

## System of Values of the Youth in the Light of its Social Frustration

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**Abstract:** The study analyzes the relation of the social frustration of youth to its system of values. The objective of the research was identification of peculiarities of the value system of young people (value priorities, degree of integration/disintegration of motivational-personality sphere determined by discrepancies between the value and availability of the valuable objects) related to the degree of their social frustration in different spheres of life. The research involved 245 persons at the age from 16-35 years (high-school children 525, students of colleges 49, students of higher educational institutions 137, people in work and pupils 34).

**Key words:** Value system of a person, social frustration, significance and accessibility of valuable objects, inner conflict, life sphere

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### INTRODUCTION

The global changes on at nationwide scale caused the active interest of researchers to understanding of dynamics the value consciousness of Russian people. In the conditions and under influence of the radical transformations of the modern Russian society the new rules and patterns of the social behavior, new social norms and value priorities arise. In this regard, the study of the value orientation of the modern youth gains special interest, great scientific and practical relevance. On the one hand, the youth is the most mobile and dynamic part of the society, on the other hand, it appears to be the most socially untrained and thus the vulnerable part thereof due to the limited nature of its practical, creative activity and incomplete involvement of young people in the system of social relationships. As is known, at this stage, the most active formation of the system of ideals and values, personal self-determination of youth in different vital spheres takes place: education, future professional activity family, family life, culture, politics, etc. Due to the age and mental peculiarities of young people the system of their value orientation is characterized by instability and inconsistency.

During the last few decades in Russia a great number of researchers concerning the value orientation of young people was performed (Afanasenko, 2010; Dzhanyan *et al.*, 2013; Zhuravleva, 2006; Pavlova and Proskurina, 2014; Pfétzer *et al.*, 2014), however, analysis of their results is still topical as, firstly, the social transformations proceed and the value orientations of young people are transformed accordingly; secondly, the

constructing and strategic role of values in the inner world and interpersonal life space of a developing personality is especially important at this age.

The researchers of this study are convinced that the value orientations of a person shall be assigned a special position in the variety of determinants of life satisfaction (happiness, well-being) of a person in whole and satisfaction with the own social achievements, in particular. The system of personal values is arranged in a complex individual-specific structure characterized by multi-dimensionality and non-linearity. It represents the quintessence, the essence of a personality and acts as the crucial criterion for self-evaluation, assessment of different external objects and phenomena including the own life in whole and separate aspects thereof (Gabdulina and Zotova, 2012; Sagiv and Schwartz, 2000).

In its turn, dissatisfaction with achievements and position of a personality in the socially determined hierarchies causes the phenomenon of social frustration that is understood as one of the kinds (form) of the mental strain. In other words, the degree of social frustration represents the degree of satisfaction of a person with its social achievements and satisfaction of a human with his own life in general (Wassermann *et al.*, 2004). This relation is, in particular, confirmed by the significant negative correlation between the general life satisfaction and satisfaction with the own social achievements established in the previous researchers: the higher the level of social frustration is the lower is the level of general life satisfaction (Gabdulina and Zotova, 2012; Gabdulina, 2008).

The presented empirical results constitute a fragment of the comprehensive study of correlation between the value orientations of the urban studying and working youth with its social frustration performed by the staff of the Department of Personal Psychology by the Academy for Psychology and Pedagogics of the Southern Federal University.

The objective of the research performed by us was identification of some peculiarities of the value sphere of young people (value priorities, degree of integration/disintegration of motivational-personality sphere determined by discrepancies between the value and availability of the valuable objects) related to the degree of their social frustration in different spheres of life.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The methodological tools were presented by the method by L.I. Wasserman ‘Diagnostics of the level of social frustration’ and the modified method by I.G. Senin ‘Questionnaire of terminal values’; the binomial test, rank correlation coefficient  $r$ -Spearman, Friedman test  $\chi^2$  and Wilcoxon test  $t$ . The data obtained at the level of statistical significance  $p < 0.05$  were subjected to analysis.

The questionnaire by I.G. Senin was completed by the procedure provided for by the method by Fantalova (2001). ‘The level of the ratio between ‘value’ and ‘accessibility’ in different life spheres’: by the procedure of evaluation of the gap between the need for achievement of the inherently relevant valuable objects and possibility of such achievement in the reality (“V-A”). According to the researcher of the method, the “V-A” rate is the indicator of inner conflicts in the motivational-personal sphere of a human since its value shall indicate the degree of discrepancy between what is and what has to be, between I want and I have as well as between I want and I can. In respect of the particular life sphere the discrepancy ratio V-A will be determined by which parameter is higher V or A. The maximal discrepancy between V and A in case when  $V > A$  will mean a sustainable, deep irreversible inner conflict. The inverse correlation when  $V < A$  will, on the contrary, mean the state of ‘inner vacuum’, inner burnout, and decrease in drives.

The research involved 245 persons at the age from 16 to 35 years (high-school children 25, students of colleges 49, students of higher educational institutions 137, people in work and pupils 34).

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The researchers of the research showed that the most statistically significant value for all respondents from the sample is the value of spiritual satisfaction that also

appeared to be the most accessible to them. The life sphere of the highest priority to young people is the sphere of education and training; there is a gap between the value and accessibility of it which is indicative of the inner conflict and challenges experienced by young people while trying to receive the desired education. There was detected a conflict related to discrepancies between the value and accessibility of the value of own prestige. The value of the high material well-being has a high level of significance to the youngest participants of the survey: school pupils and college students; whereas frustration in the social-material sphere appeared to be the most significant in them.

The discrepancy between the significance and accessibility of values is positively related to the social frustration in all life spheres except for the family one: spiritual satisfaction, high financial standing and preservation of the own individuality. The high level of frustration in the family sphere is determined by the low accessibility of values: high financial standing, self-development, spiritual satisfaction, preservation of the own individuality.

It was found that within the value determination of the social frustration of the youth there are complex relationships between the priority of the personal values and their implementability under specific life conditions. The high level of the social frustration is related first of all to the degree of intrapersonal conflicts representing the gap between the need for achieving the inherently significant valuable objects and possibility of such achievement in the reality.

The main results of the research consist in the following. It was empirically found that the most significant value of respondents from the sampling in general is the value of spiritual satisfaction reflecting human striving for moral satisfaction in all life spheres.

The values of high material standing and achievements were also relevant to the youngest respondents (school pupils and college students).

It is remarkable that respondents of all the groups named the value of spiritual satisfaction as the most accomplishable value. The values of development and social contract are nearly as accessible as the above-mentioned one. In other words, young people fulfill their striving for self-improvement believing that potential capabilities of a human are almost unrestricted that one should primarily strive for the completest fulfillment thereof and that they cope with establishing favorable relationships with other people. All aspects of human relationships are extremely significant to them and they believe that the most valuable thing in life is the ability to communicate and interact with other people.

The researchers of the study believe that the said is in line with the age and generation peculiarities of the respondents.

The values of high material standing and achievements that are significant to pupils and college students were not ranked among the most accessible ones, thus, they constitute the possible basis for an intrapersonal conflict (discrepancies between what is and what has to be, between I want and I have). Instead of this, the pupils and college students show total consensus with the rest of respondents mentioning as the most accessible ones the values of spiritual satisfaction, development and active social contacts.

The respondents from the sampling consider the life sphere of education and training as the most significant from among all the life spheres which is also rather expectable and explainable by the specifics of the priority life tasks peculiar to the life stage of those surveyed. This sphere of life is mentioned by young people as the most accessible from among all the life spheres. This coincidence could have been considered as a rather encouraging fact indicating the absence of discrepancy between the valuable and accessible in their life. However, it was found that the degree of significance of the education and training sphere is yet substantially higher than its accessibility which is the potential ground for an intrapersonal conflict.

In all the research participants another potential conflict was detected that is related to the value of the own prestige which was not mentioned above.

Therefore, young people consider the value of spiritual satisfaction as the most significant to them and the sphere of education and training as the most significant sphere of life. However, if no discrepancy is found between the value and accessibility of spiritual satisfaction between the value and accessibility of the education and training sphere there is a gap that is clearly indicative of challenges related to educating young people.

Apart from this inner conflict as was already mentioned there was detected a conflict related to discrepancy between the value and accessibility of the own prestige; along with that, it was diagnosed that prestige is not included in the group of the most significant values of respondents.

It is known that high material well-being according to most of researches conducted during the last two decades that was the most significant to the young Russian maintained its position in the hierarchy of values only for the youngest participants of our survey school pupils and college students (Afanasenko, 2010; Dzhaneryan *et al.*, 2013; Zhuravleva, 2006; Pavlova and Proskurina, 2014; Pfetzer *et al.*, 2014). We have not detected an intrapersonal conflict related to this value.

However, against the average level of the social frustration across the entire sampling the respondents' frustration appeared to be the most expressed in the social-material sphere. The mentioned empiric facts may

be considered as ambiguity of the value priorities themselves and experience of implementation thereof in the life practice of the participants of our survey.

There were found numerous correlations between the degree of the social frustration in different life spheres of young people and their system of values. It is statistically significant that the social frustration in all life spheres of respondents is negatively associated with the accessibility, possibility of the values fulfillment and positively with discrepancy between the value and accessibility of valuable objects, namely: with the severity of intrapersonal conflicts.

The discrepancy between the significance and accessibility of the following values is positively associated with all life spheres except for the family one: spiritual satisfaction, high material standing, maintenance of the own individuality. In other words, the more the inner conflict related to these values is expressed in the young people the higher is the level of frustration in such life spheres as the social, material one, sphere of health and status.

The relation of frustration in the family sphere with the system of values of young people features a number of peculiarities. For example, frustration in the family sphere is negatively associated with the inner conflict related to the value of the own prestige, the significance and accessibility thereof. In fact, the high level of the social frustration in the family sphere is related to the low significance and, at the same time, to the low accessibility of the value of own prestige and accordingly to minimization of the inner conflict related to this value. Instead, the high level of frustration in the family sphere also appeared to be determined by the low accessibility of values such as high material standing, self-development, spiritual satisfaction, maintenance of the own individuality.

In other words, a young person that is not satisfied (has a high level of frustration with the family sphere of life considers the own prestige to be relevant, demonstrating the need for the social approval of his behavior, not satisfied with his material standing, not enjoying the required conditions and possibility of self-development, maintenance of the own individuality, not getting moral satisfaction in all life spheres.

The possibility of realization of the same values: spiritual satisfaction, high material standing, maintenance of the own individuality as well as additional values such as: self-development, own prestige, creativity, active social contacts, achievements is negatively associated with the social frustration in all life spheres.

Besides, there was found the correlation between the significance of some values with the level of the social frustration in particular life spheres. For example, the higher the significance of achievement is the lower is the social frustration that is the higher is the satisfaction in

the social and material spheres and in the sphere of status the higher is the significance of the development value and the lower is the social frustration in the social sphere. The life satisfaction to a large extent depends on which aspects of his life a person takes into account by formation of the general evaluation of the own life (Gabdulina and Zotova, 2012). The hierarchy of the personal values determines which aspects of satisfaction the subject denotes as the most significant to him. Apparently, the values of achievement and self-development for the young Russian in the modern conditions are those value values that allow them to positively assess the state of affairs in the above-mentioned spheres of the own life.

**Summary:** It is obvious that in within the value determination of the social frustration of the youth there are complex relationships between the priority of the personal values and their implementability under specific life conditions. The high level of the social frustration is related first of all to the degree of intrapersonal conflicts representing the gap between the need for achieving the inherently significant valuable objects and possibility of such achievement in the reality.

### CONCLUSION

Thus, according to our records, young people consider the value of spiritual satisfaction as the most significant to them and the sphere of education and training as the most significant sphere of life. No discrepancy is found between the value and accessibility of spiritual satisfaction. Along with that, there was diagnosed a gap between the value and accessibility of the education and training sphere that is clearly indicative of challenges related to educating young people.

There was detected a conflict related to discrepancy between the value and accessibility of the own prestige; along with that it was diagnosed that prestige is not included in the group of the most significant values of respondents. The value of the high material well-being is the most significant to the youngest Russian only school pupils and college students. Within our research, we have not detected an intrapersonal conflict related to this value.

However, as was mentioned above, against the average level of the social frustration across the entire sampling the respondents' frustration appeared to be the most expressed in the social-material sphere. The researchers of the study believe that the results obtained may be considered as ambiguity of the value priorities themselves and the experience of realization thereof in the life practice of young people participants of the survey.

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