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DEVELOPING EMPATHY AS A FACTOR IN REGULATING THE
EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOUR OF DEVIANT MIGRANT ADOLESCENTS

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This study is devoted to a most topical issue of developing empathy among deviant migrant teenagers. The fact that this problem is so critical nowadays is determined by the need to explore its structural components, which will help to prove that empathy plays an important role in regulating the behavior of deviant adolescent migrants. Due to a significant increase in the number of children with deviant behavior, modern psychological researchers and practitioners see the prevention of such behavior as an important challenge.

There is a considerable number of studies devoted to the issue of empathy as emotional responsiveness of an individual to the feelings of others (see P.O. Agavelyan, E.Y. Basin, A.A. Bodalev, V.V. Boiko, A.K. Bokhart, A.A. Valantinas, V. Veber, L.P. Vygovskaya, T.P. Gavrilova, A.B. Zaporozhets, J. Egan, E.A. Ichalovskaya, R.B. Karamuratova, N.V. Kozina, V.P. Kuzmin, Yu.A. Mendzheritskaya, V.A. Mikaelian, A.N. Nasifulina, N.N. Obozov, K. Rodgers, V.V. Riabukhin, L.P. Strelkova, O.I. Tsvetkova et al.). [1]

Though the issue of empathy and its role in regulating the behavior of deviant migrant adolescents is a topical social problem, there is little research devoted to empathy among individuals with behavioral problems. There are some theoretical and empirical works claiming that the level of empathy among deviant adolescents is lower than that of the adolescents whose behavior does not go beyond the norms approved by society. However, such studies give no reasons for such phenomenon, nor do they define the significance of empathy in regulating human behavior (see Gavrilova T.P., Larina T.N., Dolgova A.I. et al.).[2]

The current state of the problem has identified the purpose of the present research, which is to study empathy as a factor in regulating the emotional behavior of deviant adolescent migrants. Our study is focused on emotional and behavioral components of empathy.

The study involved 20 antisocial migrant teenagers aged 13-15 registered in the local Youth Liaison Service for minor offenses. At the time of the research, these teenagers were studying in secondary school №17 in Nizhnevartovsk. The test group consisted of 20 prosocial adolescents aged 13-15. At the time of the research, the respondents were studying in secondary school №40 in Nizhnevartovsk.

The study suggested that the low development level of the emotional component determines the tendency towards aloofness and avoidance of contention in the behavioral component of empathy among deviant adolescent migrants.

The experiment has shown that deviant teenagers have a low level of emotional component. The diagnostic data suggest such teenagers experience difficulties in

establishing contact with people and feel uncomfortable among noisy and active counterparts. They feel that emotional behavior shown by the others is confusing and meaningless. It is difficult for them to start a conversation, especially with children and older people.

The behavioral component of the empathy among deviant adolescent migrant is less developed than that of prosocial teenagers. The former tend to be unsociable and avoiding combat. Migrant deviant teenagers try not to develop any emotional bonds, neither in a group nor beyond it. They are indifferent to the affairs and problems of the group, avoid interaction, try to stay neutral in case of group disputes and conflicts, and tend to compromise.

Having compared the diagnostic results of emotional and behavioral components of empathy, we made a conclusion that the low level in the development of the emotional component is associated with the tendency towards aloofness and avoidance of contention in the behavioral component of deviant adolescent migrants. Such teenagers tend to be unsociable, which means they try not to form any emotional bonds and avoid interaction with other people.

The proposed hypothesis was confirmed and verified by processing the mathematical data (Spearman): it can be stated that at $p = 0.05$ and $p = 0.01$ the correlation is statistically significant and data are reliable with 95% and 99% probability.

In view of these results, in order to improve the level of emotional component of empathy we have developed a number of psychological and pedagogical activities with deviant migrant teenagers with low levels of emotional component.

References:

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