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Transformation of sense of adolescents - immigrants, survived critical life situations during the period of socio-psychological adaptation

Life meaning concept is forming up to adolescence, it can be changed and transformed over the course of all man's life. Life meaning concept is a core personality disposition, the meaning of his being. It contains life sense universals, values which represent personality basis.

To understand and describe mechanisms of the adolescents-immigrants' social adaptation is only possible finding out dynamics and particularities of sense forms as components of life meaning of personality concept.

During the period of childhood and adolescence, people learn highest human values, under their influence the life meaning concept is formed through relation towards Self and Others. The person tries on different social roles and requirements, models of behavior are developed.

As the result of stress and psychological traumatic situations experienced by these children we can observe different emotional-connotative, psychosomatic and personal distortions, victim features of behavior (victim position in the group), low self-esteem, high level of anxiety, expressed social phobias, feeling of inferiority and helplessness before changing circumstances, alienation and passivity, unformed representations about the future or narrowing of the time perspectives. Low scores on the scale demonstrate us adolescents-immigrants' lack of faith of in their forces to control the events of their own life.

Comparative analysis of general life reflection of adolescents- immigrants and young people, living in favorable cities of SF (Nalchik, Rostov-on-Don) showed that the level of the social adaptation is very low among immigrants, the immigrants' satisfaction of self-realization, safety, emotional safety are also very low.

The conducted study outlined the sense sphere deformation of adolescents-immigrants, who experienced critical life situations during the period of their social and psychological adaptation. This phenomenon can be explained by war events in Chechnya, and people's long stay in suspense in extreme conditions. The ambiguity of the extreme conditions doesn't give the possibility to children and their parents to draw long term or short-term plans without mentioning life perspectives. It is well known that the suspense negatively affect person's social self-awareness, it makes his life aimless and to great extent decreases person's activity.

These children are easily blessed. They suffer from illnesses and diseases, undernourishment and injuries. Many of them haven't gone to school for a long time. They lag behind the children of the same age. Majority of them speak Russian badly or do not speak Russian at all.



The children depend on the adults' will who do not always catch their psychological state and behavior, related to the lack of psychological and social well-being. Safety and well-being of children –immigrants and unwilling settlers are much more endangered, than safety and well-being of many other children. Emergency circumstances, accompanied by violence, family destruction and loss of usual social contacts, and acute lack of means of subsistence among the most of the families – all this seriously reflects upon physical and psychological well-being of children. Family separation and destruction of everyday life due to extreme circumstances, and the search of the way out of these difficulties negatively affect children of all ages.

Numerous studies showed that children suffer from fear, uncertainty; their self-esteem is lowering in the new place of residence. Particularly difficult the situation in the large families arrived from areas of ethnic war conflicts. The process of their adaptation is complicated. Their long stay at the zone of the ethnic and war conflict, and stress, which they experience due to migration and adaptation, make these children very sensible. The chronic stress, sudden emergency situations, accompanied by the deformations of interfamily relations, creates «favorable» conditions for criminal behavior flourishing.

Children, whose life was dominated by fear and tension, can suffer from anxiety disorder. This anxiety disorder may include: childish high anxiety, attacks of panic and phobias.

The children, who experienced cruelty, grow mistrustful and vulnerable. They have distorted relation towards the others, they are unable to trust, they often can't copy with their own feelings, and they are inclined to cruelty, paying back to the environment for their experience of humiliations.

As it is well known, children, who were exposed to violation, are characterized by the following regard to themselves and the others:

First, they feel themselves different from the others, love worthless, bad «dirty», useless. It is often combined with their representation about themselves as small, weak and unable to change life situation.

The child who is not sure in his forces or abilities, feels powerlessness and helplessness (victim position). Another version is possible: the adolescent seems to be a "strong guy" or «cool girl», but behind this armour there is the deep fear and the same feeling of helplessness, complicated alienation from people, love and warm shortage.

Second, they do not trust to anyone (and first of all, adults). Children – violation victims, as a rule, are afraid of other people, especially adults, they consider them to be dangerous, hostile and deny the possibility to address for their help. The motto of these children: «Do not believe to anyone, do not hope to anything, do not ask for anything». They often try to hide "behind somebody's strong back".

Third, they have weak contact with their real feeling or feelings. To survive the victims were obliged to suppress or force out their strongest feelings. The result of this pressure is dissociation, it means the split, separation of «Self». The most frequent form of dissociation is the split of bodily perceptions and consciousness. Once, at the



moment of cruelty, dissociation helped the child to survive, deal with unbearable physical or mental sufferings. The child starts to think that it didn't happen to him, but to somebody else. He learns to separate emotional reactions and those of the body.

It is clear for everyone that psychological value, that people are obliged to pay is extremely high, people became unwilling hostages of race and ethnic models of state building, as well as reasonable program of repatriation. The children are particularly affected and require special attention. Being immigrants, they are in danger caused by the suspense and unprecedented upheavals, which are typical signs of our epoch.

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