

THE TYPES OF PARENTAL LABOUR MOTIVATION

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Abstract

Several types of parental motivation in terms of content and degree of expression were revealed as a result of empirical studies. The substantive types of motivation were defined depending on the category of the motivations chosen by the respondents and were divided into "pure", "mixed" and "undetermined" types. Each of the distinguished substantive types of motivation is differentiated according to several subtypes, depending on the combination of selected motivations. In accordance with this, the following subtypes of "pure" motivation were formed: physiological, personal, social. The "mixed" types of motivation include such subtypes as socio-personal, physical-social, physical-personal and uniform. The most numerous group of respondents identified the leading motivations for parenting as personal growth and self-realization in parenthood. The obtained data was compared with the results of a survey of childless youth about the motivation for parenthood. For the majority of future parents, the main motivation for the birth and upbringing of a child is self-preservation in children (mostly physical, to a lesser extent — intellectual), ensuring survival and security through the formation of social and family ties. Motivations of personal development and the prestige of parenthood are secondary for potential parents. This once again shows how much ideas about parenting differ from the real experience of it.

Key words: parental labor, motivation of parenthood, reproductive motivation.

JEL Code: J11, J12, J13

Introduction

The quality and scope of the future human capital of the region depends on many factors: reproductive strategies of the population, particular qualities of parental motivation, technologies for the realization of parenthood. Study of the motivation for parenting will make it possible to understand the determination of parental behavior. It is obvious that it includes both objective (for example, socio-demographic characteristics of parents, material

conditions for the realization of parental labor) and subjective factors (for example, ideas about parenthood, the image of parenthood).

The topic of study of the motivation for parenting is quite extensive. However, the types of parental motivation have not been studied enough. Most often, researchers consider the formation of parental motivation depending on the influence of various factors: the social environment (Smith, 2018), the socio-demographic characteristics of parents (education level (Reese et. al., 2016), sexual orientation (Carneiro et al., 2017), the presence of a spouse (Carone et al., 2017), etc.), values (Bezrukova, 2016), etc. There is also a huge amount of research on the motivations for the birth of a child (Gato, 2017) and expectations about parenthood (Reese et. al., 2016).

We tried to fill the gap in the study of the types of parental motivation and to analyze their formation from the perspective of the concepts of parental labor (Bagirova & Shubat, 2014) and dispositional analysis (Yadov, 2013). The purpose of our study is to distinguish the types of motivation for parental labor.

1 Data and methods

Parents living in the Urals region of Russia were the objects of the study (N=500). The data was collected using the method of a questionnaire. The age of the respondents varied from 19 to 57 years, the average age was 31 years with a modal value of 27 years. Note that the average number of children per woman in the sample was approximately equal to the value of this indicator for Russia in general (1.5 children per woman) (Federal State Statistics Service, 2017).

22% of the respondents are parents of infants under one year of age, almost 70% are raising children aged 1 to 6 years, 18.7% of respondents have school-age children (from 7 to 13 years) and 9.3% have teenage children of the senior school age (13-17 years). 12.4% of respondents are parents of children over 18 years of age.

Most of the interviewed parents were in a registered marriage at the time of the study (86%). Another 9% answered that they are in a committed relationship with a partner (unregistered marriage). 6% of the respondents were single or divorced at the time of the study (3% of each).

In order to identify the motivation for parental labor, respondents were asked to answer the question "What does parenthood give you?" with the option of selecting multiple answers.

The offered answers were divided into three groups: physiological, social and motivations for personal growth.

Physiological motives are most closely connected to the natural, biological characteristics of parental labor. A group of physiological motives is formed on the basis of the desire to satisfy the physiological motives present in parenthood. The basic physiological instinct, directly related to the physiological needs of parenthood, is the instinct of self-preservation. This motive can be realized through fulfilling the reproductive function (self-preservation in children, preservation of the biological species, procreation) and providing themselves with assistance in old age or illness with the help of children and the family.

In traditional agrarian societies, more children provided more workers in the household, which was economically beneficial for parents. Today, despite the fact that the costs of providing for a child become economically less "profitable" due to a significant increase in the period of children's socialization, many parents consider having children as a guarantee of help and support in case of their disability and other problems. Thus, the physiological motives of parenthood are connected with ensuring the physical survival of parents and the realization of their physiological needs. This indicates a predominantly selfish nature of physiological motives.

Thus, the physiological motivations for parenting include the continuation of a family, a beneficial effect on women's health, as well as securing help and survival in old age or illness at the expense of children.

A group of social motives in parenthood is directly related to the need for establishing sustainable social ties. As in the previous group, social ties can serve to realize physiological needs. The difference between the two groups is that, in this case, the creation of social ties is a goal in itself. Examples of social motives in the structure of parental motivation is the desire to have a strong family, stable relationships, understanding between relatives. The need to feel respect and love is significant. People with social needs often have a fear of loneliness, and children are one way to avoid it. It can be said that this type of motivation is focused more on partnerships (cooperation) than on selfish motives.

In general, social motivations included the desire to avoid loneliness, the opportunity to love someone and to obtain a certain social status guaranteed by parenthood.

A group of motives for personal growth is also related to the need for love. However, unlike in a group of social motives, love in this case does not act as a means of creating deep social ties and stable relationships, but rather as a unique personal experience. This motivation is more selfish, but it can resemble the social motivation in its manifestations. Examples of

motives for personal growth: a desire to self-actualize in parenting, to transfer experience and knowledge, to receive a unique experience of parenting. Parenthood can serve as an example of the self-realization in interaction with a child: a parent has the opportunity of their own personal development and joint development with their child by helping to find the child's individuality and creating conditions for their self-realization.

In summary, motivations for personal growth included the desire to pass on the accumulated experience and knowledge, to self-actualize in parenthood as a person and to gain a unique experience.

If any category was chosen by the respondent more often than others, then this category of motivations was considered a "leading" one, which was then used to assess the type of the respondent's motivation. The analysis of the presence of leading motivations for parenting in the answers of the respondents allowed us to distinguish the following types of motivation:

I. «Pure» — the motivations of one category became the leading ones. The following motivations can be distinguished in this category: physiological, social and personal — depending on which category of motivations was more frequent.

II. «Mixed» types of motivation — two or more groups of motivations were equally leading. We have identified the following subtypes of this motivation:

- a) Physical-social (leading motivations — physiological and social);
- b) Socio-personal (leading motivations — social and personal growth);
- c) Physical-personal (leading motivations — physiological and personal growth);
- d) Uniform (all categories of motivation — physiological, social and personal growth).

III. “Undetermined” type of motivation — it was identified in the case of the respondent failing to choose any answer at all.

2 Results

2.1. Leading groups of motivations in answers of the respondents

The resulting distribution of the frequency of selection of parenting motivations from different categories was as follows (Tab. 1).

Tab. 1: Frequency of selection of parenting motivations by the respondents

Category of motivations	Motivations for parenthood	% of respondents	% of the total number of responses
Physiological	1. Health improvement	8,3	3,1

	2. Continuation of the family line	50,8	18,7
	3. Support in old age and illness	20,2	7,4
Total for the category of physiological motivations		-	29,2
Social	1. "The opportunity to love someone"	51,3	19,0
	2. Improving the social status	11,9	4,5
	3. "The opportunity to avoid loneliness"	22,8	8,5
Total for the category of social motivations		-	32,0
Personal	1. "The opportunity to pass on experience and knowledge"	49,7	18,3
	2. Self-realization	50,3	18,5
	3. Unique personal experience	5,2	2,0
Total for the category of personal motivations		-	38,8
Total for all categories		-	100

Source: author's calculation.

The frequency of selection of personal motivations was the highest — 38.8% of respondents selected them. Motivation of self-realization in parenting prevailed, as well as the desire to pass on the accumulated experience and knowledge. Half of all respondents chose each of these answers.

Motivations belonging to the social category were chosen in 32% of cases. The most common answer was about the experience of love as the motivation for parenting, which we consider as the opportunity to create stable and deep social ties through parenthood. The second most popular motivation was the opportunity to avoid loneliness, chosen in 8.5% of cases. Physiological motivations were chosen by respondents in 29.2% of cases. Of these, the motivation to continue the family line was undoubtedly leading — it was noted in 18.7% of the answers.

2.2. Types of parental motivation based on content

The next stage in the study of parental motivation was the determination of the leading direction, the content structure of the parental motivation of the respondents (Tab. 2).

Tab. 2: Distribution of the answers by types of motivation in accordance with the leading motivations for parenting

Type of motivation	Subtype of motivation	Leading motivations	% of respondents
"Pure" types of motivation	Personal	Personal	32,6
	Social	Social	16,1
	Physiological	Physiological	13,5
"Mixed" types of motivation	Uniform	Physiological + Social + Personal	9,8
	Socio-personal	Social + Personal	8,3
	Physical-social	Physiological + Social	6,7
	Physical-personal	Physiological + Personal	5,2
Undetermined	Undetermined	Undetermined	7,8
Total:			100,0

Source: author's calculation.

Analysis of the data showed that the distribution of "mixed" and "pure" types of parental motivation according to the number of respondents was the following: the majority of respondents (62%) had a "pure" type of motivation and only 30% had "mixed". Undetermined type of motivation was revealed in 7.8% of respondents.

The most numerous group was comprised of the respondents with a personal type of motivation — they accounted for almost a third of all respondents (32,6 %). The second largest group, albeit with a large margin, was a group of respondents with a social type of motivation (16,1 %, less than a half of the respondents with a personal type of motivation). People with pronounced physiological motivations for parenting amounted to 13.5% of the total number of respondents.

"Mixed" types of motivation were chosen by 30% of respondents, which is almost twice less than the share of "pure" types. The most common type of mixed motivation was a uniform type, where all three categories of motivations were represented equally. This group of respondents amounted to almost 10%.

The second largest group consisted of the respondents whose motivation equally combines social and personal types — the share of these answers was 8.3%. The physical-social type of motivation was noted in 6.7% of responses. The physical-personal type of motivation was noted in the smallest number of respondents and amounted to only 5.2% of the total number.

Analysis of the answers of respondents who chose the opportunity to write their own answer to the question "What does parenthood give you?" shows that respondents most often linked parenting with the highest purpose of a person ("This is what we are created for by nature", "Children are a continuation of us") and the meaning of life, as well as the experience of unconditional love ("Parenthood is love in both directions", "Parenthood teaches us to love unconditionally") and simple happiness.

3 Discussions

1. The leading motivations of modern parenthood are the motivations of personal growth. This means that parenthood today is first and foremost a sphere of personal self-realization, a unique experience, primarily a spiritual sphere of activity. The modern world has changed the content of the functions of parenthood and the form of its realization, hence the motivations for having and bringing up children have also changed.

2. Integral, homogeneous types of motivation (with a specific focus) are the most common, "mixed" types of parental motivation are much less common. This indicates a fairly clear division of parents into types that significantly differ from each other. It is obvious that the type of parental motivation affects the form of realization of parental functions, their content and orientation.

3. It is noteworthy that the data on parental motivation differed significantly from the results of the 2016 survey among childless people aged between 17 and 35, three quarters of whom planned to become parents in the next 5 years (Bagirova et. al., 2017). To assess their emerging parental motivation, the study attempted to find out what the respondents expected to gain from parenthood (their ideas of parental motivations). The results of the survey established the fact that the future parents assigned the basic and leading role to physiological motivations. Thus, the main motivation for the birth and upbringing of a child among the majority of young childless respondents is the motivation of self-preservation in children (primarily physical and to a lesser extent intellectual), ensuring survival and security through the formation of social and family ties. Whereas the motivations of those who already have children are rather altruistic and connected with the spiritual development of the individual.

Conclusion

Several substantive types of parental motivation were revealed as a result of the empirical research among parents. This should be taken into account in social work with each of the groups of parents and the development of demographic measures to support families. The revealed differences in motivations between childless youth and parents indicate how strongly the ideas of parenthood differ from the real experience of it. We see the continuation of our research in establishing determinants of the formation of a particular type of parental motivation, as well as studying the characteristics of parental behavior typical of different types of parental motivation.

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