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Aspirations play a significant role in public and individual life, because the situation of young people, their professional, family and material future depends largely on them. There are different types of aspirations. The author of the article distinguishes educational and professional aspirations taking into account their orientation. On the basis of researches the author tries to answer the question, what are the educational and professional aspirations of lyceum students. Moreover the investigator explains concepts related to the problems of aspirations, analyses the conditionality of their origin, paying attention to the role of family environment in development of aspirations. The results of the research show that young people aim to get good education, dream about well-paid job. In case of educational or professional failure the considerable percent of respondents intend to go abroad. The research confirms, that family has an influence on youth educational and professional aspirations, their choice in life, although young people first of all follow their decisions and experience and not always continue family traditions.

Key words: educational aspirations, professional aspirations, environment, family, young people.

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ADDITION AND IDENTITY CRISIS IN ADOLESCENT CHILDREN

The frequently raised question in contemporary world is what the future generation of young people will be like, how their identity is formed and what is important to them. The attention is also being paid to numerous threats that affect a person in current reality and a number of risky behaviour these people are involved in. This study attempts to answer whether addiction to psychoactive drugs might result from unsolved developmental crises and which factors can stimulate young people to start taking psychoactive drugs, especially narcotics and make them addicted to these substances.

Key words: identity, identity crisis, young people, addiction to psychoactive drugs, mixed identity, drugs.

Introduction. The study was aimed at determination of the relationships between the addiction of adolescent children and difficulties connected with the identity crisis they have to face in this period of life. Therefore, the analysis focused on the individual planes of formation of identity according to the theory of psychosocial devel-

opment by E.H. Erikson.¹ These include: orientation towards themselves that consists in development of self-confidence; ideological identification connected with development of their own system of values and determination of your own outlook on different facets of life; trying different social roles (role of a child, a student and a peer); professional identification connected with the choice of future profession and preparation for performing the role of the employee; sexual identification which concerns the acceptance of their own sexual role; polarization of leadership which consists in trying the role of a leader, definition and acceptance of the role models.²

According to the above theory, these planes develop in the period of moratorium i.e. the period of seeking their own identity. Development of identity during adolescence might result in formation of a mature identity, negative identity, mirrored identity or dissipation of identity.³ The identity that characterizes young people depends on a result of seeking the identity and development of individual planes.

Methodological Assumptions. The main problem of the study was presented in the form of a question of the directions of development of the identity in adolescent children that used psychoactive substances compared with non-addicts and the factors of the identity crisis that make it difficult to find positive solution. The study plan focused on triangulation of the methods and data i.e. combination of qualitative and quantitative insight. The most suitable method in this type of research work was the individual case method, based on such techniques as: standardized testing, value survey, document analysis, non-standardized interview. Data analysis used chi square X^2 , Person's C and discrimination analysis.

The study was carried out in a group of 120 children at the age of 13 to 16 years (60 people in the study group were young people addicted to psychoactive substances and other 60 were controls who were not addicted). The research sample did not meet all the requirements of representativeness.

Characteristics of Study Participants. The majority of the respondents in the study group were at the age of 16 (52%) and 15 (35%), whereas those 13 and 14 years old accounted for 13% of this group. The control groups included 25% of the respondents for each age category. The predominant subgroup in the study group was boys (78%), whereas girls accounted for 22% of the group. The control group was more homogeneous in terms of gender: there were 55% of boys and 45% of girls.

¹ E.H. Erikson, *Tożsamość a cykl życia*, Zysk i S-ka, Poznań 2004; E.H. Erikson, *Dopełniony cykl życia*, Rebis, Poznań 2002; L. Witkowski, *Rozwój I tożsamość w cyklu życia. Studium koncepcji E.H. Eriksona*, UJ, Krakow 2003.

² A. Oleszkowicz, *Kryzys młodzieńczy – istota i przebieg. Na podstawie wybranych psychologicznych koncepcji rozwoju człowieka i badań empirycznych*, UW, Wrocław 1995, pp. 24-26; H. Sęk, *Spoleczna psychologia kliniczna*, PWN, Warsaw 2000, pp. 60-62..

³ E.H. Erikson, *Tożsamość a cykl życia*, Zysk i S-ka, Poznań 2004, pp. 108-129.

Both groups included children from whole families (B: 70%, K: 80%). The teenagers raised by single mothers comprised 22% of the study group and 17% of the control group, whereas those raised by single parents accounted for 8% and 3%, respectively. The majority of young people studied came from the families with two children (B: 40%, K: 65%).

Time of being addicted ranged from a year to five years. Average time of addition was 2.8 years. The young people studied were mainly addicted to amphetamine (67%), alcohol (63%) and marijuana (57%). Polytoxicomania was found in the most of the people studied. The most frequent cause of psychoactive substance abuse was related to the peer group: group pressure, the need for showing-off and the vogue among the teenagers. An important motivation behind taking the drugs was boredom and the need for forgetting about problems. The young people confirmed the easy access to psychoactive substances. In order to get the money for drugs, the addicted young people committed crimes (65%).

The results of development of the identity planes. The first analysed plane of identity development was the «who am I?» orientation, which comprised of the self-image and self-esteem. Analysis of the results of the «who am I?» test revealed that the teenagers assessed the positive characteristics either objectively or critically, excessively reducing the level of their development. When assessing the negative characteristics, young people from the control group tried to alleviate the negative personality traits. The young people from the study group were more critical of their traits, seeing more disadvantages than positive points.

The test became the basis for determination of the level of self-esteem in the young people studied. The study group had only 7% of the people with adequate self-esteem, whereas there were 63% of the young people with proper (adequate) self-esteem in the control group. Among the people with improper self-esteem, the most of the cases included those with unstable self-esteem: 71% of the respondents in the study group and 23% in the control group. The strong correlation between the self-esteem and development of improper identity and addiction was confirmed by the X^2 test and Pearson's C contingency coefficient.

With regard to development of your own identification, 71% of the addicted young people were characterized by a mixed identity (assessing themselves as both good and bad ones) or a negative identity (they notice only negative sides in themselves). These problems affected 23% of the young people with unstable self-esteem and 1 person with low self-esteem in the control group. 7% of young people from the study group and 12% of the control group reported high self-esteem.

Another plane for development of the identity concerns the development of ideological identification. Among the spiritual values, the young people from both groups reported love (55% in the study group and 52% in the control group), family (79% and 48%, respectively) and friendship (42% and 55%, respectively) as the most appreciated values. Furthermore, the addicted young people (67%) indicated that immediate meeting their own needs is one of the highest-

rated values. Analysis of the reports reveals that the young people appreciated the values represented and accepted by the society but they did not always manifest in their behaviour. This might suggest problems with internalization of these values.

Another analysed plane of development of identity of adolescent young people was *trying a variety of social roles* (measured by means of social maladjustment test by L. Pytka¹). The first of the analysed role was the role of a daughter/son. The internal family relationships were measured by the Family Profile test developed by Z.B. Gaś². It turned out the young people developed feels the lack of bonds and emotional relationship with parents and their own family. With respect to family adaptiveness, the addicted young people perceived their own families as more stiff. The strong correlation between low adjustment capabilities of families and addiction of children was also confirmed. Very low (33%) and low (45%) level of mutual understanding in the families of the addicted young people was the cause of inadequate functioning of the role of a child. Furthermore, 82% of the addicted young people and 55% of non-addicted subjects exhibited average or high level of family disintegration.

The index of self-rated family functionality calculated for each person seems to be the most opinion-forming tool in solving the problems of improper functioning in the role of a child and increasing the likelihood of development of negative identity. Statistical analysis revealed a very strong correlation of this factor with addiction among children. All these aspect contributed to a very low (17%) and low (56%) self-rated family functionality in the teenagers studied and, consequently, improper understanding and performing the role of a child. In the control group, the self-rated functionality of the family was reported in 23% of the subjects studied.

All the components characteristic for the role of a child were not properly developed in the addicted young people. The young people from the study group did not perform their duties (37%) and were not assigned any home duties (58%). 43% of the respondents in the control group declared the lack of home duties. 90% of the addicted teenagers did not spend their free time with their families. In the non-addicted group this value amounted to 47%. Another element of the role of a child is adaptation to the principles and rules of living in families. In the study group, 72% of the young people did not know how to (or did not want to) respect what was resolved by the family – compared to 40% in the control group. The last of the individual components of the role of a child concerned the ability of solving the conflicts. The young people addicted to psychoactive substances attempted to solve their problems by shouting. In the control group, difficulties in communication were indicated by 46% of the teenagers.

One of the social roles of young people in the period of adolescence is the role of a student. This role is also important for develop-

¹ L. Pytka, *Pedagogika resocjalizacyjna. Wybrane zagadnienia teoretyczne, diagnostyczne i metodyczne*, APS, Warsaw 2001.

² Z.B. Gaś, *Uzależnienie. Skuteczność programów profilaktycznych*, WSiP, Warsaw 1994.

ment of professional identity. High level of school maladjustment was observed in 85% of the young people from the study group, whereas 15% of them exhibited moderate level of maladjustment. There were no respondent in the study group who properly functioned in the role of a student. In the control group, 15% of young people exhibited high level of maladjustment to the role of a student, with 62% of them showing a moderate level. Statistical analysis revealed a very strong correlation between maladjustment to the role of a student with development of a negative identity.

Over half of the respondents in both groups (54% of the addicted young people and 52% of non-addicts) exhibited low level of peer maladjustment. A very high level of maladjustment to the role of a peer was observed in 23% of the respondents from the study group and in 13% of the young people from the control group, which points to considerable difficulties in starting and maintaining satisfactory relationships with peers.

Another analysed plane of development of the identity was *professional identification and preparation for the role of an employee*. As results from the interviews with the addicted young people, they are characterized by the deficiency of interests and passions which would be both socially acceptable and attractive to them. Furthermore, the young people did not plan their future and did not set distant goals connected with their professional careers. A more active preparation for performing future roles of employees was observed in the control group. This consisted in finding knowledge and choosing a particular direction of further education and development of their own aptitudes and interests. 15% of the young people studied did not exhibit any activity in preparation for the role of future employee.

The development of another plane of identity development (sexual identification) seems to be proper in both groups. 20% of the controls regarded themselves as children. The young people exhibit an intermediate orientation in understanding psychosocial roles concerning their own gender. The effect of mass media on their image of ideal men or women was also observed. This might lead to dissipation of identity (through discrepancies between information from the environment and from media) The young people studied were aware of cultural and social determinants regarding realization of sexual needs. One element that differentiates between the groups studied is their activity on the plane of erotic contacts. The young people from the control group attached more importance to flirting, being attractive to the opposite sex and having a boyfriend (girlfriend) and take a lot of effort to find a partner or to develop the present relationship. On the other hand, when talking with the addicted young people, the authors could not find this activity, despite emphasizing the importance of «being with somebody».

The most important plane to investigate was «leadership polarization», which concerned the choice of role models and trying your own leadership skills. Only 6 boys (10%) from the study group and 12 people (20%) from the control group confirmed active involvement

in trying their powers of a leader. The other aspect of the development of «leadership polarization», i.e. the choice of moral role models to be followed had not been yet realized in the most of the cases (80% in the study group and 58% in the controls). This young people stated that they could not think of any person which would set a role model for them.

The method of data analysis used in the study i.e. discrimination analysis was aimed at creation of a particular model of the factors which increase the likelihood of development of proper identity (negative or mixed or remaining at the stage of mirrored identity) and consequently lead to the addiction to psychoactive substances. The analysis concerned 85% of the factors concerning a variety of different aspects of identity development during the period of adolescence and socio-demographic variables. The analysis yielded 15 different factors. Due to the framework limitations, the authors restricted the study to the most essential factors.

Tab. 1. *Variables of development of improper identity and addiction*

Variables	Wilks' Lambda	p
1. Hard-working	0.848983	0.021051
2. Spiteful	0.880726	0.042155
3. Disobedient	0.860674	0.027204
4. Self-esteem	0.671012	0.000316
5. Wisdom	0.823043	0.011860
6. Patriotism	0.802263	0.007441
7. Peace	0.856553	0.024856
8. Modern Technologies	0.869058	0.032678
9. Physical Appearance	0.875994	0.038020
10. Friendship	0.692763	0.000550
11. Pleasure	0.863384	0.028866
12. Fairness	0.854725	0.023880
13. Sense of Family Functionality	0.871120	0.034183
14. School Maladjustment	0.491574	0.000002
15. Age	0.768284	0.031697

* *statistical computation by means of Statistica Pl 6.0 software*

* *the significance level was set at p = 0.05*

Source: author's own calculations.

The factor which had the greatest effect on the development of improper identity was **school maladjustment**. This factor affected the development of individual planes in identity of the adolescents studied to the highest extent. Poor performance at school or lack of any progress, difficulties in entering into satisfactory relationships with teachers and peers or lack of interests lead to reduced self-esteem of the teenagers and to lower sense of their own value. Without confirmation of their own competencies, young people find it difficult to define their future professional careers. Because of feeling incompetent and little attractive, they do not attempt to try the roles of leaders. School failures negatively affect their relationships with parents and peers. However, since teenagers need any identity, they might adopt the negative identity, thus satisfying the need for association or, regard themselves as «bad ones» in order to confirm this viewpoint.

Another factor which is important for development of teenage identity is their **self-esteem**, connected with formation of identification of your own person. The analysis carried out in this study revealed that perceiving themselves through negative traits leads to improper development of other planes of identity and, consequently, to dissipated or negative identity.

Another important factor that is appreciated by the young people studied is **friendship**. In the case of the young people studied, this important value often becomes the cause of their problems. This is mainly due to improper understanding of friendship or «deposition» of their friendly feelings in improper people. In such cases, friendship does not always provide a firm background for development of young people's personality. As can be observed, improper understanding of friendship and seeking friends in negative groups of reference is closely related to mirrored identity or adoption of the negative identity.

Another factor which was important was the age of the young people studied. The most of the addicted teenagers were 15-16 years old, and they started to «experiment» with drugs 2-3 years before. It should be expected that this age is the period of the most serious identity crisis and the differences in development of the identity.

Identity in the Young People Studied

7% of teenagers in **the study group** seem to represent **a mixed identity**. On the one hand, they reported proper self-esteem and their sexual identification developed properly, but, on the other hand, their functioning within social roles was improper. 13% of the young people studied exhibited **negative mirrored identity**, since these young people had not attempted to build their identity independently. They chose a particular role model (rapper) to be followed in all aspects. Other people studied in this group were characterized by **the negative identity**. These teenagers showed improper level of self-esteem. Part of them adopted a negative identity as a result of school maladjustment and the related improper development of other planes of identity, whereas another part of them adopted this identity because of the improper functioning in the role of a child. There are two motivations behind adoption of the negative identity: the need for having any identity and the result of social stigmatization.

In **the control group**, the directions of development of identity are unequivocal. Formation of **the negative mirrored identity** was observed in three cases (5%). These teenagers («graffiti artists») are strongly identified with the leaders of hip-hop subculture, whose outlook on life is based on the values preferred by this culture. Furthermore, these teenagers are characterized by a high level of school maladjustment. The group of **increased risk** of development of improper identity includes 32% of the people studied. The whole group is characterized by improper self-esteem, with the part of them (20%) facing difficulties in performing the role of a child and another part (10%) experiencing problems with performing the role of a student. These young people have problems with professional and ideological identification. Analysis of the cases in the group of increased

risk reveals that there are 15% of young people with substantial negative development of the identity (matching the model, see *tab. 1*).

Conclusions

When attempting to diagnose the directions of identity development, it seems proper to be based on a variety of tools. Much valuable information can be obtained by talking to teenagers since one can understand the context of their behavior and importance they attach to different phenomena. It is only comprehensive knowledge about a particular student that allows for determination of the directions of personality development and taking appropriate preventive or therapeutic measures. It should also be remembered that this young people are in the period of moratorium and experimenting and not all manifestations of development of improper identity might lead to choosing negative solutions for identity crisis and becoming addicted to psychoactive substances.

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У сучасному світі ми часто замислюємось яким буде майбутнє покоління молодих людей, як формується їх тотожність, що для них важливе. Водночас звертаємо увагу на значну кількість різних загроз, з якими стикається особистість в нинішній реальності, а також на прояви ризикованої поведінки молодих людей. У статті ми спробуємо відповісти на питання чи залежність від психоактивних засобів може бути результатом невирішених криз у процесі розвитку, які чинники найбільше сприяють тому, що молоді люди починають вживати психоактивні речовини, передусім наркотики, і потрапляють в наркотичну залежність.

Ключові слова: тотожність, криза тотожності, молодь, залежність від психоактивних засобів, змішана ідентичність, наркотики.

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