SOCIAL MATURITY IN DIGITAL AGE: ISSUES, TRANSFORMATION AND PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL SELF-DETERMINATION

INTRODUCTION

For many years, the topic of maturity has caused a lot of controversy among scientists of various fields. The main problem lies in the lack of a consensus on the definition of maturity due to the lack of clear criteria for analyzing maturity and adulthood (ANANYEV, 2001; ASMOLOV, 2007; ALLPORT, 2002; BULYGIN, 1985; DERKACH, 2009; MOROZOA, KOZLOV, 2006; SUKHOBSKAYA, 2002; BARANOVA et al., 2020). In the second half of the twentieth century, with the formation of a modern postmodern society, the meaning and functional content of the main periods of life (childhood, youth, adulthood, old age) change significantly. Traditional ideas about social maturity are also being changed.

The formation of various ideas about social maturity, acceptable models of its implementation depends on the cultural and historical context (BOZADZHIEV, 2011; NIKOLAICHEV, 1976; MATUSHKIN, 2005; CHUDNOVSKY, 1981; SHABALINA et al., 2019; PUTILINA et al., 2019; ZHELTUKHINA et al., 2020).

In this regard, it is logical to assume that representatives of different ages who have undergone socialization in different socio-cultural conditions will perceive social maturity and its manifestations differently. At the same time, the personal perception of social maturity, focused on the ideas peculiar to peers, will ultimately be determined by the identity with a specific age group.

Despite the fact that attempts to study maturity have been made by scientists since the beginning of the last century, this category still does not have a clear definition and is considered one of the most poorly studied. Domestic and foreign researchers disagree in their opinions due to the lack of clear criteria for analyzing maturity and adulthood. There are two main vectors of analysis of these concepts (Figure 1).

Figure 1. The main vectors of understanding the definition of “maturity”

Source: Search data.
The main factor of age-related changes is the activity of social institutions. To date, there are many different approaches to the analysis of maturity as a life stage and to its periodization, but all researchers agree on the division of maturity into early and late. The traditional understanding of adulthood or maturity in the structure of the life cycle was reduced to the implementation of investments made by a person in his/her youth, primarily in the field of professional career, family and reproduction (ZYRANOV, GORELOVA, 2015; KILOEVA, 2015; KOCH, 2019). It also assumed a well-defined scenario, a vector of such development. However, in the modern postmodern society, the meaning and functional content of the main periods of life (childhood, youth, maturity, old age) change significantly. Moreover, these changes lead to a different understanding of maturity as a certain state, as a set of certain qualities. Due to the acceleration of the pace of changes in the sphere of social norms and culture, the transformation of human consciousness is also gaining momentum. Changing these norms leads to the blurring of the boundaries of maturity. If earlier the functions of vocational training and family creation were clearly assigned to youth, and the realization of labor potential and the upbringing of children were clearly assigned to social maturity, now a person’s life does not look so orderly, clearly delineated into certain functional periods: training lasts all his/her life, the age of marriage and the birth of children increases, adults practice a lifestyle associated not with adulthood, but with youth and even childhood. Because of this, the traditional perception of age, maturity as an age characteristic is also changing (SAVITSKAYA, 2014; NERUSHAY, 2021; SHAPOREVA, 2002). The end of adulthood is a controversial issue, since one cannot say with certainty that it has an end. Moreover, it is often customary to compare maturity with physicality, and adulthood - with the socio-psyhic, personal side (DRUZHILOV, 2014; YEZHEVSKAYA, 2010; AKULOVA, 1966).

Both childhood and the phases and stages of human life have undergone serious and rapid modification as a result of technological progress, changes in educational and professional trajectories, mating and reproductive behavior, and the erasure of the boundaries of maturity. The attitudes of Russians regarding childhood have managed to transform dramatically into the digital era and the feeling of children’s happiness has come out in the first place. A fanatical passion for computer games, digital worlds, social networks, cartoons, wearing clothes of bright colors with images of favorite characters and a secondary attitude to work for the purpose of earning money - all these are the main features of an infantile personality (KHRIPTOVICH, 2015; BORISENKO, GUKALENKO, 2014; BAYANOVA et al., 2020; LOPANOVA et al., 2020). According to the researchers, this behavior originates in childhood. The absence of games or their restriction, or the overcoming of internal and external conflicts can serve as the basis for kidultism. The blurring of age boundaries and changing values equally affects this kind of deviant behavior. In the modern world, their parents for up to thirty years can support young people, as they receive an education, but it is during this period that their value orientations are formed and it is difficult for them to accept the fact that looking young and attractive does not mean behaving like a child. The promotion of interactivity leads to the fact that dependence on computer games no longer causes such concern, but on the contrary is encouraged due to the fact that they provide an opportunity to earn, even electronic, but money (SOLOMATIN, 2012; BELOPOLSKAYA, 2007; KHANMURZINA et al., 2020).

Printed products also master this macro segment, popularizing comics and printing individual editions of popular children's literature without pictures in a special edition for adults. People, regardless of age, buy any product from toys to clothes with images of cartoon characters, books and computer games, so that they can feel themselves in a carefree childhood repeatedly. Such qualities as avoiding responsibility, lack of a clear civic position and involvement in socio-political activities, failure to assume the functions of an adult, unwillingness to create a family, are also called infantilism. Thus, due to the social deformation of the individual, there is a discrepancy between the biological and socio-psychological age.

**STUDY OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE**

In order to identify the features of ideas about maturity, it is important to compare ideas about maturity and individual self-determination, it is necessary to interview representatives of different ages. The respondents did not talk about maturity in general, but about what maturity...
meant in relation to people of their generation. After all, it is quite possible that now young people consider their generation an alternative, a new model of maturity that has traditionally been perceived as a manifestation of social infantilism.

The objectives of the study are: to identify the peculiarities of the respondents' perception of their own age; to consider the peculiarities of understanding the meaning of the definition of generation; to determine with which generation the respondent identifies him/herself; to identify what are the characteristics of a particular age, what distinguishes him/her from other ages. The second group of tasks are: to identify the peculiarities of understanding the meaning of the definitions of maturity and individual self-determination; to determine the respondents' ideas about the qualities of a mature person and the boundaries of mature age.

The questions of the questionnaire were the following:

- What does the word generation mean to you, how do you understand it?
- What generation do you belong to?
- What characteristics can you describe your generation with?
- How does your age differ from others?
- Which of your peers do you consider socially mature?
- Do you consider yourself a mature person?
- By what criteria can you determine that a person has become socially mature?
- Can a person of your age be socially immature, not have this quality?
- Do you think that the idea of social maturity changes over time?
- Can we say that each age has its own standards of social maturity?
- Are the concepts of maturity and self-determination related?
- Does it follow from the statement that a person has become mature that the process of self-determination has ended?

The pilot study reveals that age identity and individual self-determination affect the idea of social maturity. The respondents named similar traits and character features peculiar to their age and agreed on distinguishing differences from other ages. The main difference was the idea of values and priorities for each age group.

RESULTS

At the first stage of the study, it is revealed that the generation of people whose age currently corresponds to eighty-sixty years perceive their generation through the prism of events taking place in the country during the phase of their active life (89%). Ideological values play a big role for them, but numerous events taking place in the country have influenced the adaptability and rapid transformation of consciousness in order to keep up with the times. However, it should be noted that among this generation, there was often an unwillingness to grow old, a desire to preserve their youth and be in demand (91%). They characterize the current time as calm. For many of them (73%) it is important to be in harmony with the current generation. The generation of the first selected group is adults with extensive life experience who have experienced numerous events. For them, the values laid down in the Soviet era are significant. A sharp change of foundations in the country, the destruction of ideologies and technological progress caused these people to grow up early. This generation, regardless of gender, is characterized by the desire to take responsibility for the whole family. The generation of people whose age currently corresponds to fifty-nine to forty years of age had an active life phase during the decline of the Soviet era.

Some representatives of this generation (23%) took the changes that occurred in society during their active socialization quite hard. Representatives of this generation (31%) often point to some inadequacy of life ideas among young people. They see the main difference between their generation and the current one in the need for live communication. Respondents of this
age (100%) attach great importance to friendship. They describe themselves as a generation that is more open and responsive compared to young people. The representatives of the second group consider the attitude to work to be the main transformation in the consciousness of the current generation. They believe that a responsible attitude to work distinguishes them from a young age. It is worth noting that representatives of these two groups constantly compare themselves not with older people, but with the current youth. It is believed that modern young people postpone the creation of a family for a period of moral and material maturity. For the second group of respondents, maturity has no material side and age boundaries, and the main quality that a mature person should have is called responsibility. It is worth noting that it is responsibility and wisdom that symbolize maturity for representatives of all ages. Thus, representatives of the first group may feel their lack of demand if they do not share the hobbies of young people, and representatives of the second group, having already felt the lack of mutual understanding on the part of parents, try to associate themselves with young people, so that a large gap between generations would not be felt.

Representatives of the third selected group, whose age currently corresponds to thirty-nine to twenty years, do not have a clear idea of the concept of generation and call different definitions and periods of its change, but they all agree that their generation is on the threshold of a new time. Representatives of this group (63%) assume a responsible mission for the improvement of the universe. They do not consider people who have not reached social maturity as a generation at all. For them, the generation is active people in society, the engines of progress. Representatives of this group devote themselves to self-realization, creating a family for them at this stage is not as important as the desire to find themselves and become a person.

The respondents of the third group call experience a distinctive feature of maturity. Almost all respondents correlate the concepts of maturity and adulthood and believe that the onset of such is possible after thirty years. Representatives of the third group do not have a clear idea of maturity and often correlate it with age, but rather consider maturity a consequence of the transition from a younger age to an average one. Thus, it is clear that the respondents' perception of social maturity and their generation directly depends on the life circumstances and conditions that a person experiences throughout his/her life.

DISCUSSIONS
Maturity is one of the most unexplored age categories. The existing studies have studied in detail the components of various stages of human life, but the most active period of human development, maturity, is still insufficiently studied, which explains the relevance of the topic of this study. Due to the active blurring of the boundaries of traditional periods of life, people even in adulthood are increasingly faced with situations concerning the creation of a family, the birth and upbringing of children, and the change of professional path. In the conditions of modern Russia, the question of self-realization comes to the fore for a person, since there has been a radical change in the goals and strategies built earlier. The search for ways of self-realization is the main meaning of human socialization. In Soviet society, the end of youth was symbolized by the completion of membership in the Komsomol organization at the age of twenty-eight. Now, the approximate framework of maturity is determined from twenty-five to fifty-five years. However, this border is also conditional due to changes in the demographic and socio-economic situation.

Within the framework of the second vector of the analysis of social maturity, which implies understanding it as a certain state, possessing certain personal and social qualities, the researchers also did not come to a single interpretation. The personality model, used mainly in psychology, is based on such an understanding of maturity, in which its basic components are formed in adequate activity and in conditions of personal freedom, which are formed depending on the individual characteristics of the individual.

CONCLUSION
The definition of identity in different sciences has its own specifics characteristic for each discipline, which shows the versatility of this phenomenon, and allows you to study it from
different sides. The constant reference to this issue by outstanding scientists and thinkers in the future testifies to the importance of this topic for society. Age identity, as one of the components of social identity, is a rather difficult category for sociological analysis. After all, age, being a historically, socially and culturally constructed phenomenon, assumes many different angles of analysis. One of them is the age approach. The respondents' perception of their own generation was approximately the same for each group. The respondents named similar features and character traits peculiar to their generation and agreed on distinguishing differences from other ages. The conditions of socialization play a great role here, because it is the differences in these conditions that form a different understanding of maturity among representatives of different ages. Undoubtedly, this leads to changes in the traditional perception of maturity as an age characteristic.

It is impossible categorically to say that modern children are infantile, but scientists mean by growing up the development of new social roles and statuses. In Soviet times, from an early age, they connected their lives with traditional farming; they were much morally older than modern children were. Today, in the conditions of the modern information revolution, there is a tendency of early adulthood and puberty, which in turn leads to a person's feeling of maturity as an element of self-identity. Although gender and age connotations are not a criterion of self-identification, but harmonious interaction with reality pushes the interactive and communicative activities of the current generation to a new level. The problem of correlation of social maturity and individual self-determination among representatives of different ages revealed the following points. Age identity and individual self-determination affect the idea of social maturity. Representatives of different ages distinguish similar features and character traits characteristic of their generation and distinguish differences from other ages. The main difference between one generation and another was the idea of values and priorities. For most people of eighty-sixty years, ideological values are important, the desire to maintain their activity and be in demand, it is important to be on the same wave with the current generation. For most people aged fifty-nine or forty, friendship, openness, responsiveness, responsibility are important, they often compare themselves with young people, and not with an older age. For most people, thirty-nine or twenty years are important: activity, self-realization, the movement of progress. Almost all respondents correlate the concepts of social maturity and adulthood and believe that the onset of such is possible after thirty years. Representatives of the third group do not have a clear idea of maturity and often correlates it with age. Respondents' perception of social maturity and their generation directly depends on the life circumstances and conditions that a person experiences throughout his/her life.

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ZYRYANOV, S.G.; GORELOVA, G.G. The place of education in the system of values of student youth. *Society and power*, 2015, 4 (54), p. 7-14.
O objetivo do estudo é analisar as peculiaridades da percepção da maturidade social e suas manifestações em representantes de diferentes idades. Como método de pesquisa, foi utilizado o método do questionário, que permite identificar eficazmente as características das ideias sobre maturidade social e problemas de autodeterminação individual. Resultados da pesquisa: o artigo descreve a peculiaridade das ideias dos entrevistados sobre a transformação da maturidade social entre representantes de diferentes idades. São analisados os problemas relacionados à autodeterminação individual. A novidade e originalidade do estudo reside no fato de que pela primeira vez o problema da correlação de maturidade social e autodeterminação individual entre representantes de diferentes idades é considerado. Está comprovado que a identidade etária e a autodeterminação individual afetam a ideia de maturidade social. É revelado que representantes de diferentes idades têm características semelhantes e traços de caráter peculiares à sua idade e há diferenças de outras idades. Mostra-se que a principal diferença entre uma idade e outra era a ideia de valores e prioridades.

Palavras-chave: Maturidade social. Autodeterminação. Identificação. Representações.

El objetivo de este estudio es analizar las peculiaridades de la percepción de la madurez social y sus manifestaciones en representantes de diferentes edades. Como método de investigación, se utilizó el método del cuestionario, que permite identificar eficazmente las características de las ideas sobre la madurez social y los problemas de autodeterminación individual. Resultados de la investigación: el artículo describe la peculiaridad de las ideas de los entrevistados sobre la transformación de la madurez social entre representantes de diferentes edades. Se analizan los problemas relacionados con la autodeterminación individual. La novedad y originalidad del estudio radica en el hecho de que por primera vez se considera el problema de la correlación de la madurez social y la autodeterminación individual entre representantes de diferentes edades. Está comprobado que la identidad de edad y la autodeterminación individual afectan la idea de madurez social. Se revela que los representantes de diferentes edades tienen características similares y rasgos de carácter peculiares a su edad y hay diferencias de otras edades. Se muestra que la principal diferencia entre una edad y otra era la idea de valores y prioridades.

Palabras-clave: Madurez social. Autodeterminación. Identificación. Representaciones.