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VALUES APPRECIATED BY CONTEMPORARY YOUTH -

- BASED ON RESEARCH CONDUCTED AMONG

POLISH-LITHUANIAN YOUTH

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ABSTRACT

The text presents the research considering the most important values preferred by some Polish-Lithuanian youth. The research was conducted among 385 pupils at the age 13-16. the research applied a survey questionnaire. The data was submitted to statistical analysis with the application of the statistical package Statistica 13.1. What was used was Chi-squared independence test. Moreover, the Kruskal-Wallis test and the median test were used. The two, considered by the youth, most important values - health and life were subjected to detailed statistical verification on account of the following variables: sex, age, place of residence and the family's economic situation. The conclusion resulting from the research: the youth in Poland and Lithuania appreciate the most such values as: family, health and life, however, the least, important are: religion/ faith and the environmental protection; the variable 'sex' had a huge influence on the health and life values appreciated by Polish-Lithuanian youth; the variable 'age' did not have a huge impact on the Polish-Lithuanian youth's health and life values; the variable 'place of residence' did not have a huge impact on health and life values preferred by the Polish-Lithuanian youth; the variable 'family's economic situation' had a hude influence on the health value appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth.

Keywords: the youth, values, life value, health value.

INTRODUCTION

The contemporary youth is living in the ever-changing world. The civilisation transformations which intensively interact with a young person have a profound influence on the creation and formation of their system of values. The evolution and formation of the proper and stable hierarchy of values is a factor necessary to the conscious living and undertaking the responsible decisions, making certain choices and the presentation of a particular behaviours. The proper process of values development at an individual is of a fundamental character not only for themselves but also for the society in which they live an complete some defined roles [1].

In the subject literature the term of 'value' is defined in different ways. Some researchers treat it as something particularly valuable which meets the high requirements, as

something to which we aspire, what we wish to achieve as the aim of human desires and aspirations [2]. Some others highlight that this term is extremely difficult to be defined precisely. The researchers prove that value is understood as 'either capacity of a thing or a thing possessing this capacity' or considers the capacity in it in the positive or negative meaning [3]. In the first meaning the value for a human being is only what seems worth the general acceptance, what brings them pleasure and in the second meaning the set of values comprises also what we do not approve of and we often find harmful [4].

Providing the analysis of the existing publications of the issue of values, Maria Misztal differentiates the three main categories of this term. They are the following definitions:

- -psychological, in which values are treated as individual phenomena (a conversant experience);
- -sociological, in which values are attributed with the social dimension;
- -cultural, which underline the universal character of the values dominating in the particular society and which are possibly external towards a human being [5].

The contemporary researchers analyse the concept of values also in the pedagogical aspect and present it as 'everything which is not neutral and inert, but valuable, worth to be desired and selected, important and weighty and thus constituting the purpose of human aspirations' [6].

The large amount and diversity of the explanations of the concept of 'value' causes that in the subject literature there also happen its various classifications depending on the accepted criterion and the very author representing a particular field of knowledge. The authors who performed this selection include (among others): E. Spranger, R. Hartman, M. Rokeach, M. Mead, Cz. Matusewicz, R. Jedliński and others [7]. The classification of values most frequently presented in the literature was constructed by Mirosław J. Szymański who selected 10 groups. They are: 1) allocentric, 2) pro-social, 3) pleasure-related, 4) related to work, 5) educational, 6) related to authority, 7) cultural, 8) civic, 9) family-related, 10) material [8].

Usually the values do not function separately, single-handedly but in people's conscience they create some defined sets, they build the system of values. Defining the (most important) values appreciated by the youth allows for measuring the importance of some particular values and presenting the relations between the variables. Preferred by the youth, the groups of values enable the better orientation in the youth's state of awareness as well as to understand their necessities of life [9]. The formation of the values system of a young person mainly results from their world of values, the family type and life in which the youth have been raised and have dwelt/ are (still) dwelling [10].

RESEARCH PURPOSE AND METHODS

The purpose of the conducted research was to learn the most important values appreciated by the contemporary Polish-Lithuanian youth. The two most frequently indicated by them, that is life and health value were subjected to the detailed statistical analysis basing on the following variables: sex, age, place of residence and the family's financial situation of the group under research. The research applied the survey questionnaire which for the Lithuanian youth was translated into Lithuanian. The

statistical analysis was performed with the application of the statistical package Statistica 13.1. The relations of the quantitative variables were assessed on the grounds of their frequency and placed in the contingency charts. In case of the quantitative variables the comparisons were applied with the use of the Chi-squared independence test. Additionally, the Kruskal-Wallis test was used which in performed in a situation when the assumptions of the variance analysis ANOVA have been broken or when the character of our variables does not allow for the application of the variance analysis ANOVA.

RESEARCH RESULTS ANALYSIS¹

385 pupils (aged 13-16) participated in the research. In Poland 201 pupils were under research (113 girls (56,22%) and 88 boys (43,78%)), whereas in Lithuania 184 pupils (85 girls (46,20%) and 99 boys (53,80%).

Analysing the age of the research group, the data presents as follows: Poland: 13-years of age -38 people (18,91%), 14-years of age -55 people (27,36%), 15-years of age -91 people (45,27%), 16-years of age -17 people (8,46%); Lithuania: 13-years of age -40 pupils (21,74%), 14-years of age -29 pupils (15,76%), 15-years of age -64 pupils (34,78%) and 16-years of age -51 pupils (27,72%).

The place of residence of the youth under research presents as follows: Poland: the country: 132 people (65,67%), town to 60,000: 65 people (32,34%), city to 130,000: 4 people (1,99%); Lithuania: the country: 57 people (30,98%), town to 60,000: 7 people (3,80%), city to 130,000: 38 people (20,65%), city of more than 130,000: 82 people (44,57%). Analysing the family financial situation, it can be observed that it is analogical. Both among the Polish youth and the Lithuanian youth what dominates is the indicator (51,74% - Poland; 58,69% - Lithuania) of 'good financial situation.' A very good financial situation of the family was placed second – Poland – 14,43%; Lithuania– 26,10%. The lowest indicator referred to the 'very bad' financial situation of the family and it was only noted in the families of the Polish youth – 1,49%.

The analysis of the empirical material presented that the youth in both countries indicated the importance of the analogical values in their life. The most frequently indicated 'very important values' included: the youth in Poland: health- 81,09%, life (freedom) - 50,24%, family - 47,76%; the youth in Lithuania: family - 82,60%, health-65,21%, life (freedom) - 61,41%. For both Polish and Lithuanian youth the least important value indicated by the respondents was: the youth in Poland: religion/ faith – 12,93% and the environmental protection – 8,45%; the youth in Lithuania: religion/ faith – 41,30%, the environmental protection – 8,69%. The detailed data are presented in Charts 1 and 2.

¹ This research is the fragment of a research project entitled: The leisure time as the constructive value of the contemporary Polish-Lithuanian youth. A comparative study. The project realised within the statutory research. Contract no. UmoPBSR-2/17.

Chart 1. Values appreciated by the Polish youth

Responses	Very important		Important		Partially yes/ partially no		Not important		Responses Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Family	96	47,76	54	26,86	50	24,87	1	0,49	201	100
Education	78	38,80	103	51,24	17	8,45	3	1,49	201	100
Financial assets	53	26,36	97	48,25	48	23,88	3	1,49	201	100
Religion/faith	55	27,36	52	25,87	68	33,83	26	12,93	201	100
Life	101	50,24	82	40,79	17	8,45	1	0,49	201	100
Health	163	81,09	34	16,91	2	0,99	2	0,99	201	100
Environmental protection	18	8,95	64	31,84	102	50,74	17	8,45	201	100
Others (friends)	50	24,87	25	12,43	121	60,19	5	2,48	201	100

Source: author's own based on the conducted research

Chart 2. Values appreciated by the Lithuanian youth

Responses		Very important		Important		Partially yes/ partially no		Not important		Responses Total	
	- N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Family	152	82,60	27	14,67	3	1,63	2	1,08	184	100	
Education	97	52,71	72	39,13	9	4,89	6	3,26	184	100	
Financial assets	51	27,71	97	52,71	29	15,76	7	3,80	184	100	
Religion/faith	13	7,06	33	17,93	62	33,69	76	41,30	184	100	
Life	113	61,41	53	28,80	11	5,97	7	3,80	184	100	
Health	120	65,21	48	26,08	7	3,80	9	4,89	184	100	
Environmental protection	59	32,06	75	40,76	34	18,47	16	8,69	184	100	
Others (friends, politics)	82	44,56	48	26,08	8	4,34	46	25	184	100	

Source: author's own based on the conducted research

One of the highly appreciated values by the Polish-Lithuania youth (next to family) is health and life. The analysis of the empirical material presented that the youth's health condition is on the good and very good level. According to the nationality criterion, the results are presented at a similar level. Unfortunately, almost 19% of the Polish and 18% of the Lithuanian youth experience some health problems. Another important value indicated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth was life. The research presented that

more than 50% of the Polish youth and the half of the Lithuanian youth under research is satisfied with their life and almost 30% is delighted. To verify what factors condition the value of health and life of the respondents they were subjected to a detailed statistical analysis. These values were analysed in the context of the following variables: sex, age, the respondents' place of residence and the family's financial situation.

Sex and the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

The statistical analysis indicated the significance of the influence of the 'sex' variable on the health value appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 18,6401, df=4, p=,000925). Analysing the significance of this variable in the nationality category, it also indicated the significance of this variable influence (the Polish youth: Pearson's Chi^2: 8,66064, df=4, p=,070165; the Lithuanian youth: Pearson's Chi^2: 16,1148, df=4, p=,002869). The research indicated that 17,92% males and 11,43% females assess their health condition as 'very good,' while 23,38% males and 24,42% females as 'good.'

Age and the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

The statistical analysis indicated that the variable 'age' does not have a significant influence on the health value of the Polish-Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 8,95037, df=12, p=,707164). The significance of the influence of this variable was also not observed in the statistical analysis in the context of nationality category (the Polish youth's data: Pearson's Chi^2: 13,9333, df=12, p=,304985; the Lithuanian youth's data: Pearson's Chi^2: 9,45618, df=12, p=,663552). The ANOVA range test by Kruskal-Wallis applied in the statistical analysis: H (3, N= 385) =,7650212 p=,8578 and the Median test Chi²= 1,464471 df = 3 p=,6905, confirmed the lack of the significance of the influence of the age variable on the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth.

Place of residence and the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

The statistical analysis indicated the lack of the significance of the influence of the variable 'place of residence' on the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 11,4854, df=12, p=,487842). The significance of the influence of this variable was also not observed in the context of the nationality category (the data for the Polish youth: Pearson's Chi^2: 4,37838, df=8, p=,821474; the data for the Lithuanian youth: Pearson's Chi^2: 6,05305, df=9, p=,734598). The ANOVA range test by Kruskal-Wallis: H (3, N= 385) =,2082185 p=,9763 and the Median test Chi²=,5522372 df=3 p=,9073, confirmed the lack of the significance of the influence of the variable 'place of residence' on the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth.

The family's financial situation and the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

The statistical analysis indicated the significance of the variable the family's financial situation to the value of health appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 70,7518, df=16, p=,000000). The significance of the influence of this variable was noted in case of the Polish youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 59,4821, df=16, p=,000001), but not in case of the Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 10,2310, df=12, p=,595702). Applied in the research, Test ANOVA of range by Kruskal-Wallis: H (4, N= 385) =17,56683 p=,0015 as well as the Median test Chi²= 15,39900 df = 4 p= ,0039,

confirmed the significance of the influence of the variable the family's financial situation on the the value of health appreciated by the youth in Poland and Lithuania.

Sex and the value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

Another important value for the Polish-Lithuanian youth is life (freedom) with which most of the respondents is satisfied. The statistical analysis indicated that the variable 'sex' has a significant influence on the evaluation of one's own life by the Polish-Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 11,7718, df=4, p=,019131). The significance of the influence of the variable was observed in case of the Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 16,1148, df=4, p=,002869), but not in case of the Polish youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 2,83796, df=4, p=,585297).

Age and the value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

The value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth was also analysed on account of the variable 'age.' The statistical analysis indicated the lack of the significance of the influence of age on the value of life (Pearson's Chi^2: 8,08965, df=12, p=,778086). The significance of this variable was also not observed in the statistical analysis in the context of the nationality category. The data for the Polish youth were as follows: Pearson's Chi^2: 15,5582, df=12, p=,212317; the data for the Lithuanian youth: Pearson's Chi^2: 6,90834, df=9, p=,646662. Moreover, the test ANOVA of range by Kruskal-Wallis: H (3, N= 385) =2,639674 p=,4506 and the Median test Chi²= 2,582377 df = 3, p=,4606, did not confirm the significance of the influence of the variable 'age' on the value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth.

Place of residence and the value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

The statistical analysis indicated that the variable the place of residence does not have a significant influence on the value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth Pearson's Chi^2: 4,74084, df=12, p=,966080. The significance of this variable influence was also not observed in the statistical analysis in the context of the nationality category. Both among the Polish youth Pearson's Chi^2: 5,13965, df=8, p=,742551, and the Lithuania youth: Pearson's Chi^2: 6,05305, df=9, p=,734598, the significance of the influence of the variable place of residence was not observed. Moreover, the test ANOVA of range by Kruskal-Wallis: H (3, N= 385) =1,930866 p=,5869 as well as the Median test Chi²= 1,167400, df=3, p=,7608, did not confirm the significance of the influence of the variable the place of residence on the value of life appreciated by Polish-Lithuanian youth.

The family's financial situation and the value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth

The statistical analysis indicated that the family's changeable financial situation has a great influence on the value of life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 206,162, df=16, p=0,00000). This variable influential significance was also noted in the nationality category. The family's financial situation has a significant influence on the value of life among the Polish youth (Pearson's Chi^2 105,928, df=16, p=,000000) and the Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 43,4625, df=10,00000). Additionally, the ANOVA range test by Kruskal-Wallis confirmed it: How the significant influence on the value of life among the Polish youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 43,4625, df=105,928, df=16, p=,000000) and the Lithuanian youth (Pearson's Chi^2: 43,4625, df=105,00000).

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the conducted research allowed for the following conclusions:

- the Polish-Lithuanian youth find the values of health, life (freedom), family the most important, whereas the least important: religion/ faith and the environmental protection;
- the variable 'sex' has a huge influence on the value of health and life appreciated by the Polish-Lithuanian youth. When analysing the significance of this variable in the category of nationality, its significance was noted in case of the Lithuanian youth and it was not highlighted in case of the Polish youth in the context of one's life evaluation;
- the variable 'age' does not have a significant influence on the value of health and life evaluation by the Polish-Lithuanian youth. The significance of the influence of this variable was not observed in the statistical analysis in the context of nationality category, either;
- the variable 'place of residence' does not have a significant influence on the value of health and life evaluation appreciated of the Polish-Lithuanian youth. The significance of the influence of this variable was not observed in the statistical analysis in the context of nationality category, either;
- the variable 'the family's financial situation' has a significant influence on the value of health appreciated by the youth in Poland and Lithuania. The significance of this variable influence was observed with the Polish youth but not in case of the Lithuanian youth. The variable 'the family's financial situation' has a significant influence on the value of life appreciated by the youth in Poland and Lithuania. The significance of the influence of this variable was also observed in the nationality category. The family's financial situation has a significant influence on the value of life among the Polish and Lithuanian youth.

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