

DEFECTS OF ETHNIC SOCIALIZATION OF MODERN YOUTH AND THEIR MANIFESTATIONS

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Abstract: *The paper deals with defects of ethnic socialization of young people. Exposure of youth to the influence of extremist, racist, and neo-fascist ideas is emphasized. The aim of our study is to identify the causes of addictive behavior in early adolescence, when addictive behavior itself is not yet formed, to find ways to prevent its occurrence. The main objective of the article is to analyze and substantiate the essence of addictive behavior as a consequence of feelings of loneliness of younger adolescents and destructive relationships with parents. The causes of these manifestations are the insufficient scope of certain stages of ethnic socialization of individuals, the experience of discrimination by race or ethnic origin, negative influence of certain radical and extremist subcultures of the youth, hater websites, certain mass media, etc., as a result of which a person becomes maladjusted and aggressive. The paper justifies the need to involve social institutions, such as family and school, in preventing ethnic socialization defects of the youth of today. This requires identifying age-related psychological features of ethnic socialization defects' manifestations in connection with the formation of the value system, ethnic identity, and tolerance. It is emphasized that the obtained data can serve as the basis for developing the optimal ways to prevent and manage ethnic socialization defects of modern young people, which are due to the current social situation, as well as the needs and interests of the younger generation.*

Keywords: *socialization defects, ethnic socialization, victims and perpetrators, adolescents, value systems, cyberbullying, intolerance, stereotypes, ethnic prejudice, discrimination*

I. Introduction

Nowadays, the ideas of nationalism, chauvinism, and cultural exceptionalism are becoming increasingly popular among young people. This phenomenon is supported by intensive dissemination of acts of cruelty, xenophobia, ethnophobia, migrant-phobia, the propaganda of a racist, extremely religious, neo-fascist, and separatist

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theories through mass media and the internet among young people. What aggravates the situation is the intensification of migrant in-flows, the identity crisis, and the spiritual and moral crisis of the younger generation, escalating interethnic and interreligious tensions in the society, etc. Young people are intensively involved in extremist organizations that propagate racial superiority, and ethnic prejudice called for active illegal actions against other ethnic and racial groups, etc.

The research goal was to consider manifestations of ethnic socialization defects of young people, analyze their primary determinants that cause the growth of negative trends in interethnic attitudes and interaction.

The research scope covered the defects of ethnic socialization of the youth of today and their manifestations. The hypothesis assumed that there are certain specific conditions and prerequisites for the emergence of ethnic socialization defects. Manifestations of ethnic socialization defects of young people can be due to the peculiar formation of the identity, stereotypes, prejudice, value systems, tolerance, the influence of the family and school, as well as involvement in “hate groups” in social media, etc.

II. Methodology

The research methodology is based on socio-psychological and psychoeducational approaches to the essence and content of socialization defects; provisions are describing determinants, manifestations, and characteristics of ethnic desocialization; and basic principles of prevention of socialization defects, including the ones related to ethnic socialization.

The study design implies addressing the following objectives:

- to specify the concept of ethnic socialization defects through a theoretical analysis of the problem state in psychology and related sciences;
- to examine manifestations of ethnic socialization defects of young people;
- to describe the psychological, educational conditions for the prevention of ethnic socialization defects of the youth of today.

III. Results and Discussion

3.1 Description of socialization defects

Defect (Lat.: defects) means a flaw or shortcoming (Great encyclopedic dictionary, 2018). Socialization defects are described as flawed and deficient assimilation of social experience that prevents individuals from behaving adequately and in a socially approved manner, due to disorders in the communication structure and value system of young people. Such defects manifest themselves as negative ethnic identity, intolerance, ethnic prejudice, avoidance

of interaction with representatives of other ethnic groups, hatred towards them, treatment of ethnic differences as jeopardizing, commitment to extremist and radical ideas.

3.2 Ethnic socialization defects

Ethnic socialization defects (ESD) are flaws, shortcomings in the formation of behavior patterns that are socially acceptable for the multi-ethnic society in the younger generation. Such defects manifest themselves as intolerant attitude to ethnocultural differences. ESD leads to discriminating forms of ethnocultural interaction and proneness to delinquent behavior. Such defects characterize various deviations in the interethnic communication process that manifest themselves as negative ethnic identity, intolerance, ethnic prejudice, avoidance of interaction with representatives of other ethnic groups, hatred towards them, treatment of ethnic differences as jeopardizing, commitment to extremist and radical ideas.

3.3 Socialization defects – cause of criminal acts

Most often, socialization defects manifest themselves in legal desocialization and, accordingly, are mentioned in legal psychology as the causes of criminal acts on ethnic hate and feud grounds (Ivanchenko & Kozlova, 2015). According to researchers, the genesis and structure of the personality of criminals always include the socialization defect, while the fact of the existence of the criminals testifies to the failure of their socialization, resulting in various forms of anti-social behavior (Antonyan & Konovalova., 2017).

3.4 Increasing the aggressive behavior of young people

Ethnic socialization defects are the subject of focus of modern scholars who study their effect on interethnic relations; formation of various communication barriers and prejudice (Nelson, Syed, Tran, Hu & Lee, 2018); discriminating behavior manifestations (Shamionov, 2018); development of certain characterological traits associated with an inadequate self-esteem, high anxiety, lack of cognitive flexibility, growing depressing syndromes (Hsiu-Lan, Kwong-Liem & Sevig, 2013), and even emergence of mental disorders (Amy, Aisenberg, Weiss & Salazar, 2014), pathological formation of the personality (Kos, 2017), etc.

One of the manifestations of ethnic socialization defects worth mentioning is the increasingly aggressive behavior of young people with respect to other ethnic groups, usually ethnic minorities. A study of the personality of aggressive teenagers showed their detachment from cultural traditions and values. A particular example is the substitution of fairy tales and myths with modern cartoons and PC games in the ethno-functional development of the person (Khotynetc, 2013). As noted by researchers, ignoring the ethnocultural element of personality development can result in emotional discomfort and distortion of the ethno-functional development. As a result, the person is maladjusted and prone to delinquent behavior (Sukharev & Grachev, 2017).

Also, from the psychological point of view, the phenomenon of ignoring of dangers by people is of special interest. Life shows that there are people who do not follow security rules, run unjustified risks, demonstrate carelessness, and negligence or proneness to conflict and aggressiveness, create dangerous situations not only for themselves but also for other people (Maralov, Kudaka, Markovich & Kulanina, 2018).

3.5 *Role of family in ethnic defects manifestation*

Parents and peers play an important role in the manifestation of ethnic socialization defects (Nelson et al., 2018). Nevertheless, the family can also be a powerful resource in preventing socialization disorders. Parents who are pedagogically and psychologically literate in ethnic socialization of their children are able to form effective strategies to combat racial discrimination (Mc Dermott, Umaña-Taylor & Martinez-Fuentes, 2018) and contribute in forming anti-racist attitude (Thomann & Suyemoto, 2018).

Such a researcher, as Emma Palmer (2005) examined the relationship between moral reasoning and criminal behavior and concluded that having strong attachments to parents has been shown to be related to low levels of self-reported delinquency in adolescents. Family cohesion and supportive attitude between parents and children are associated with a positive lifestyle of young people regardless of their ethnic origin (Campos-Uscanga, Morales-Ortiz, Argüelles-Nava, Zavaleta-Abad & Rosas-Campos, 2018); with their proactive involvement in the social life (Day et al., 2018); and with a pro-social behavior in general (Streit, Carlo, Killoren & Alfaro, 2018).

Ethnic socialization disorders result in negative transformations of the ethnic identity and in an internal conflict with culture and ethnicity. This aggravates the risk of deviant behavior development, in particular psychedelic drug abuse, sexual behavior deviations, and participation in fringe extremist groups, etc. (Bowman Heads, Glover, Castillo, Blozis & Kim, 2018).

3.6 *The role of hate websites in the social defects' formation*

A research of the peculiar features of the participation of young people infringes groups showed that hate websites are one of the sources of extremist idea propagation currently as mentioned by O. E. Khukhlaev (Khukhlaev & Khukhlaeva, 2009), skinheads name “unintentional” visits to nationalist websites as one of the reasons that induced them to join skinhead groups, in addition to their negative experience of communication with representatives of other ethnic groups.

Internet sites have a unique capability of influencing social opinions. Particularly perceptible to the broadcast information are socially disadvantaged population groups, as well as, certainly, the youth. They vastly use both real difficulties that the population faces (economic turmoil, poor life quality, income level disparity, high corruption, and unemployment, rising immigration, etc.) and artificially created difficulties in the form of intolerance and extremism propaganda (Yarushkin & Satonina, 2015).

Unfortunately, the number of websites and publications disseminating intolerant attitude to ethnic and racial differences is permanently growing, despite efforts to close them down. According to the Ministry of Law of the Russian Federation, the Federal Register of Internet-Based Extremist Materials already includes more than 4507 entries as of September 11, 2018 (Federal list of extremist materials, 2018). N.N. Yarushkin and N.N. Satonina studied the features of dissemination of hatred towards other ethnocultural groups through the Internet (Yarushkin & Satonina, 2014) and found that ethnic and racial hatred is the most frequently propagated (20% of the respondents had faced it), followed by religious intolerance (14% of respondents) and fascists ideas (10% of respondents). According to

respondents, extremist websites are popular due to the existence of real issues of interethnic relations (13% of students); the growing number of militants (30%); external intervention chasing the goal of splitting up peoples residing in Russia (40% of respondents). Such authors, as Antonyan and Konovalova (2017) state that the growth of extremeness, manifesting itself in risky (deviant) behavior, is a prerequisite for both delinquent and victim behavior, as well as specific hobbies, including extreme sports, radical ideas.

3.7 Primary institutions of young people ethnic socialization

Nevertheless, mass media and the Internet, along with education, are the primary institutions of ethnic socialization of young people. Their impact can hardly be overestimated (Mayhew & Weigle, 2018). Unfortunately, the capacity of modern education, mass media, and the Internet in preventing ethnic socialization defects of the youth is underutilized.

Such a phenomenon as *cyberbullying* is gaining attention. Researchers Kim, Walsh, Pike, and Thompson (2019) substantiated the interconnection of discrimination in social networks and adolescent suicidal behavior. Also, Charisse Nixon (2014), in her review, states about numerous studies proving a significant relationship between cyberbullying and psychosomatic difficulties in both victims and perpetrators.

The Government's programs supporting tolerance and successful socialization of the younger generation are failing without a systemic approach to the issue and coordinated efforts of various social institutions, aimed at prevention of socialization defects (Ivanova, 2015).

3.8 The role of the positive psychological atmosphere in the education system

A positive psychological atmosphere in the school and a tolerant educational environment are capable of preventing ethnic socialization defects (Gaston & Doherty, 2018). But instead of being a safe harbor, the modern school often acts as a place where teachers or peers discriminate students based on their race or ethnic origin. This situation cannot but affect their performance and emotional comfort (Banerjee, Byrd & Rowley, 2018).

Research shows that the experience of discrimination is directly related to the progression of various mental disorders in students, as well as their distrust of the society (Atkin, 2018), the formation of prejudice and inappropriate conflict management strategies (Sanchez et al., 2018). At the same time, emotionally successful students who do not have such experience demonstrate a positive attitude to members of other ethnocultural groups (Pieloch, Marks & Coll, 2018).

3.9 Role of ethnic socialization defects in the destructive nature of interethnic relations

In general, our analysis of foreign and domestic studies (Dagbaeva, 2018) showed that ethnic socialization defects usually manifest themselves in the destructive nature of interethnic relations, expressed negative ethnic stereotypes, and prejudice, such as strategies of communication avoidance, and even organization of pogroms and violence with respect to other ethnic and racial groups. Ethnic socialization defects are connected with negative transformations in the ethnic identity of individuals in terms of ethnic egoism, isolationism, and fanaticism. The individuals treat the existence of ethnocultural differences as jeopardizing their personal security, causing them to

activate their mental protection mechanism that consists of the individual's exaltation of his/her ethnic group above others while tarnishing their image and maintaining a pejorative attitude towards them.

3.10 Correlation between ethnic identity and tolerance

There is a steady correlation between ethnic identity and tolerance. Only a positive attitude to one's ethnic group gives grounds to respect other ethnic groups and be open to positive interaction. A negative ethnic identity directly causes growing ethnic intolerance, xenophobia, and nationalist sentiments.

It is believed that the growth of negative trends in ethnic socialization of young people today is due to sociocultural changes in the society, namely the crisis of traditional values and their depreciation. Abandonment of spiritual ideals obtained by the nation in the course of history causes a vacuum that is quickly filled with pseudo values, exaggerated national feelings, their "sanctification," and exacerbation of the national self-identity.

IV. Conclusions

To sum up the stated issue discussion, we can formulate the following conclusions:

Ethnic socialization defects are treated as flaws and disorders in the process of inclusion in a multi-ethnic society, resulting in rejection of other ethnic groups and their values, xenophobia, dissemination of discriminating behavior patterns.

Ethnic socialization defects manifest themselves in active assimilation of extremist values, intolerant attitude to ethnic diversity, approval of ethnic discrimination, aggravated hostility, and hatred towards other ethnic groups, demonstrated by young people today.

Dysfunction of modern social institutions (family and school virtually compete in manifestations of ethnic intolerance), the negative impact of the Internet and mass media on the consciousness of the younger generation, growing interethnic and interreligious tensions, crisis of traditional values, etc. can be considered to be the causes of ethnic socialization defects.

To perceive and analyze ethnic socialization defects adequately, we need to study in detail the youth's ethnic socialization trends and risks, the nature of interconnections between value references, stereotypes, the type of ethnic identity, the level of tolerance, and consider their age-based psychological characteristics, features of manifestations based on their relation with fringe extremist subcultures of young people, attendance of hate websites in the Internet, etc. The collected factual materials, analysis, and generalization of the information, as well as identified problem areas and recommendations, can contribute to the prevention of ethnic socialization defects of the youth of today.

Methods for prevention and correction of ethnic socialization defects are the least researched area of this problem. We realize the need to develop psychological and educational conditions to prevent the youth's ethnic socialization defects. It is necessary to promote the development and harmonization of pedagogical processes in educational institutions aimed at the prevention of ethnic socialization defects of the youth of today.

V. Acknowledgment

The work was performed within the framework of the grant No. 245-GR of the Council for Research and Innovation Activities of Transbaikal State University.

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