their better overall development. Children closely observe how parents interact and resolve conflicts within the family, which shapes their socio-cultural growth. Communication breakdowns can arise when channels between parents and children are closed off, and parents require specific knowledge, skills, and abilities to address challenges that arise in family education.

Parent 5

The level of support in the mother-child relationship was higher compared to the father-child relationship. Children, particularly mothers, had a greater influence on how parents spent their leisure time. Communication breakdowns occur when parents and children lose their means of communication, and it requires specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for parents to tackle issues that arise during family education.

Parents' Responsibility in The Family Education and Children's Personality Formation

Parent 1

It is the responsibility of parents to provide mental support to their children by being emotionally present and motivating them through every phase of life. Parents should teach them to become mature and face challenging situations confidently. As children reach the age of 10, parents should treat them as friends and create a comfortable environment for them to share their problems, experiences, and joys, fostering a healthy parent-child relationship. The parent's attitude towards their children encompasses a range of emotions, behavioural patterns, educational approaches, and understanding of the child's personality and actions. The parenting style adopted by parents plays a crucial role in shaping the child's personality. For instance, children with authoritative parents are more likely to become independent, creative, and socially skilled.

Parent 2

Additionally, parents should trust their children and try to understand them based on their own interests rather than pressuring them to conform to their parent's desires, which can impact the child's mental health. Parents should have confidence in their children to foster a sense of self-assurance in them. Emotional bonds within a family are essential in creating a sense of unity and support among family members. The presence of love and empathy helps alleviate stressful situations, and a lack of emotional connection can have negative effects on personality development and family dynamics.

Parent 3

Personality provides a concise overview of an individual, and attributes such as assertiveness, maturity, emotional intelligence, and physical energy, along with parental guidance, can contribute to the development of a strong and appealing personality that can endure over time. In my view, an authoritative parenting style is the most beneficial for creating a balanced personality. Setting boundaries early on is crucial when adopting this approach. While permissive parenting may seem appealing to those who value their child's freedom and independence, it is unlikely to yield positive results. In contrast, indifferent and authoritarian styles should be avoided since they are more likely to cause harm and negatively affect personality development.

Parent 4

The assumption of responsibility within the family can have a significant impact on the formation of a child's personality. Responsibility is often passed down from previous generations, influencing the development paths of other family members. Consequently, a parent who takes on greater responsibility is more likely to provide effective professional guidance for their children. Children require warmth, emotional communication, understanding, and acceptance, and when these factors are combined with reasonable rules and limitations, they can help instil confidence and independence in the child.

Parent 5

The positioning of parents' roles has a positive influence on constructing a harmonious family environment, which in turn affects the formation of children's ideas about a good family. It is important for parents to have a clear understanding of their roles in the family and to maintain continuity in the parent-child relationship as children grow into teenagers. The parenting style employed by parents significantly impacts the personality of a teenager. Parenting style is reflected in the parent's attitude towards the child, their methods of influencing the child, and their manner of verbal treatment and interaction. Disharmony within the family can lead to adverse consequences in the development of the child's personality and behaviour. Extreme styles of parenting, such as authoritarianism or disengagement, can negatively affect the mental development of children. The authoritarian style can cause alienation from parents, a sense of insignificance and unwillingness in the family, while the disengaged style can make a teenager feel that their parents are useless.

DISCUSSION

According to the data gathered, every interviewee concurred that assuming suitable parental roles is crucial for the well-being of children. The roles that parents take on in the family have an impact on the development of children's personalities, and their sense of responsibility within the family also plays a role in shaping their personalities.

Parents' Roles Orientation in The Family Influence on Children's Personality Formation

The way parents perceive their roles in family education can greatly influence their children's personality formation. Parent 1 emphasises that effective communication is crucial throughout a child's life and that parenting is an ongoing responsibility that requires effort. Parent 2 notes that single-parent families face unique challenges, and personality development is critical for establishing one's identity in the world. Parent 3 stresses the importance of open communication channels and parental guidance in shaping a child's character. Parent 4 highlights the impact of positive parenting practices on children's cognitive and social development, while Parent 5 notes that communication breakdowns can occur, requiring specific knowledge and skills from parents to address challenges in family education. Overall, parents play a crucial role in their children's development, and effective communication and guidance are essential for shaping their personalities positively.

According to the interview findings of the study, acknowledging and performing parental roles have a favourable impact on the development of children's personalities. Moreover, the upbringing that children receive from their families has a crucial role in shaping their attitudes towards parent-child relationships, as suggested by An et al. (2019) and Bozhkova et al. (2020). Parents who take on distinct responsibilities and exhibit them in their daily interactions with their children tend to be more involved and expressive. Furthermore, the significance and manner in which parents address the idea of parenting roles have a subtle but profound impact on their children's attitudes and actions.

Parents' Responsibility in The Family Influence on Children's Personality Formation

Parent 1 believes that parents should provide emotional support, motivate their children, and adopt an authoritative parenting style to foster independence, creativity, and social skills. Parent 2 emphasises the importance of trust, understanding, and emotional bonds in creating a sense of unity and support among family members, which can positively impact a child's mental health.

Parent 3 advocates for the adoption of an authoritative parenting style to create a balanced personality while avoiding permissive, indifferent, and authoritarian styles. Parent 4 believes that assuming responsibility within the family can positively influence the development of children's personalities and that parents who take on greater responsibility can provide effective professional guidance for their children. Parent 5 stresses the importance of maintaining continuity in the parent-child relationship as children grow into teenagers and the impact of extreme styles of parenting, such as authoritarianism or disengagement, on a child's mental development.

The personality formation of children is influenced by the extent to which parents assume responsibility within the family. The perception of responsibility is often inherited from previous

generations, which can shape the developmental trajectories of other family members. Parents who prioritise their responsibilities are more likely to provide their children with better professional support. However, individuals who are dissatisfied with their family dynamics may opt for different career paths from their parents. Additionally, research has shown that positive parenting roles contribute to creating a harmonious family environment (Bozhkova et al., 2020). Children's perceptions of a good family are largely influenced by their experiences with intimate relationships, which they acquire or imitate. Nonetheless, situations can arise where parents have no clear sense of their roles, leading to a breakdown in parent-child relationships during adolescence.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

In sum, all interviewees agree that parents' roles in the family and their recognition of responsibility greatly impact their children's personality formation. Effective communication, guidance, emotional support, trust, and understanding are crucial components of parenting that contribute positively to children's cognitive and social development. Parents who adopt an authoritative parenting style and assume greater responsibility within the family tend to provide better professional assistance for their children. It is also essential for parents to have a clear understanding of their roles in the family, as this can contribute to the creation of a harmonious family environment. The children's ideas about a good family are largely shaped by the acquisition or imitation of intimate relationships, and the discontinuity of parent-child relationships can occur when parents have no concept of their roles.

The implications of these findings are that parents have a significant responsibility to positively impact their children's personality development. Effective communication, guidance, emotional support, and recognition of responsibility are essential components of parenting that contribute positively to children's cognitive and social development. Parents who adopt an authoritative parenting style and assume greater responsibility within the family tend to provide better professional assistance for their children. A clear understanding of parental roles contributes to the creation of a harmonious family environment and continuity in the parent-child relationship.

Future studies could aim to enhance the accuracy of research findings by expanding the sample size. Furthermore, using quantitative analysis techniques, researchers could investigate the correlation between family members to comprehend the process of children's personality development. It may also be worthwhile to merge current research or theories on parenting roles and responsibilities from foreign countries with local child-rearing practices or case studies to comprehensively and systematically examine specific issues.

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