

The relationship between the tendency of adolescents to victimization behavior and their self-esteem

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Abstract: This research examined the relationship of different types of victimization of children with their self-esteem. We described the specific difficulties of the crisis of adolescence, reflected on the victimization vulnerability of the individual. The Central assumption was the finding that the characteristics of the self-assessment of victimization of adolescents have behavioral specificity. Were examined in 135 (54 boys and 81 girls) pupils of graduation classes of schools using the four diagnostic techniques, one of which is original. On the basis of obtained results, it is concluded that there is a relationship between self-esteem of a teenager and prone to victim behavior. Peculiarities of personal self-esteem and self-respect parameters for different types of victim behavior with the reliability of $p < 0.05$. Adolescents with aggressive behavior, victimization, demonstrate inflated self-esteem, do not see their own shortcomings, show vivid emotional displays, especially in stressful and dangerous situations, but have a reduced self-esteem. The tendency to be very social behavior are also associated with high self-esteem and self-acceptance. The propensity for the dependent, helpless behavior observed low self-esteem and negative emotions in the address. Also, the tendency to self-destructive behavior and self-destructive behavior negatively related to self-esteem and positively with self-incriminatory trends.

Keywords: Teenagers, victim behavior, self-esteem, self-relations

Título: Relación entre la propensión de los adolescentes al comportamiento victimizante y su autoestima

Resumen: Este estudio examinó la relación de los diferentes tipos de victimización infantil con las características de su autoestima. Se describen las dificultades específicas de la crisis de la adolescencia, que se refleja en la vulnerabilidad victimizada del individuo. La suposición central fue la conclusión de que las características de autoestima de los adolescentes victimizados tienen especificidades de comportamiento. 135 estudiantes que terminan la escuela secundaria (54 muchachos y 81 muchachas) fueron examinados a través de cuatro métodos de psicodiagnóstico, uno de los cuales fue elaborado por la autora. En base a los resultados obtenidos, se concluye que existe una relación entre la autoestima del adolescente y la propensión al comportamiento victimizado. Se identificaron las características de la autoestima y los parámetros de autorrespeto para diferentes tipos de comportamiento victimista con una validez de $p < 0,05$. Los adolescentes con un comportamiento agresivo de victimización muestran una autoestima exagerada, no ven sus defectos, muestran manifestaciones emocionales intensivas, especialmente en las situaciones estresantes y peligrosas, pero tienen un sentido reducido de sí mismos. La propensión al comportamiento hipersocial también se asocia con una autoestima y autoaceptación exageradas. Se nota la autoestima baja y las emociones negativas expresadas a sí mismo con una tendencia al comportamiento dependiente e indefenso. Además, la

propensión al comportamiento autolesionante y autodestructivo se asocia negativamente con la auto-relación y positivamente con las tendencias auto-acusatorias.

Palabras clave: Adolescentes, el comportamiento victimizante, la autoestima, la auto-relación.

The issues of deviant and victim behavior, which grows annually lead to the necessity of studying the determinants and the specifics of their origin. Proceeding from the position that formation of a mentally healthy personality is one of the major problems in modern society, victimization and/or teenagers' tendency to deviant behavior are symptoms of social deprivation, which trigger special events focused on devictimization.

Special attention is given to the fact that victimhood, begun in teenage years, makes rough conditions for personal development (Turner, Finkelhor & Ormrod, 2010). Lack of personal psychological resources, connected with natural adolescence crisis, multiplied by difficult life situation, which is usual for teenagers inclined to misbehave, leads to formation of serious damage which is difficult to correct and needs social restrictions (Dirivyankina & Kladova, 2016). While studying the determinants and victimization effect, many authors highlight a close link between victimization and affect disturbance, self-esteem, negative perception of future and psychological well-being (Indias García & de Paul Ochotorena, 2017; Méndez-López et al., 2019). Thus, Evans et al. (2018), while analyzing the results of study in a group of 800 people, establish the link between victimization and aggression, internalization

symptoms, self-esteem and pessimistic perception of future. E. Hutson (2018), going through 14 English-language publications related to victims' emotional sufferings, noticed that the most important of them are sadness, low self-esteem, embarrassment, fear, suicidal ideation, anger, soreness, loneliness, helplessness and vacancy. The link between victimhood and teenagers' low self-esteem, sense of self-confidence and aggression is also noticed by Martínez-Martínez et al. (2018). According to the authors, the most influential of these characteristics is peer denial.

Schoeler et al. (2018) note that cause-and-effect connection between abuse and victimization is debatable. Authors agree that people's resilience and original sensitivity are important, as they raise the risk of victimization and need to be prevented. It was concluded by Falkenbach, Howe & Falki (2013) that there is an original link between self-esteem and psychopathy, narcissism and aggression in the teen years. They considered that link to be the factor to correct maladjustment. Marshall et al. (2014) also gave much attention to the role of self-esteem in victimization and social support. Authors point at relationship ambiguity between support and self-esteem, revealing the law of growth in social support accompanying self-esteem growth. It means that social support

organization does not resolve the question of self-esteem growth and personal reconstruction in case of a teenager's traumatization. D. M. Ruiz et al. (2009), published very interesting studies of self-esteem and teenagers' social reputation (real and ideal) and abuse interconnection. The authors imply that teenagers, who tend to have ideal social reputation, feel lonely, have low self-esteem and are disgruntled, showing high level of abuse. These and other studies let us assume that unstable or low self-esteem, as well as some other characteristics are not always an abuse effect but can be the teenager's victimization determinants. According to some authors, among the most significant characteristics of teenagers' victimization determinants is teenagers' psychological immaturity, feeling insignificant, probable personal shortcomings, inadequate self-esteem, intolerance of criticism. Teenagers' determinants related to deep emotions and crisis state of personality make us understand the role of self-esteem as an age characteristic while speaking about propensity to victim behavior.

While investigating specific self-esteem of teenagers inclined to victim behavior, it is necessary to define some theoretical constructs, used in this paper. Victimhood is an ability of a subject to become a victim of socially dangerous demonstration. According to Varchuk & Vishnevetskiy (2007), considering victimhood must include social (status characteristics of major victims and behavior deviation, mental (victimization of a personality, fear of crime) and moral (interiorization of victimogenic standards,

etiquette of victim and criminal subculture, victim identity) aspects. According to this, we can define victimhood as safety deviance implementing personal activity, which leads to victim's vulnerability, its attraction and availability in the context of a socially dangerous act. It is in accordance with the idea of Andronnikova (2005) about safe behavior as an alternative of victimology norm. Deviant behavior is considered to be an alternative of victim potential implementing through abnormal behavior, when safety and personal development act as basic factor of forming the normal society.

The risk of abnormal behavior is especially high in the teen years. Inner tension, frowziness and uneven development, impairment in ability to self-estimate themselves and social environment, heightened need in self-presentation and self-assertiveness can lead to choosing dangerous patterns of behavior and breaking social rules (Dirivyankina & Kladova, 2016).

Contradictions in actions and emotions are typical for the teen years. Changes in motivation, values and views, maximalism and emotional lability define typical teenage processes: agency, fear of death, tendency to suicide, toughness while being altruist. These attributes are refracted in teenage consciousness and are key factors to get recognition. A. N. Leontyev (1981) and his followers say that lack of synchronism of physical, social and psychological development can lead to many problems alongside with abnormal behavior. Upon entering adult life, being not ready psychologically and socially, not

understanding personal resources and possibilities, a teenager cannot cope with all the events and gets victimized. Teenagers' interests go from self-concept to the attempts to cope with life's ups and downs, when failure forms inadequate self-esteem. Low self-esteem and inadequacy of Self-image lead to social relationship violations and following the patterns of victim behavior, which provoke behavioral and personal problems. Using this approach which considers victim behavior to be the safety deviation, it is necessary to analyze the specific character of this occurrence in the teen years and its connection with self-esteem.

Mukhina (1985) and Pogudina (2001) also describe difficulties of teenage processes, which have a range of contradictions. The most complicated inner world of a teenager leads to reflexivity, biased approach, stress and self-analysis. Pogudina (2001) notes, that along with self-acceptance there is also self-undoing, that depends on peer evaluation. At the same time, critical attitude towards themselves and dissatisfaction with themselves come with increasing need for self-respect and can lead to careless behavior. Excessive self-study can also lead to dissatisfaction with oneself, as a teenager's self-esteem goes down or becomes unstable. It is common for an 'imaginary audience' effect to appear, which makes teenagers even more vulnerable.

Mukhina (1985) draws our attention to the fact that low self-esteem in youth also affects behavior. With low self-esteem, a teenager

underestimates him- or herself and tends to complete only the simplest tasks, which prevents personal development. However, with high self-esteem, he overestimates his abilities and attempts to complete the tasks that he just is not able to complete, which also has a negative impact on his personal development.

This unharmonious combination of self-images, changeability of event perception and self-conception lead to unstable behavior and changes in behavioral patterns.

Self-ideal is as important as real ego. Self-ideal can be different from real ego if the level of aspiration is high enough. In such cases, according to Martsinkovskaya (Ayanyan, Martsinkovskaya, 2016), the disparity between the ideal situation and reality leads to lack of self-confidence, which takes forms of petulance, induration or aggressiveness.

Teenagers with low or high self-esteem are described as anxious, depressed, with fear of social contacts, selfishness, and unable to cope with life's downsides. Thus, it can be concluded that special aspects of victim teenagers' self-esteem have behavioral specificity.

Method

Study design

In accordance with the goal, a research was carried out, involving the research of the specifics of self-esteem of adolescents with a tendency to different types of victim behavior. For this, all the empirical sample were tested on the four tests.

The research was conducted on a sample of graduating students of educational institutions of Novosibirsk which have a tendency to victimization behavior (54 boys and 81 girls, 16-17 years old).

Instruments

Victimization behavior was investigated using “Tendency to victim behavior” test by O. O. Andronnikova. Self-esteem was investigated using “Finding quantitative expression of the level of self-esteem” test by S. A. Budassi and self-attitude test of V. V. Stolin, S. R. Pantelev. Also, we used «The Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire» (16PF) by R. B. Kettell as reworded by A. N. Kapustina.

Data analysis

Mathematical data processing was carried out using Spearman rank correlation coefficient statistical significance $p < 0,05$, are shown in the table 1.

Results

Primary research included 280 adolescents of graduation classes of schools of the city of Novosibirsk. Testing methodology “Tendency to victim behavior” test by O. O. Andronnikova (2005) were selected 135 people who have a tendency to certain types of victim behavior that made up the research sample. Further testing of adolescents the techniques of “Finding quantitative expression of the level of self-esteem” test by S.A. Budassi, self-evaluation test of V.V. Stolin, S.R. Pantelev, “The Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire” (16PF) by R. B. Kettell as reworded by A. N. Kapustina.

Table 1. Results of correlation testing of tendency to victim behavior and methods “Finding quantitative expression of the level of self-esteem” by S.A. Budassi and “The technique of self-relations research” V.V. Stolin, S.R. Pantelev and “The Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire” (16PF) by R.B. Kettell.

		Victim behavior tendency	Traumatophilia	Tendency to hypersocial behavior	Tendency to helplessness and dependency behavior	Tendency to non-critical behavior	Implemented victimhood
Self-esteem by Budassi		0,875	0,058	0,805	-0,831	-0,129	-0,130
The technique of self-relations research	Self- esteem	0,592	-0,432	0,941	-0,692	-0,444	-0,112
	Self-interest	0,523	-0,295	0,791	-0,581	-0,077	-0,131
	Self confidence	0,876	- 0,154	0,756	- 0,453	0,345	- 0,125
	Self-acceptance	-0,783	-0,471	0,822	-0,811	-0,278	-0,295
	Self-incrimination	-0,417	0,543	-0,851	0,342	-0,178	-0,071
Kettel Test Scales	MD	0,886	0,086	0,776	-0,801	-0,127	-0,049
	A	0,225	0,013	0,366	-0,151	-0,185	-0,246
	E	-0,216	0,112	-0,189	0,369	-0,301	-0,152
	F	-0,198	-0,369	-0,214	0,085	-0,001	0,329
	G	-0,344	-0,124	-0,395	0,354	-0,065	0,059
	H	-0,134	-0,179	-0,369	0,133	0,198	0,329
	M	-0,028	-0,195	-0,110	0,239	-0,286	-0,368
	Q1	0,023	-0,044	0,001	0,167	-0,436	-0,437
	Q2	-0,434	-0,082	-0,325	0,475	0,133	-0,035
	Q3	0,163	-0,258	0,391	-0,412	-0,171	-0,037
Q4	-0,288	0,131	-0,176	0,389	-0,023	-0,383	

The table shows that there are significant ($p < 0.05$) relationships that allow us to talk about the specifics of the severity of self-esteem and self-attitude parameters in adolescents prone to a certain type of victim behavior.

Discussion

According to the results, there is direct correlation between a teenager’s self-esteem and tendency to victim behavior. In other words, the higher a teenager’s self-esteem is, the more often he tends to provoke aggressive behavior.

Found significant relationship between the propensity for aggressive victim behavior and

parameters of self (self- attitude test of V.V. Stolin, S.R. Pantelev). A positive correlation with the scales of self-esteem, self-interest and self-confidence leads to the conclusion that subjects with marked aggressive behavior of the victim are confident in its appeal and interesting for others, believe in themselves and to positively evaluate yourself. Negative relationships with the scales self-acceptance and self-incrimination show that the subjects in this group have expressed negative emotions in the address of "I". This means that teenagers are prone to violent victimization behavior do not see their own shortcomings, believe in their strength. While the subjects of this group self-esteem and self-

acceptance are reduced. These findings coincide with the results obtained by P. W. Wang with colleagues (2013).

The tendency to self-destruction and self-harm behavior has no significant correlation with self-respect (test Budasi), but a significant relationship with the parameters of self-esteem. So, there is a negative relationship with scales self-esteem, self-interest, self-acceptance, which can be interpreted as a lack of faith in our own strength, abilities and possibilities. These subjects do not consider themselves interesting to others and not able to control your life. A positive correlation with the scale self-blame suggests that adolescents tend to self-destruction and self-harm behavior, experience negative emotions in their address, they will first see the flaws, puts himself in the guilt of all their blunders and failures.

We found a direct relationship between self-esteem tend to hyper-social behavior, which means that a pupil with a high level of self-esteem can be a criminal victim by overestimating himself or interfering with an on the spot incident.

The scale of inclination to a very social behavior is positively correlated with the parameters of self-respect, self-interest, self-confidence, self-acceptance and negatively with the parameter self - incrimination. That means such characteristics of teenagers with a penchant for very social behavior as a high level of self-confidence, self-interest to others, attractiveness, ability to control their lives and to build it according to plan. In the absence of the tendency to self-blame.

It should be noted that the parameters of the self-esteem of adolescents with a very social behavior is quite similar to the aggressive victim behavior. The groups differ primarily by making himself and his personality, what is possible and determines their focus on social or provocative way. This finds partial confirmation in the conclusions of Fanti & Henrich (2015), who note that low self-esteem is more closely related to aggressive behavior for youth with narcissism.

Inverse correlation detected between self-esteem and passive, dependent type of victim behavior points to the fact that the lower the self-esteem is, the more often a teenager tends to develop dependent behavior, even though it hurts his health.

On the scale of self-esteem there is a strong negative correlation with parameters of self-respect, self-interest, self-confidence, self-acceptance and positive parameter in the self-incrimination. On the basis of the identified correlation relationships, adolescents with a passive and dependent behavior sees himself, first and foremost, shortcomings, and set himself in the guilt of all his failures and setbacks, do not consider themselves able to control and build your life, don't believe in themselves. Similar data we can find from Martínez-Martínez and colleagues (2018).

The tendency to uncritically behavior also showed correlations with the scales of a technique of the self-esteem: positive self-confidence and a negative self-respect. This combination of self-confidence low self-respect can act as a basis for

low criticality Teens and the wrong risk assessment of emerging situations.

This suggests that there is a correlation between some types of victimhood and personal characteristics. The following self-esteem related results can be discerned (factor MD): There is a direct correlation between tendency to hyper-social and aggressive and victim behavior, as well as an invert correlation with dependent and helpless behavior. Thus, we can come to a conclusion, that personal victimhood depends on self-esteem. The higher the self-esteem is, the more chances there are to become a victim of a criminal. We can suggest that it is connected to the fact that people with high self-esteem have low level of anxiety and as a result, such people tend to ignore basic safety rules and get involved in incidents.

Invert correlation between self-esteem and the tendency to dependent and helpless behavior is a reflection of the fact that people with low self-esteem can become victims because they are unable to strike back and have no desire or skills to protect themselves. We propose that teenagers with low self-esteem also have low level of aggression or high level of self-control, which prevent them from proving themselves in a stressful situation.

Revealed correlation between personal tendency to a particular type of victim behavior and personal self-esteem, can become a basis for the development of training that can prevent personal victimization. Thus, once inadequate self-esteem (low or high) is diagnosed, we can

prevent teenager's victimization by means of personal development training, which focus on improvement of self-concept.

Additionally, we also came up with the conclusion of a correlation between victim behavior and personal characteristics of teenagers, which can become a basis for future studying. For example, teenagers with high factor A index, tend to express intense, which includes stressful and dangerous situations, that can lead to trauma or victim behavior.

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