Students’ Responsibility and Parents’ Attitude to Them

A Yakovleva¹,a, I Savvina¹,b* and S Popova¹,c

¹Institute of Modern Languages and Regional Studies, M. K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, 58 Belinskogo str., Yakutsk 677000 Russia

aanyakovleva@inbox.ru, bsil26@list.ru, csahaya88@mail.ru

*Corresponding author

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Abstract. The article deals with the problems of studying the responsibility and externality of the control locus in the student's personality. The problem of personal externality is analyzed in connection with contemporary trends in the development of the Yakut rural family. The authors argue that family factors affecting socialization (in particular, parents’ attitudes toward children) are important for externality development. Yakut parental traditional relations and modern tendencies in parents’ attitudes toward children are also considered. The authors state that the sphere of relationships existing between people preserving and transferring values of tradition is a basis of survival and development of the nation.

1. Introduction

The internal activity of the personality, sense of responsibility for the events is of great importance in the course of socialization of the personality. The factor defining the nature of the personality’s responsibility is his/her locus of control. Researchers consider responsibility as a characteristic of the personality; features of control locus manifestation are studied. There are two loci of control: (1) external – an external locus of control, (2) internal – an internal locus of control. According to J. Rotter, subjective control, or a control locus, represents "a certain extent of event perception by people, depending on their behavior (internal control locus) or other people, destiny, good luck (external control locus)" and also is treated as "extent of understanding of causal interrelations between own behavior and desirable achievement by the person” [6]. People with an internal locus of control show heavy responsibility; they solve problems more effectively and show a higher level of social adaptation than “external” people.

V. M. Byzova investigates features of control locus manifestation of the personality due to its ethnic origin [3]. The researcher concludes that “…it is necessary to identify the features of subjective control level in the course of personal growth, its dependence on the life cycle, taking into account ethnic factors in perspective” [3]. K. Muzdybaeva speaks about social responsibility as a characteristic of the personality, about the diversity of this phenomenon [4]. The author's conclusion that factors identification of responsibility formation and dependence on different types of relationships with other people are essential [4].

In this regard, a study of responsibility among students at schools and universities as a result of socialization in the family is one of the main factors of responsibility formation, and it is relevant to research.

The general internality scale has revealed that the externals (57%) are dominated over internals in students' groups with an average and low level of socialization. Externals see the cause of failures more often in the circumstances, in other people. The internality and externality are closely connected with the level of responsibility, being one of the characteristics of the personality. Less responsible students are inclined to external control locus. These students have difficulties in the interpersonal sphere, a lack of aspiration to leadership, a passive level of the world change. It is well-known that externals confer responsibility for the events on other people, fate, destiny. Thus, the problem of studying of responsibility underdevelopment is relevant.
2. Materials and Methods

We have studied a locus of control of the Yakut school children and students within the research of socialization of the personality. One of the factors is family relationships.

The USK questionnaire, revealing features of control locus, referred to various life situations, was used to study locus of control [2]. The level of subjective control is connected with how the person feels responsible for the events and the future. Research methods of such traits of the person were firstly approved in the USA. The most famous technique is the scale of control locus developed by Julian Rotter. J. Rotter. The scale is based on the fact that all people are divided into two types: external and internal.

People differently estimate the cause of failures in their lives and responsibility for them. The tendency to attribute results of the activity to internal factors is characterized as "an internal locus of control" (internality). In this case, qualities of peoples' identities are considered as internal causes: efforts, positive and negative properties, existence or lack of necessary knowledge, skills, etc. People who consider themselves responsible for their affairs (internal attribution) are capable of obtaining considerable success.

Such methods as observation, conversation, interview, questionnaires on the identification of parental relations types were used in the research.

The opportunities allowing to estimate the impact of the social environment and family on the formation of responsibility can be revealed in researches of family influence as a factor of socialization and education.

Studying of parental attitude to school children and students was the following step in our research. Within our research focus on the parental relations maintenance and their influence on such socially important qualities as responsibility, social activity of the personality underwent special studying.

The method of biography analysis is used for obtaining information about family and parents in the researches devoted to education issues. This biography method helps to study human life on the basis of memories about past events. Therefore, this method is substantially retrospective. At the same time, researchers consider that it is impossible to consolidate the biography only to antecedents as to turn it into a purely retrospective method. The description of the person’s status is carried out due to the set of the biographic data characterizing a person’s life now, in the community, environment, and work. The history of this method demonstrates that it regularly turned from a purely descriptive method into a reliable psychological one. This method can be especially helpful for character formation. Special attention is given to the transitional moments, critical and contradictory stages in the analysis. Each situation is supported by facts, knowledge of proportions of various resources, and methods in biography.

3. Results and Discussion

The family is the most important factor in socialization and education. Research importance of the relationships between parents and children will steadily grow further. The processes of personality formation will respectively be improved due to life complications of the person, his/her inner world, relationship system. The family interaction of the adult and child becomes the model of relationship system of the personality to the world around.

The basis of children’s socialization in the Yakut family was traditional family relations with culture, traditions, spiritual and moral values of ethnos, views, representations, ideals, the process of socialization of the younger generation. At the same time, the current situation that the village saves ethnic culture does not mean the invariance of all phenomena of the ethnic environment. Traditional family relations of ethnos are considered to remain in the rural family, but researches reveal changes in parental attitudes to children. These changes happened not at once as researchers think that ethnos mental shifts, its customs, behavior stereotypes, are occurring quite slowly, during the lifetime of several generations, imperceptibly for old and new generations as a result of the replacement of traditions with innovations, transformations of stereotypes of behavior. At the same time, the examples of the world image change at ethnos, which occurred less than one century ago, are given [5]. The interviewed parents expressed an opinion that parents’ attitude was “more exacting, strict,” but there were, at the same time, “constant mutual emotions” and “emotional bond.” There are differences in the child's attitudes towards the father and mother. Mother's relations with all interviewed school children were characterized as sincere, confidential, always positive.
The decrease of grandmothers and grandfathers' role in the family is defined by the parents’ relation, not the attitude of children towards them. School students note that grandmothers, grandfathers participated in their education in early childhood. Often separate accommodation, lack of communication with the grown-up grandsons, fewer parents’ care about the further development of grandmothers, grandfathers’ relationship with grandsons based on attention, respect, care of older adults lead to grandsons’ disempowerment from grandfathers, grandmothers. Seniors mark out generally parents, among people, significant for them, to whose opinion they listen to.

Comparison of content of parental relations happened based on the following parameters: communication with a small child, encouragement of the child to an activity, independence, reorganization of the attitudes towards the child in connection with age changes, the emotional bond of parents and children, insistence to children, duties in relation to parents. Communication with a small child is an important indicator of the preservation of the traditional attitude towards the small child, which was based on love, idolization of the kid. At the same time, there are the requirements for the development of his/her socially important qualities defining the identity of the child. To encourage activity in a child, independence was an integral part of the parental relation and socialization system. The emotional bond of parents and children was characteristic of traditional relationships in the Yakut families (mutual love and attachment, mutual trust, empathy, tactfulness, interest in each other, mutual support, mutual aid, and desire to make each other happy). The reasonable parental relation was expressed in requirements both to the personality and behavior of the child and on the relation of duties before parents. Since early childhood, the son is the future support of parents; the daughter helps in the house of parents till her marriage.

Comparative analysis revealed the groups of families with various parental attitudes towards children. In modern families, one may observe relationships between parents and children close to traditional ones. Parents in early childhood indulge children, and they are moderate to elder children. Feelings of love, care without severity are in early childhood, and restraint - to senior children. The signs of this type of relationship with the child result in the encouragement to independence, activity, leading to inclusiveness in the solution of vital tasks. The change of communication nature with the child, and the relation formation according to the child age is observed: requirements increase concerning both behavior and duties, and also the attitudes towards people: brothers, sisters, parents, neighbors, fellows, etc. In general, love to the child, trust, interest of parents, desire to help him are characteristic of parents’ relation to children. At the same time, his/her independence is encouraged; a child is responsible for his/her life.

Many requirements to the child are imposed: irreproachable conduct, benevolent attitude towards people, respect for seniors, make parents happy, achieve great triumphs in the life – “a child must be good in every respect.” In the parental relation, the child should be involved in work, be attentive, warm, and careful to people around. The attitude to people is the main concept of the adult "son/daughter" characteristic.

Parents from this group of families are sure that children will take care of them in old age. There were relations of “emotional bond” between these parents and children, characteristic to traditional relationships irrespective of children’s age. Thus, the features inherent to the traditional Yakuts’ attitude to children were found in this type. The main signs of this relation are love and trust to the child, encouragement to activity and independence, empathy, interest in the progress of the child, cooperation, maximum insistence to the child, including norms and rules in communication with people. Unfortunately, the number of families with these signs is small. The internality is revealed among school children and students from families with such types of relations.

The research has showed that the orientation of family members on the child is characteristic of relationships in all families, recognition of his/her importance in parents’ life. The identity of parents and other parameters do not become central in the family. The exclusive role of the child in the mother’s life is emphasized in the description of the mother’s attitude towards the child.

It should be noted that signs of the parental relation, the children's qualities containing trends of preference, the aspiration to see the child little, to prolong the childhood, decrease in insistence in the structure of the parental relation were relevant for modern families.

A group of families (53%), which is characterized by the following signs, was the most numerous. There was a cult of the small child in early childhood in these families. Also, parents didn’t estimate the real age of
the child, and they kept them out of difficulties. Changes in connection with age features of the child concern generally increase in volume and kinds of household instructions, etc., but not changes of the parental relation providing the child’s independence and responsibility. We note love to children, aspiration to protect the child from difficulties, desires for the better life for them, concerns for their future do not automatically imply the duty of the daughter or son to care for parents in old age. Parents of this type of the relation do not insist their children care about them in the old age. Comparing responsibility and other traits of children of different generations, parents draw conclusions not in favor of modern children, acquitting them: “difficult times,” “poor health,” “modern children are absolutely others,” etc. The insistence as a necessary factor in socialization of children does not develop responsibility. Here we can speak more about changes in communication nature with the child with externally fewer emotions, care, but not changes towards the adult child. Mothers note the dependence and egoism of children. Parents say that they indulged children only in early childhood, then they were strict, forbade a lot of things. At the same time, our observations and also survey of the grandfathers and grandmothers comparing the childhood of small children of different generations speak about the prevalence of the blase attitude of parents, about reduction, or even lack of bans. Such a relation remains for a long time. The established type of relations, as evident from the analysis of parental relations, entirely does not change. School children and students from families with such types of relations show an externality.

The survey of students also reveals their dependence on parents. Students hope that their parents can solve any problems, including financial ones. Modern applicants come to enter the universities of Yakutsk with their parents, unlike many previous generations of the Yakut rural youth leaving independently outside Yakutsk, to various cities of the country. Parents worry about the child in the changed conditions of the social environment that is true: the modern social environment has changed. According to conversations with parents, we noted that they did not realize that the responsibility of parents of normal physical and moral development of the children was very high. The revealed type of relation meets both in financially successful families, and in families with financial problems, low prosperity. Thus, this type of relationship is characterized by the following signs: keeping children out of difficulties, aspiration to see the child little, underestimation of opportunities of the child, understating of requirements, the relation between parents and children as equals. The underestimated influence of parents on children was a result of their attitude to the child of young age. Parents are dissatisfied with their adult children's attitude toward them. In L. A. Andreeva’s research, the types of parental relation which are characterized by hyperprotection, are also revealed. “In Yakut families fathers’ relations of the “little loser” type (86.6%) prevail, mothers have “symbiosis” (73, 3%)” [1].

We revealed such a type of relations, which is characterized by the following features. The parental relation based on strictness while the child is small, changes on soft, undemanding to the adult son or daughter. Such relation is inherent in modern society in which the child receives big autonomy from parents, independence (despite the desire of parents to keep his subordinated situation). When the child is small, his activity in the family is not encouraged; parents’ strictness interferes with the expansion of the internal potential of the child.

Our observations of the relationship between parents and children allow coming to the conclusion that the softness of parents with the teenagers using authoritative methods of education in childhood is caused not to change the relations, but a fear to spoil the relation with the grown-up son or daughter. Students in the conditions of financial dependence on parents, their own social infantilism do not take a subordinated position to parents. In the survey of students, there is no fear before parents, fear of punishment. Students are sure that their parents will be upset. But they do not expect any serious sanctions from parents. Many parents come from rural zone to improve the situation with their children: they ask teachers not to dismiss, to take the academic leave, etc.

One more type of relationship between parents and children presented in few families has been revealed. Parents’ love, child's indiscriminateness, the desire to satisfy their requirements are demonstrated; children’s disrespect to parents, the consumer relationship is shown. The analysis of relationship of students and their parents in the early childhood and in the school period reveals discrepancy of the parental relation: signs of blase attitude, connivance to the child in everything, father used incidentally quite severe punishments that demonstrate in general lack of the purposeful, considered approach to socialization and education of the child in families. This type is similar in some signs to the first type of relations, but unlike it is characterized by roughness, sharpness, in certain cases, the hostility of children. The main signs of this type of relationship are the blase attitude, indiscriminateness, leveling relations, irritability of children.
Among factors of formation of the personality responsibility, the crucial role belongs to the family – primary cell of socialization of the personality where the interaction of the adult and child becomes a model of a system of the attitudes of the personality to the world around.

4. Conclusion

Thus, types of relationship characteristic for modern rural families are allocated. The exclusive position of the small child in the family remains in all types of the parental relation, inherent in the traditional family relations. It should be noted that the following trend is characteristic also for all parental relations: uncertainty in the child, in his social solvency, desire to protect the child from difficulties. In general, the decrease in insistence in the attitude towards children is also observed. But the main trend in change of relationship in the family is that under the influence of the environment, changes of conditions, a new type of parental relation not characteristic for ethnus appears. Unlike the traditional type of the relation when expectations of parents were that the child, having become the adult, will care not only for himself, his family, but also he will be responsible for his old parents, undemanding attitude towards children appeared. Traditional statement of parents "The son (daughter) will care for me" is forced out by stating, “I hope he will care for himself.” This parental relation does not contribute to the development of the internality of the personality, and promotes more externality, forms irresponsibility of children, develops social infantilism.

Thus, the research of modern Yakut rural families shows parents’ attitudes toward children, which influences the responsibility formation of children. Two trends in parents' and children's relationships are traditionally noted: loss of national traditions in urban families and preservation of the traditional family relations in the rural zone. But, as our research showed, the parental attitude in the rural ethnic family also underwent a transformation. It is a very important issue as the family possesses the defining role in the ethnic environment, ethno-pedagogical system. Transformations of the ethnic environment change the ethno-pedagogical system, the process of socialization, and education of younger generations. Change of parental sets as social transformations in the society – increases the importance of the scientific approach and the systematic analysis of features of socialization in modern conditions. The solution of the optimization problem of the parental relations as a socialization base for the purpose of the relation formation, with elements of traditional character, is extremely difficult and demands coordination of scientific and educational institutions and society. A purpose is to revive historically developed traditional parental and children’s relations is not appropriate: the mentality of the patrimonial person differs much from the psychology of the modern person.

After the 90th years of the 20th-century national education was revived in the region on the basis of coordination of scientific and public educators’ efforts. So, the ethnic-pedagogics of the Yakut family, the educational methods applied in the traditional Yakut family, were considered. It is impossible to solve problems of socialization and education without studying of modern processes and traditional – new trends phenomena comparison. It is possible to improve the process of ethnic socialization, develop a modern ethno-pedagogical system on the base of modern research phenomena, analysis, and selection from peoples' memory that corresponds to life realities. During history, a lot of things were irrevocably lost due to archaism, a discrepancy of time, and progress.

Considering factors influencing socialization of children and education of responsibility in modern conditions, based on our own empirical research and researches of other ethno-pedagogical authors, we came to a conclusion about the special importance of parents’ attitudes to children in responsibility formation.

References


