

Impacts of family socialization on young adults' future-oriented goals

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Abstract

Being concerned with future is an important aspect of youth, since young adults in this period set more and more specific aims and make plans regarding their future, which will affect their adult life as well. 493 college students took part in our research (105 males and 388 females); we examined their future-oriented goals in relation to family socialization influences. In our research we used the short version of the Future-orientation Questionnaire (Nurmi, Poole and Seginer, 1995) and the Family Socialization Questionnaire (Dalbert and Goch, 1997). Our findings show that youngsters most frequently mentioned hopes related to their future work, future family and education. Regarding fears, our subjects most frequently reported about future work, health and living conditions. The different aspects of future-orientation, i.e. contents, time extension and chance of realization, were also analyzed. The interrelation between these aspects revealed that subjects are able to control those goals (hopes and fears) that are closer to the present in time. We found gender differences in the aspects of concreteness and temporal extension of future-oriented goals. From family socialising influences, parenting atmosphere showed close correlation with the formulated goals. Rule-oriented atmosphere proved to produce hopes regarding future family, work and education, while conflict-oriented atmosphere evoked fears regarding future work.

Keywords

future-orientation, family socialization, parenting atmosphere