EPC-TKS 2013

Research of the characteristics of self-esteem of modern Kazakh adolescents and older adolescents

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Abstract

Self-esteem is a socially conditioned psychic formation, the basic conditions for its development are communicating with others and own activity of teenager.

The purpose of the study was to measure self-esteem and self-esteem's structure of modern Kazakh teenagers. There is a similarity in the partial self-esteem's structure of modern Kazakh teenagers and adolescents of older generation in terms of qualities received the highest and lowest scores. The features in the general structure of the modern Kazakh teenagers' self-esteem are revealed. This structure is a more balanced and symmetrical pattern in comparison with the general structure of self-esteem of the older generation. Thus, the features of the modern self-Kazakh teenagers' self-esteem are, first, in its higher level in comparison with the older teenagers, and secondly, the structural similarity with the previous generation, having a particular character that speaks of continuity as well as on differences in the self-esteem between the two generations of teenagers.

Keywords: self-esteem; modern Kazakh teenagers; adolescence’ psychology

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1. Introduction

Adolescence is an important stage in the formation of the human person, the transitional period in the course of which affects all significant changes experienced by modern society, including the conditions of training and education. As a theoretical-methodological basis of research are: methodology of system approach (Rubenstein SL, Ananyev B. G.), cultural and historical concept (Vygotsky L.S.), researches on problems of teenage age (Bozhovich L.I, Feldstein D. I.) works the self-assessments directed on research (Chesnokov I.I, Zuckerman G. A.).

Self-esteem of personality is complex and integral formation of the human psyche, it [1, 4, 7, etc.] is an indication of a certain overall level of mental development of the individual, serves as a level of self-determination as a «mirror of personal qualities».

Adolescent behavior is regulated by his self-esteem, which is formed in the course of communication with others [2, 5, and 6]. In the Soviet psychology the problem of teenage age was initially researched within the sociocultural theory Vygotsky L.S.

The present work is devoted to the features of the modern Kazakh teenagers’ self-esteem. Self-esteem is a complex and integral formation of the human psyche, reflecting the general level of mental development of a teenager. Novelty of work is caused by lack of experimental data concerning a self-assessment of modern Kazakh teenagers. For the first time it is considered structure of a self-assessment of modern teenagers and the social analysis of feature of a self-assessment modern the teenager in the comparative plan with structure of a self-assessment of teenagers of the senior generation is carried out.

The aim was to measure self-esteem and study of the self-esteem’s structure of modern Kazakh teenagers. To study the features of the modern Kazakh teenagers’ self-esteem, we used a technique of Kunitsyna V.N. "Self-assessment -25" [3].

2. The basic maintenance. The basic content

2.1. Research methodology

100 teenagers of a Kazakh nationality took part in research at the age of 13-15 years (experimental group), teenagers studying at 8-9 classes of secondary schools, gymnasiums. Research was made in the middle of academic year. Control group consists of 64 subjects of the Kazakh nationality of both sexes at the age of 30-35 years, teenage age of these adults fell on the Soviet period of development of Kazakhstan, before taking the independence of their country.

As a method of research we have developed a modification of the existing method of "Self-assessment -25" in relation to the objectives of our study, fourth, using the both variants of this method - for teens and adults. "Self-assessment -25" questionnaire was presented to them in the adult version of our modification. Instruction was also been modified by us. The validity of the data provided, first, the application version of techniques specifically developed for adult education, and secondly, our specially developed manual. Comparison of the experimental and control groups was intended to obtain a more vivid picture of a phenomenological description of the object of our study, namely, self-esteem of modern Kazakh teenagers.

For statistical analysis of the data, we have chosen a more powerful non-parametric test (U - Mann-Whitney test) to test the statistical significance of differences of the two distributions: scores of modern Kazakh adolescents’ self-esteem (Experimental group) and scores of self-esteem of older generation adolescents (Control group).

The subject of psychology of teenage age is always actual. But each generation of teenagers endures this period and tries to solve problems inherent in it in own way, according to new historical conditions of development of society.

For the new generation of Kazakh teenagers their personality development is an important factor in their life supported by the independence of our country. However, in modern psychological literature there are no authentic data on any changes and in their national identity, and a self-assessment of Kazakh teenagers. Novelty of our research, its theoretical and practical importance is defined by it.
Nowadays social and economic situation especially important in higher level of development of the identity of teenagers, ability to make crucial decisions and to realize them, self-confidence and independence. To the modern teenager it is very difficult to be guided in a situation of quickly changing vital conditions.

Theoretical and methodological basis of research apply to a methodology of system approach (Rubinstein S.L. Ananyev B. G.), cultural and historical concept (Vygotsky L.S.), researches on problems of teenage age (Bozhovich L.I. Elkonin D.B., Con I.S. Dragunova T.V. Mukhina B.C. Wenger A.L. Feldstein D. I.) works the self-assessments directed on research (Stolin V. V., Zakharova A.V. Chesnokova I.I. Sokolova E.T. Lipkina A.I.).

Discussion of results and validity of conclusions: The received results about changes in level and structure of a self-assessment of modern Kazakh teenagers allow to deepen significantly idea of development of the identity of the teenager, his self-assessment as integrated personal indicator. Data on similarity of private structures of a self-assessment of modern Kazakh teenagers and teenagers of more senior generation allow to establish similarity and continuity in development of the identity of teenagers of various generations.

On the basis of these calculations have been computed the sum of ranks in each sample:

$$U = n_1 n_2 + \frac{n_1 (n_1+1)}{2}$$

Sum of the ranks = 46, 5; \( R_1 = 298, 5 \); \( R_2 = 166, 5 \)

\[ U \text{ empirical} = 46,5 < U \text{ critical } 0,005 = 72 \]

\[ U \text{ critical } 0,001 = 56 \]

Thus, between the distributions of the self-esteem’s scores in control and experimental groups include differences statistically significant at the 0.01% level.

The arithmetic mean of the modal parameters self-esteem in the control and experimental groups are 10.0 and 10.3, respectively. In this case, the theoretically possible maximum level of self-esteem in both cases is equal to 12.

Kazakh adolescents self-esteem of both older and current generation is quite high (an average of 83% from 100%) with a tendency to an increase in the younger generation.

For the subsequent analysis of self-esteem structure of modern Kazakh teenagers and adolescents of older generation we have calculated the arithmetic means of self-esteem in all 25 qualities.

To determine a structure of self-esteem in control and experimental groups, from 25 qualities were chosen 3 qualities received the highest average in the experimental group and the corresponding values in the control group. These qualities were: 1) 10 - "understanding" (11.0), 2) 19 - "self-knowledge" (10.4), 3) 25 - "pride of the nation" (10.7).

The results of the control groups: 1) 10 - "understanding" (9.8), 2) 19 - "self-knowledge" (8.4), 3) 25 - "pride of the nation" (10.2).

As can be seen that the performance "understanding" and "pride of the nation" in the control group also belong to the 3 highest values for this group, and the value of the index number 19 "self-knowledge" is quite high (8.4). Thus, the structure of the most highly valued qualities in both experimental and control groups is similar, with a trend to an increase in modern Kazakh teenagers.

Similarly, we represent the structure of self-esteem in the experimental and control groups, using the lowest average values on the level of self-esteem. The next qualities received the lowest average values in the experimental group: 1) the «cunning» (7.5), and 2) "insight" (7.9), and 3) "error-free decisions" (7.7). The corresponding estimates in the control group are: 1) "cunning" (6.4), 2) "insight" (7.2), and 3) "error-free decisions" (8.0). Of these, the quality of "cunning" and "insight" included in the group with the lowest average level of the qualities of self-esteem, and "error-free decisions" has received relatively low score in excess, however, the corresponding value in the experimental group. Between the distribution of the self-esteem’s scores in the control and experimental groups, there are differences, statistically significant at the 0.01% level. The arithmetic mean of the modal parameters self-esteem in the control and experimental groups are 10.0 and 10.3, respectively. In this case, the theoretically possible maximum level of self-esteem in both cases is equal to 12. Kazakh adolescents self-esteem of
both older and current generation is quite high (an average of 83% from 100%) with a tendency to an increase in the younger generation.

According to the results in the control and experimental groups for two qualities: "cunning" and "insight" structure is self-similar, that is, modern teens and older teens are equally low estimates presence at these qualities.

As third quality "error-free decisions" mean values for both samples (7.7 and, respectively, 8.0) substantially equal with some excess in adolescents older generation.

Those qualities that modern Kazakh teenagers appreciate most highly ("understanding", "self-knowledge" and "pride of the nation"), as well appreciated by teenagers of older generation. Those qualities that modern teenagers are estimated low ("cunning", "insight", "error-free decisions") are relatively low estimated in the control group too. However, since these results were obtained on the basis of the analysis not all, but only the individual qualities, it would be better to speak in this case of partial, rather than the general structure of self-esteem.

Summing up the study of partial self-esteem’s structure of modern Kazakh teenagers and adolescents of older generation, we see that on the highest and lowest average values of private self-esteem, there are undoubted similarities in all the selected 6-qualities. These qualities are the follows: "cunning", "insight", "understanding", "error-free solutions "," self-knowledge "," pride of the nation ".

3. Conclusions

1. The teenage age is a sensitive period of self-assessment development, conscious regulation of the actions. During this period comparison made of the personal features to features of other people, other ethnoses, other age groups which is defined by relation of the teenager to himself.
2. At teenage age there is an understanding of as the member of society, change of the socially significant position in connection with those changing which are observed by the teenager in modern society.
3. The self-assessment is the dynamic formation which is developing and being formed in the course of activity of the person, possesses exact structure, has emotional and cognitive components. An assessment the personality themselves, the opportunities, qualities and a place among other people, relationship of the person with people around, his criticality, insistence to themselves, the relation to successes and failures, its further development, formation of his consciousness depends on a self-esteem of this person.
4. We come to a conclusion that factors of socialization play an important role in self-assessment development. The nature of self-assessment is close to social phenomenon and therefore research of social condition influence on self-assessment formation at teenagers in modern society is important. One of such social conditions is found by independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan that has to be reflected definitely in characteristics of a self-assessment of modern Kazakh teenagers.
5. In order to enhance the validity of the experimental results on the basis of the piloting experiment for the first time in the national educational psychology were developed techniques for solving the basic problems of this study: measuring the self-esteem of modern Kazakh teenagers.
6. The features in the general structure of the modern Kazakh teenagers’ self-esteem are revealed. This structure is a more balanced and symmetrical pattern in comparison with the general structure of self-esteem of the older generation.
7. There is a similarity in the partial self-esteem’s structure of modern Kazakh teenagers and adolescents of older generation in terms of qualities received the highest and lowest scores.
8. In general, the structure of adolescent self-esteem of modern Kazakh is a more balanced and symmetric picture while the structure of adolescent self-esteem of the older generation is an asymmetric distribution of scores.
9. Confirmed the hypothesis of the presence of significant differences in the level of self-esteem among contemporary Kazakh teenagers, the formation of their personality fell on the period of gaining state independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and adolescents older generation. In modern Kazakh teens self-esteem has increased by about 16%.
10. The urgency of the development of self-esteem of teenagers is important in the new conditions of life of state independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as is the need to take account of new scientific data to improve the efficiency of the educational process.
11. Adolescence is an age of intense personal development. In modern conditions of state sovereignty of the Republic of Kazakhstan is important to create new living conditions for the development of the structure of teenagers’ self-esteem.

12. Thus, the features of the modern self-Kazakh teenagers’ self-esteem are, first, in its higher level in comparison with the older teenagers, and secondly, the structural similarity with the previous generation, having a particular character that speaks of continuity as well as on differences in the self-esteem between the two generations of teenagers.

13. Changes in self-esteem are in the level of its expression in modern Kazakh teens, whose personality formation coincided with the period when Kazakhstan gained independence.

14. If the older generation in their teens could only dream and hope of the possibility of self-government of Kazakhstan, the modern teenagers have it as an accomplished fact.

15. Delivered in work tasks have been fully implemented. The obtained results allow us to identify the following main areas of practical implementation:

16. to improve the modern educational process and improvement of educational work with young people in educational institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

17. in improving the optimization of the relationship and understanding teenagers in the family;

18. to improve the training of teachers, social workers and law enforcement professionals and other workers who by the nature of the service related to adolescents.

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