

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES IN PERSONS INVOLVED IN RELATION TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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ABSTRACT

Personality traits define those characteristics that we demonstrate in most contexts and are relatively stable over time. A certain personality tells us almost nothing about our abilities, but it can tell us a lot about the environment in which we feel best. And because there are certain contexts in which we are at ease, it is very likely that our performance will be a good one there.

KEYWORDS: character, personality, youth, children, disabilities.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Brânzei (1979, p.135) defines personality as the determinant of the freely conscious attitude towards the world and towards one's own person.

Enăchescu (2003, p.41) states that personality is the synthesis of all the elements that contribute to the mental configuration of a subject, in order to give it its own physiognomy. This aspect results from the psycho-physiological constitution, the instinctive-affective elements, the character, the temperament, the type of reaction, the behavior, the level of expectations.

One of the major component of personality is character, that Cosmovici and Iacob (2005, p. 61-62) define as a structure that expresses the hierarchy of a person's essential motives, as well as the possibility to translate into in fact the decisions taken in accordance with them.

Other authors, such as Enache and Giurgiu (2017, p.176), offer us an etymology of the term character. This is a term that comes from the Greek language and means pattern, seals that are imprinted on the most probable, frequent and somewhat predictable behaviors of an individual, which reflects a set of his own traits and also his lifestyle.

Self-esteem is the evaluative component of the self, which refers to the emotional experience, the emotions that a person experiences when he refers to his own person (Constantin, 2004).

Personal autonomy expresses a degree of freedom and capacity for deliberation, uninfluential and easy, as a psychic feature of self-awareness and personality (Șchiopu, 1997).

Self-acceptance refers to the way we perceive our own physical, emotional, cognitive, social and cultural qualities (CF. <https://www.cdt-babes.ro> accessed on 26.04.2020)

When it comes to accepting others we can use the synonym of tolerance. According to DEX <https://dexonline.ro/definitie/toleranta> (accessed on 04.05.2020) the term tolerance means a forgiving, indulgent attitude.

Perseverance is the characteristic trait that denotes confidence and patience. A person who is persevering knows very well his qualities but also his defects and knows how to deal with a situation, even if it does not go according to the pre-established plan or as the person had proposed.

APPLIED RESEARCH

Objectives

The main objectives of the research are:

- Objective 1. Identify significant differences between specialists, parents and volunteers, in terms of self-esteem, personal autonomy, perseverance, self-acceptance and acceptance of others.
- Objective 2. Identify the correlations between self-esteem, personal autonomy, perseverance, self-acceptance and acceptance of others.

Hypotheses

The main assumptions of the study are:

- It is assumed that there are significant differences between parents, specialists and volunteers in terms of self-esteem, personal autonomy, perseverance, self-acceptance, acceptance of others.
- It is assumed that there is a relationship between self-esteem and variables like personal autonomy, perseverance, self-acceptance and acceptance of others.

Sample

In the case of samples, the most appropriate sampling unit will be started. As well as from the available sampling frames. In the case of the sample, the problem of both the sample size and the probability of error must be studied.

In our research, we aim to investigate 30 people who are in a relationship with young people and children with disabilities. The 30 people will be divided into three groups: specialists, parents and volunteers. 7 people - specialists, 8 people - parents, and the remaining 15 people representing volunteers.

Research instruments

The following instruments were used:

1. Personal autonomy assessment questionnaire (Cognitrom Assessment System)
2. The self-esteem interpretation questionnaire
3. Self-acceptance questionnaire - Emanuel M. Berger
4. The scale of acceptance of others (Cognitrom Assessment System)

The results of the study

We applied the comparison coefficient for three independent groups - Kruskal Wallis.

Of the five variables studied, we obtained statistically significant differences in: self-esteem (Chi-Square = 15,370 significant at the threshold of .000), personal autonomy (Chi-Square = 15,487 significant at the threshold of .000), perseverance (Chi-Square = Square = 10,901 significant at the .004 threshold) and self-acceptance (Chi-Square = 7,597 significant at the .022 threshold).

Therefore, the data obtained confirmed the first five hypotheses from which we started the study.

The following hypotheses assume the relationships that exist between: self-esteem, personal autonomy, perseverance, acceptance of others and self-acceptance

Due to the asymmetric distributions of scores, we used the Spearman's correlation coefficient

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- We obtained a significantly positive correlation at a threshold of .000, so the hypothesis is confirmed. Due to the fact that we have a positive correlation, this means that with the increase of self-esteem, the level of personal autonomy of the individual also increases.
- We obtained a significantly positive correlation at a threshold of .022, so the hypothesis is confirmed. Due to the fact that we have a positive correlation, this means that with increasing self-esteem, the level of perseverance of the individual increases.
- We obtained a significantly positive correlation at a threshold of .000, so the hypothesis is confirmed. Due to the fact that we have a positive correlation, this means that with the increase of self-esteem, the level of self-acceptance of the individual increases.
- We obtained a significantly positive correlation at a threshold of .013, so the hypothesis is confirmed. Due to the fact that we have a positive correlation, this means that with the increase of self-esteem, the level of acceptance of others by the individual also increases.

Specialists are people who conduct research on the mental and social processes of people with disabilities, study their individual and collective behaviors, and apply the knowledge gained to promote the adaptation of people with various disabilities socially, professionally, educationally. Carries out teaching-learning activities in accordance with the curriculum and special school curriculum, also cares for and protects people with special needs, designs, organizes, conducts, monitors and evaluates stimulation and recovery activities, stimulates and forms personal autonomy skills and social.

A parent is and must be a fantastic balance between emotional involvement and control, between ensuring independence and ensuring security, both physical and mental for a child.

Parents are responsible for raising and educating a new generation.

Being the parent of a child with disabilities is a great challenge, it is one of the most overwhelming experiences.

In order to cope with such a situation, the parent is informed. Look for the best solutions, look for the best therapists, the best therapy practices, listen and look for the opinions and experiences of other parents in order to be able to cope better with the situation, to be able to offer their children the best possible education, the best treatment. The parent does everything in his power for his child to be integrated as well as possible in society, to live a decent life and to have a high degree of personal autonomy in the future.

All these situations that the parent of a child or young person with disabilities goes through, make him build over time a set of character traits much better outlined than that of a typical parent of a child.

Volunteering is a great opportunity for a teenager to find out if a particular activity they enjoy or not, if it arouses their interest and if the field can be the job they want in the future.

Within volunteering, there are effects on the volunteer, the host organization, the beneficiaries of the organization but also on the community.

Among the direct effects that volunteering has on the volunteer we can list: increasing the level of self-confidence, developing the capacity for empathy, developing the capacity for interpersonal communication, self-knowledge, development of professional skills, increasing employment opportunities, route optimization professional.

Limits of research

The limits of this research are represented by the use of convenience sampling and insufficient number of participants, which may prevent expansion and generalization in the general population.

CONCLUSIONS

Our study considered the discovery of significant differences between people in relationships with young people and children with disabilities, respectively between specialists, parents and volunteers, in terms of the following variables: self-esteem, perseverance, personal autonomy, self-acceptance . and acceptance of others.

Through the results of the study we could see that from the point of view of self-esteem, perseverance, personal autonomy, self-acceptance and acceptance of others, the specialists ranked first, followed by parents and the last in terms of results they were volunteers.

This ranking was due to the age of the participants (specialists and parents were enrolled in youth and adulthood, as opposed to volunteers who were in adolescence and post-adolescence).

Another criterion that contributed to this classification was work experience and studies.

Another aim of our study was to identify the correlations between the variables listed above.

With the help of the results from our study but also with the help of other specialized studies, we were able to observe and demonstrate that self-esteem correlates significantly and positively with all other variables.

All the objectives and hypotheses of our research have been met and demonstrated.

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