

Boarding School Children's Images of Their Future Family and Profession

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Abstract

The aim of the study was to ascertain how young people in institutional care envision their future family and professional life in terms of their personal values. A group of 46 adolescents between 11 and 15 years of age living in a children's home in Minsk were observed and their opinions and value judgements were ascertained using a modified version of the Rokeach Value Survey (RVS). The study reports on the respondents' personal values as measured by the RVS. The majority of the respondents put health at the top of their terminal values hierarchy followed by independence and mature love. The top three choices on the instrumental values hierarchy were cleanliness in the sense of being orderly, good breeding and manners, and honesty. Most of the respondents were also positive to having a future family of their own. For the girls, love was the most important ingredient in family life followed by financial security and mutual respect. Having children came in third place. Love and financial security were also important for the boys but they put having children in first place. When it comes to their future profession, over half of the respondents chose jobs involving a person-person orientation.

Children in institutional care are very likely to have pedagogical problems. Often these problems are in connection with the socio-pedagogical deprivation of orphan children and with their divergence from normal behaviour patterns before entering the institution. There are indications of this tendency in over 70% of the children.

Scientific research and practice show that children deprived of parental care have many emotional problems, such as self-consciousness, in connection with the social environment. Socialisation has three main tasks to accomplish in the raising of orphans:

- to develop their personality and personal contacts
- to prepare them for independent life in society
- to prepare them for working life.

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