

Attitude to Parents and Family Values in Young People Having Sensory Impairments

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ABSTRACT

The relevance of the research is due to the process of formation of familistic competence being understudied while the latter is one of the most important needs of the young age. In particular, the paper deals with describing the content and structure of the attitude toward parents and family values that the young people with sensory impairments have. The leading methods of studying this problem are Ch. Osgood's universal three-factor semantic differential and the questionnaire of parental upbringing style by E.G. Eidemiller and V.V. Yustitskis. These have allowed determining that the young people having various sensory impairments accept themselves and family values, they are satisfied with their families and they consider it to be their support. In the paper, authors speak about some discrepancy detected between the upbringing styles demonstrated by parents and the attitude toward upbringing and they also show that the sensory impairment type makes a certain contribution to adjusting the system of attitudes in the young people living in the parental family. So, the young people having hearing disorder treat the parental upbringing styles as ones that curtail their freedom and independence, while those with visual impairments perceive the styles as limiting their daily duties and as adhering to the generally accepted behavior rules strictly. In the structure of their attitudes, a positive acceptance of oneself and one's family is not associated with a negative attitude toward their defects. The materials of the paper may be of use in the practice of psychological counseling on the problems of child-and-parent relationships and in preventing the destructive trends in building of their own families by the young people with sensory impairments.

Keywords: hearing disorder, vision disorders, young people, family, integration, parents, family values

INTRODUCTION

At the young age, the inner world and self-conscience of an individual, one's role as that of a subject of one's own growing up gain a special significance. The urgent tasks of the young age get completed thanks to new age-related formations, among which there is a peculiar system of needs. The needs determine the development of the familistic competence reflecting the personality's orientation toward the family and family values as well as the maturity of familistic subjectness [1].

One of the most important needs of the young age is associated with the transformation of child-and-parent relationships on the basis of equality between parents and the grown-up children. The change of mutual relationships of the young men and women with parents represents a complicated and in much controversial

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separation process. The young people's refusal from attachment to parents, pursuance of personal independence and autonomy are combined with the lack of complete breakup of the relationships and isolation from parents [2, 3, 3]. In their turn, parents are not yet ready to let go of their grown-up children into an independent life which they have no control of, to lose the control and power over them. Such a situation frequently becomes a cause of conflicts between parents and the young people, difficulties of independent life of the young men and women, disharmony in family relationships building up to destruction.

The growing-up children's having evident sensory impairments aggravates the said controversies in the relationships with parents even to a greater extent. According to the statistics, in Russia, there are currently over 190 thousand people with hearing disabilities and about 230 thousand ones with vision disabilities and the number is gradually increasing. Due to this, it is important to study the particularities of child-and-parent relationships not only from the standpoint of parents, but also from that of attitudes toward family and family values of the young people having sensory impairments [5]. It is up to them that their own families are to be built proceeding from the experience and relations system acquired in the parent family. The research conducted by the authors enriches the ideas about the specific character of the relations system in young people having hearing and vision disorders as well as no sensory impairments.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the recent time, family has been increasingly viewed as a unique system where the key part is played by child-and-parent relationships [6, 7, 8, 9] formed under the influence of numerous social and cultural and psychological factors [10, 11, 12]. In families having children with health limitations, they first and foremost depend on the parents' attitude toward the sick children [13, 14, 15, 16]. However, in such families, it is the very attitude of the young people toward their parents, family and family values that matters greatly for the child-and-parent interaction. The study of family from the standpoint of the systemic approach helps overcoming the biased understanding of child-and-parent relations. The systemic approach allows emphasizing the child-and-parent relations as bilateral ones, explaining the priority trends and determinants of family dynamics, and grounding the hypothetical research models that can be tested empirically.

Using the provisions of the general theory of systems, integrative and subject approaches, the authors have determined the child-and-parent relations in families of the young people having sensory impairments as a result of integration of the parents' attitudes and the young people's attitudes that manifest itself in the upbringing style and family atmosphere. Thus it is outlined that child-and-parent relations are formed not only under the effect of social and cultural factors, stress change of life conditions due to the child's health limitations, but also by the parents' system of attitudes. They develop and transform while also being influenced by the very child's attitudes that are conditioned by the originality of deficit type dysontogenesis. Given this approach, the focus of the research shifts to the attitude of the young people which is made more precise in their attitude toward themselves, their family, family values [13, 17, 18, 19]. Attention should also be paid to the fact that the attitudes system of the young people having sensory issues includes the attitude to their own disorder as an element of the internal aspect of the condition.

Relying on the scientific data and their own practical experience, the authors proceeded from the assumption that when sharing home with parents, the young people's type of sensory impairment transforms the content of their attitude toward themselves, their parents, family and family values.

METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The study involved 90 families: ones with the young people having hearing disorder (sensorineural hearing loss of grade III-IV), ones with the young people having vision disorder (at vis.0.05-0.2) and ones without sensory impairments - 30 families of each. The age of participants of the study is 17.6 ± 1.3 years. The study was conducted within the time span from 2013 until 2015.

Due to the psychological particularities of the young people having hearing disorder, before the start of the research, the authors conducted a special talk in order to establish relations of trust and to explain the importance of the young people's participation in the research. The talk was also designed to outline the opportunities of individual counseling according to the results of the study and managing the difficulties in relationships with parents.

When organizing the survey, the authors considered the main particularities of the defect of the visually impaired young people. With regard to this, both the research procedure and techniques needed some adaptation - in particular, increasing the exposure of the stimulus material presented.

In their selection of methodological tools, the authors sought for obtaining the most complete information about the young people's system of attitudes. Their reliability and validity as well as the testing out scope in special

psychology were taken into account. The following techniques were used in this research: Ch. Osgood's universal three-factor semantic differential as adapted by V. F. Petrenko - for studying the subjective attitudes of the young people toward themselves, their disorders, their family and family values [20, 21], the questionnaire of parental upbringing style by E. G. Eidemiller and V. V. Yustitskis [22] - for studying the young people's attitude to parental upbringing styles and family atmosphere.

The reliability of results and interrelation of the measured parameters were determined by statistic analysis methods: parametric Student's t-test and Pearson correlation coefficient (Pearson's r) were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the results of the study, the content of attitudes of the young people does not depend on the sensory pathology type and is represented by rather low values of indicators. On balance, the system of attitudes reflects the young people's acceptance of themselves. With regard to this, 80.0% of the young people having hearing disorder, 83.3% of the young people with vision disorders and 70.0% of the normally developing ones evaluate their activity and openness positively. Nevertheless, the young people having hearing disorder evaluate their independence as a lower one as compared to the young people with vision disorders (the distinctions are statistically valid at $p \leq 0.001$). Although the idea about themselves is positive with all groups of the young people, some of them note their own inferiority, including 6.7% of the young people with hearing disorder, 6.7% - with vision disorders and 16.7% - of the normally developing ones. Importantly, the young people with sensory impairments organize their daily life depending on their attitude toward their defects. Non-acceptance of their ailment is inherent in the young people with hearing or vision disorders. The defect is perceived by them as unattractive, hindering the activity and uncontrollable, reducing the quality of life as a whole. They feel dissatisfaction due to the difficulties of sensory experience and establishing contacts with other people around them. Individually, the dispersion of the manifestations found was registered in the young people having hearing disorder within the range of 60.0% to 80.0%, and in those with vision disorders - within the range of 13.4-73.4%.

The attitude toward people is one of the key constituents in one's system of attitudes which is formed back in the childhood age in the direct interaction with parents, siblings, grandparents and the immediate circle. According to the authors' data, the attitude to their family is virtually the same in the young people having sensory impairments and in the normally developing one. Their families are perceived as open and active ones by 96.7% of the young people with hearing disorder, by 86.4% of the young people having vision disorders and by 90% of the normally developing one. 93.3% of the young people having hearing disorder, 90% of the visually impaired ones and 83.3% of the normally developing ones are satisfied with their families and consider it to be socially normative. As for the assistance of their families, 76.7% of the young people with hearing disorder, 83.3% of ones with vision disorder and 83.3% of the normally developing ones can count on it in difficult situations.

The attitude of the young people to their parents is determined by emotions demonstrated by the parents. Subjectively, the young people with hearing disorder as compared to the visually impaired ones overestimate the evaluation of the parental fear associated with the loss of a child. The orientation of parents of the visually impaired young people to guard and care seems to ensure them a habitual feeling of physical security. The well-known higher exactingness toward others in people with vision disorders cannot but be borne in mind either, as well as their claims to compulsory and continuous social, emotional and material assistance.

The emotional cause of family conflicts may be the parents' projecting their undesirable qualities on their own children. Such parental behavior is experienced by the young people regardless of their sensory capacities. However, subjectively more frequently this problem is encountered by the young people with hearing disorder (26.7%) rather than ones with vision disorders (6.7%) and the normally developing ones (3.3%).

Among the family values, fate as a total of all events and circumstances perceived by a personality as predetermining various facets of being occupies a special place. By turning to fate, one seeks to identify the key powers not only controlling the world order but also organizing one's own life. They ascribe to fate the independence of the human will, which contributes to fate a meaning of impersonal verdict [23]. According to the results of this study, the young people's attitude toward fate depends neither on the sensory impairment being present or not nor on the specific nature of the impairment. From the viewpoint of the young people sharing home with their parents, fate plays in their lives an active and independent part and they feel this influence. Such an attitude is essential for manifesting the subjectness in the achievement of life objectives.

The young people's perceiving the upbringing styles and family atmosphere reflects the content and controversies of child-and-parent relationships. The authors believe the upbringing style and family atmosphere to be the result of integration of the children and parents' attitudes toward each other. Family upbringing implies certain requirements of parents to their children, in particular, ones of adhering to social standards and rules, daily life organization, as well as the prohibition requirements, sanctions and punishments. A part of the young people with hearing disorder - 33.3% of the survey participants - perceives the parents' instructions, moralizing and

requests as exaggerated requirements to them. With the visually impaired young people, the attitude to parental requirements is another: 28.0% of them point out that their parents set almost no requirements for them. Realizing the limited vision capacities, the young people themselves avoid household chores of cleaning and cooking. In some cases they even refuse self-maintenance calling their parents for assistance. Meanwhile, the normally developing young people have been doing certain domestic chores since early childhood, with 20.0% of them marking the excess of the duties.

Frequent prohibition requirements in the family are perceived by the young people as the parents' wish to make their children's dependence on them last longer but not as a style for upbringing of social skills. It has turned out that the young people having different sensory capacities feel the prohibition requirements in their families are excessive, and the upbringing styles demonstrated by the parents may be evaluated by them in a slightly unexpected way: as a manifestation of laziness and lack of confidence in the parents. It is the young people with sensory impairments who register the parents' lack of confidence more frequently. In this case, it is appropriate to refer to the statement of L. S. Vygotskiy [10] about the abnormal child occupying a special place in the family not only due to the child's lack of hearing or vision but because the parents see the child as a hurt by fate so they express too much love for this child. So the child becomes an object approached by the parents with pedagogical requirements that differ from ones to a normally seeing or hearing child. While underestimating the life resources of children with hearing or vision disorders and recording only the children's disadvantages in their conscience, the parents understand the objectives and tasks of upbringing in a limited way only. Due to this, the upbringing style gets changed frequently, which is registered by the young people as an abrupt change of the parents' behavior and evokes a negative evaluation [22, 23, 24].

According to the young people, during the process of upbringing the parents resort to sanctions and punishments. However, the young people with sensory impairments register these less frequently than their normally developing peers (the distinctions are statistically valid between the indicators of the normally developing young people, the ones with hearing disorder and the visually impaired ones - $t=2.41$, $p=0.019$ and $t=3.47$, $p=0.001$, respectively). The said distinctions reflect the actual picture of child-and-parent relationships in the families of children having developmental issues and are due to the natural parental care about a sick child.

One of the particularities of the young people's system of attitudes consists in discrepancy between the upbringing styles shown by parents and perception of these by the young people. Attention and care on the part of parents are perceived by the young people as hypoprotection and ignoring of their age-related needs. The specific character of the young people's sensory impairments influences the frequency of their believing that the parents have certain upbringing styles. In particular, the young people having hearing disorder note the hypoprotection in upbringing less frequently (16.7%) than the visually impaired ones (70.0%) and the normally developing ones (33.3%). Such proportion stresses the typical inclination in visually impaired people to underestimate the attention to them on the part of those around them. The surveyed ones of all groups registered their parents' ignoring their needs. However, this attitude was more frequently mentioned by the young people having a vision pathology (66.7%) rather than the young people with hearing disorder (3.3%). Similarly, during the interview, the visually impaired young people mentioned their parents not trying to satisfy their needs of communication and shared activity. In the control group, no critical values of this kind have been found.

It is known that as they grow up and expand their interaction in the society, the young people form their own system of views of various life situations and decision-making that far not always coincides with the parents' opinion. It is the child's independence that the parental prohibitions concern most often. The parents prohibit the children to undertake something on their own due to the clash of opinions. Or, they allow the children to do everything the latter may want because the parents lack parental proficiency to convince them that the decision made by the children is wrong or because they trust their children completely and refer to their total independence without setting any prohibition requirements. The results of this study show that the young people sharing home with their parents are rarely guided by their independence. So few as 20.0% of the young people with hearing disorder register independence of their parents when making any decisions. From their standpoint, they are independent in choosing friends and they can interact with the society independently. As for the visually impaired young people, just like the normally developing ones, those who are able to show such independence amount to 10.0% of the total only.

The particularities of the system of attitudes in the young people having different sensory capacities are reflected not only in the content but also in the structure that can be identified using correlation analysis. The structure of attitudes in young people having different sensory capacities is distinguished by the high integration of the indicators of attitudes toward the family atmosphere, the family, family values as well as to oneself and one's health, which is confirmed by the analysis of the obtained statistically valid correlations within the range of $0.001 \leq p \leq 0.05$.

In the group of the young people having hearing disorder, the greatest extent of integration is found in the indicators of the attitude toward family and fate that contradict each other. It has turned out that the more

independent and self-sufficient the family is perceived, the more active the role of fate in the young people's life is. However, they are not satisfied with their fate despite a positive attitude toward it.

The structure of attitudes of the young people having vision disorders also has a high extent of integration. For this group of the young people, a high extent of integration in indicators of the attitude toward oneself is peculiar. Their own activity and openness are associated with the attractiveness of the family and fate. Based on the correlations obtained, it can be said that the importance of their own "I" expresses the egocentric standpoint of this category of the young people.

Unlike the young people having sensory impairments, in the group of the normally developing young people, a high significance of the attitude toward the family in structuring of the attitudes is registered. Activity, openness, attractiveness, independence and self-sufficiency make up a single system ensuring the family homeostasis for the young people. Meanwhile, the attitude to their own "I" does not fit into this system.

CONCLUSION

When the young people share homes with their parents, the child-and-parent relationships are an integration of the parents' and the children's systems of attitudes, with the parents' system playing the upper hand. The styles of upbringing maintained by parents as well as the family atmosphere do not always accord with the young people's attitude to the family, and the latter reduce the interfamily processes to the insufficient satisfaction of their needs by parents.

The young people having different sensory capacities have the acceptance of themselves and family values, satisfaction with their family as a support in common. Regardless of the sensory capacities, the young people treat the parental requirements as an upbringing style reflecting the parents' uncertainty and mistrust to the capacities and independence of their growing-up children. The parents' ignoring their needs has been marked by the young people of all groups.

The sensory impairment type brings about certain adjustments into the system of attitudes of the young people living in the parental family. The specific nature of attitude of the young people having hearing disorder consists first of all in their perceiving the parental upbringing styles as ones to curtail their freedom. In their point of view, the family atmosphere is created by the parents' demonstration of the fear of loss and projection of their own negative qualities on the children. Secondly, they see the controversies in the parents' attitudes to them: hyperprotection, excessiveness of sanctions and punishments, the parents' projection of their own negative qualities on the young people are combined with indulgence, leniency and the fear of loss. In particular, they point out that their parents control and patronize them more than the young people would like them to. During the interview, the young people having hearing disorder pointed out more frequently than others that parents are trying to satisfy all their needs – and meanwhile, their failure to meet any requirements set by the parents or incompliance of results of their actions with the requirements imposed inevitably lead to sanctions and punishments. It is in the group of the young people having hearing disorder that the largest quantity of sanctions and punishments has been registered while the smallest one has been found with the visually impaired young people.

As for the young people having vision disorders, the attitude toward upbringing styles and family atmosphere as freeing from domestic chores and adherence to some behavior rules is inherent in them. The young people think that toward them, the parents rarely use prohibitions and point to their duties seldom as well. The structure of relationships is determined by the parental control over their activities and satisfaction of needs as well as by orientation of the young people to themselves and by the negative significance of their defects.

The results presented can be of use for correcting the disharmonic relations within parental families of the young people having sensory impairments. The revealed particularities of the young people's system of attitudes toward the parental attitudes may become a basis for preventing the destructive trends in the young people's building their own families.

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