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### ***Empirical studies of socio-psychological conditions of formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal in primary school children***

**Abstract:** The article describes the organization and methods of empirical research. Author obtained results based on age and gender specifics and levels of formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal of primary school children. The factors influencing formation of the mentioned and socio-psychological conditions of their formation are revealed.

**Keywords:** formation, representation, spiritual ideal, primary school children, factors of influence, social and psychological conditions.

**Formulation of the problem.** The problem of versatile influence on the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal of the individual is determined by the decrease of spirituality indicators, the strengthening of selfish and materialistic tendencies in the personal development of young people, a certain deformation of their moral values, the ideals of Beauty and Good, the lack of examples for identification and their imitation, which leads to distortion in their ideas about the spiritual ideal.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Modern scientists have substantiated a number of theoretical positions on the problem of the formation of spiritual values and ideals of personality. Thus, at a younger school age, the development of moral and spiritual ideals is associated with ethical knowledge and methods of their implementation in social behavior (N.A. Pobirchenko) [6]. Researchers of the problem of moral and spiritual formation of the child (I.S. Bulah,

O.V. Skrypchenko, etc.) found that in this age the liberalization of value representations has place, the change of moral ideals, the transfer of a moral sample from parents, teachers to the reference group [4; 7]. Scientists (A. Bandura, R. Walters) believe that it is possible to regulate and direct the behavior of the child, giving him the opportunity to follow the authoritative samples [1; 2]. According to researchers (O.O. Bodalov, V.S. Mukhina), the child, as the most sensible part of society, is unprotected from a variety of negative influences [3; 5].

Despite the presence of a certain number of studies on this issue, the complex study of the conditions for the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal in primary school children was not the subject of a special study, while in child psychology it was stated that the first ideas about the spiritual ideals and values forms in childhood that are increasing with the age.

**Formulating the purpose of the article.** The purpose of the article is the empirical discovery of socio-psychological conditions for the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal for children of primary school age.

**Presentation of the main research material.** The empirical study included two stages: 1) the study of the basic indicators of the formation and representations of the spiritual ideal in primary school children; 2) study of socio-psychological conditions and their influence on the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal of pupils.

The experiment was attended by 180 primary school pupils (108 girls and 72 boys) aged 7-8 (52), 9 (66) and 10-11 years old (62), 80 parents and 20 teachers. During the study, 720 sessions of observations were conducted, 1080 children's responses were received in the projective method "Fairy World", which was implemented in the conversation, analyzed 540 children's drawings by the projective method "Study of the characteristics of the child identification", 80 parents (880 responses) and 20 teachers (220 responses).

The study of age and gender specifics and the levels of formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal in children of the primary school age was based on the criteria: value-positive attitude to the ideals of Beauty and Good; Identification with the bearers of these ideals; Imitation of the behavior of people and literary characters; understanding of their own ideas about the spiritual ideal and their indicators.

The empirical study of the basic indicators of the formation and representations of the spiritual ideal in primary school pupils showed that children ideas about spiritual ideals have their own peculiarities. So, the older the child gets, the better it delineates manifestations of beauty and deformity (pupils of class: 4th – 79.0%, 3rd – 60.6%, 2nd – 59.6%), good and bad (evil) deeds of people (pupils of classes: 4th – 83.9%, 3rd – 62.1%, 2nd – 51.9%) in real life, literary and artistic works. Girls (18.5%) are more likely to have a desire for such distinction than boys (16.7%) are. Valuable attitude to nature is observed in those pupils of classes 2-4, teachers and parents who are the most careful attitude to the surrounding world. Limited value attitude to nature is more often shown by boys (55.5% of situations), compared with girls (29.6%). Among the motives for choosing characters to follow, boys point to strength and courage, while girls are more attracted to their beauty, gentleness and tenderness.

An analysis of children's drawings and conversations in their content showed that the choice of the spiritual ideal of children depends on their needs and interests. Almost a third of children (25.6%) are mainly based on spiritual and ethical motives - to be useful to people, the desire to follow the ideal image. The overwhelming majority of the subjects (34.4%) related their reasons for choosing the ideal with the pleasure of children's inclinations. The smallest number of children, 16.1%, chose ideals based on their aesthetic priorities and preferences. In pictures on the topic "The World of Kindness and Beauty", all children depicted nature. 34.4% of children depicted in nature people: themselves (18.3%), friends and other children (15.0%), parents (8.3%), teachers (7.2%), acquaintances and strangers (5.5%). At the same time, 23.9% of children associated the stories of their drawings with the desire to obtain material wealth and personal recognition. Pupils of the second grade (65.3%) are more likely to direct themselves to high-spiritual individuals (mother, father, teacher, other adults), compared with older children (3rd – 47.0%, and 4th – 41.9%). Almost half of the respondents (40.0%) come to the aid only at the request or encouragement of an adult, indifferently to the grief and joy of others. Girls often have a constant (23.1%) and a partial (45.4%) desire for manifestations of goodness and assistance to other people, as compared to boys (6.9% and 40.3%). Pupils of the 2nd (82.6%) and 3rd (74.2%) classes are more likely to follow the behavior of adults who are the bearers of spiritual ideals, compared with pupils of the 4th grade (59.7%). Most of all, in their behavior, children inherit well-known people, pop stars

(30.6%) and favorite cartoon heroes (20.5%). Girls (16.7%), to a greater extent imitate the ideals of the beauty of their mothers, which, in turn, shape the tastes and aesthetic preferences of the child. Boys (13.9%) seek to imitate the military. In addition, primary school children (13.9% girls and 12.5% boys) follow the behavior of teachers. It should be noted that younger children (pupils of class: 2nd – 78.8% and 3rd – 71.3%) more actively imitate the behavior of other children (peers, reputable friends from the yard, small cinema actors, children's literary characters) with the manifestations of spiritual ideals, feel the need for contact with friends, show care and attention (10.5%) to them, try to bring joy to each other (22.2%), compared with older pupils (class 4 – 56.4%). Leading in the choice of comrades, both boys and girls, is the ideal of beauty.

Anxious is the fact that the overwhelming majority of primary school pupils identify themselves with adults, children, literary characters (heroes of films, cartoons, artistic works), who are the bearers of non-spiritual ideals and individualistic values. Explaining their choice, they distinguish material wealth from them. The desire to imitate its perfect image, in most, depended on the concept of "beneficial – not beneficial", indicating the presence of children egocentrism and the emergence of impotence.

In general, pupils of the 2nd-3rd classes often follow the behavior of literary fairy-tale characters (heroes of feature films and animations), and pupils of the 4th class prefer to imitate the behavior of real people (adults and children). Girls have a better understanding of the perfect image (67.6%), compared to boys (59.7%).

Based on the generalization results of this experiment, the levels of formation of representations of the spiritual ideal in the younger school age are distinguished and characterized: high (15.5%); average (48.9%); low (35.6%). The analysis of the summary data, made it possible to distinguish quantitative differences in representations of the spiritual ideal at its various levels of formation, depending on the age and gender of children. The obtained data indicate a certain positive dynamics of levels from the second to the fourth grade (an increase in the number of children with high and average levels of formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal), however, a significant percentage of pupils of all classes with a low level makes one to think and necessitates the search for ways, conditions, methods and means of increasing the effectiveness of the process of forming ideas about the spiritual ideal of primary school children.

At the next stage of empirical research, to study the social conditions for the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal at primary school children, we conducted a questionnaire survey of parents and teachers. The data obtained during the questionnaire and interviews made it possible to find out the spiritual closeness, the unity of the child with the parents and teachers, the influence on formed the ideals of the child's favorite films, cartoons, video games, books, magazines, works of art, communication with nature, visits to temples and churches within the family and school. The statistical analysis of the responses of 80 parents and 20 teachers testifies that teachers' awareness of children is higher than that of parents. According to the results of the questionnaire, parents are referred to as influencing factors of the formation of spiritual ideal in children: 1) the media – foreign (88.8%) and domestic films and cartoons (11.2%), computer games (81.2%), music, songs (80.0%), radio information (33.7%), books, literary works (17.5%), magazines, newspapers (16.2%); 2) artistic and aesthetic influence - communication with nature (50.0%), visiting theaters and concerts (35.0%), museums (31.2%), temples, churches (28.7%), exhibition halls (27.5%), amateur performances (5.0%); 3) peculiarities of relationships with others – familiar people: parents, teachers, friends, peers (47.5%); unfamiliar adults: stars of cinema, sports, sports (18.75%). Teachers believe that the idea of a spiritual ideal in primary school pupils is largely shaped by artistic and aesthetic influences: communicating with nature (90.0%), exhibition halls (35.0%), amateur performances (30.0%), visits to theaters and concerts (25.0%), museums (20.0%), temples, churches (5.0%). Somewhat less influence of factors belongs to the mass media: books, literary works (75.0%); foreign (65.0%) and domestic (35.0%) films, cartoons; music, songs (55.0%); computer games (45.0%); radio information (20.0%); magazines, newspapers (10.0%) and peculiarities of relations with others: strangers – stars of cinema, stage music, sports (25.0%); familiar people – parents, teachers, friends, peers (20.0%).

The conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis of the obtained results made it possible to distinguish three main types of influence of factors on the formation of ideas of primary school children about the spiritual ideal in the family and school: positive, partially positive, negative. Thus, in the smallest number of families and schools (16.0%), there is a positive influence of the factors on the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal of children, where parents and teachers motivate children, care about expanding their knowledge and forming ideas about the spiritual



ideal, influencing their cognitive component. A slightly larger number of families and schools (31.0%) show a partially positive influence of factors, which impedes the formation of a high, adequate level of representations. Spiritual ideals of this part of the children are somewhat blurred and fuzzy; they are poorly oriented in their lives. The majority of families and schools (53.0%) were the most likely to find a negative influence of the revealed factors on the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal of children, which deforms their ideas and causes disorientation of values.

**Conclusions and further perspectives.** The formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal of children is negatively affected by: conflicts in relations with others; the desire of children to obtain material wealth and personal recognition; low awareness of adults about spiritual ideals, factors affecting this formation, the failure of their own ideas about the spiritual ideal. And the fact that younger pupils almost do not read fiction, which broadens their worldview and assists in the assimilation of universal and spiritual values, instead, give preference to contemporary animation products, which depict ambiguous, distorted images of heroes which child cannot understand without a help from an adult, however, often mimics.

It is empirically confirmed that social conditions for the formation of ideas about the spiritual ideal for children of primary school age are: the peculiarities of relationships with others (parents, teachers, friends, peers, acquaintances and strangers); Influence of mass media (TV products, computer network, radio information, books, literary works, magazines, newspapers); artistic aesthetic influence (works of art and theater, communication with nature, aesthetic priorities and preferences, artistic amateur activities). Psychological conditions are individual-psychological properties: child's desire, needs, interests, peculiarities of imagination, conflict experiences.

The study does not exhaust all aspects of the problem under investigation. The further prospect of studying is to develop a model of psychological counseling for parents, class leaders, caregivers of groups of prolonged days on the problems of forming ideas about the spiritual ideal of children and ways of their correction, etc.

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