



Koryogdiev Sherzod Shukhrat ugli,
*Doctoral student (PhD) at the scientific-research
institute of «Family and gender»*
Email: qoryogdiyevsherkod@gmail.com

PARENTAL INFANTILITY AS A SOCIAL- PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM

Annotation. *Modern social conditions, increased information flows, socio-economic changes and crises lead to a change in values in young people. The phenomenon of parental infantilism, including financial dependence, inability to manage one's own family, affects the economic and demographic situation of the country. However, due to the complex nature of this phenomenon, the multifaceted nature of its causes and the influence of socio-psychological factors, it has not been sufficiently studied as a research topic. This creates the need to study infantilism in parents as a socio-psychological problem.*

Annotatsiya. *Zamonaviy ijtimoiy sharoitlar, axborot oqimlari kuchayishi, ijtimoiy-iqtisodiy o'zgarishlar va inqirozlar yoshlarda qadriyatlar o'zgarishiga olib keladi. Ota-onalar infantilizmi fenomeni moliyaviy jihatdan bog'liqlik, o'z oilasini o'zi boshqara olmaslik kabilarni o'z ichiga olib, mamlakatning iqtisodiy va demografik vaziyatiga ta'sir ko'rsatadi. Ammo ushbu fenomenning murakkab tabiati, sabablarning ko'p qirraliligi va ijtimoiy-psixologik omillar ta'siri tufayli tadqiqot mavzusi sifatida yetarlicha o'rganilmagan. Bu esa ota-onalarda infantillikni ijtimoiy-psixologik muammo sifatida tadqiq etish zaruratini tug'diradi.*

Аннотация. *Современные социальные условия, возросшие информационные потоки, социально-экономические изменения и кризисы приводят к изменению ценностей среди молодежи. Феномен родительского инфантилизма, включающий в себя финансовую зависимость и неспособность управлять собственной семьей, влияет на экономическую и демографическую ситуацию в стране. Однако ввиду сложности данного явления, многогранности его причин и влияния социально-психологических факторов оно недостаточно изучено как тема исследования. Это обуславливает необходимость изучения инфантильности родителей как социально-психологической проблемы.*

Key words: *infantilism, parents, personal characteristics, phenomenon, interpersonal relationships, emotional stability, motivational field, volitional-emotional component, lability, rigidity.*

Tayanch soʻzlar: *infantilizm, ota-onalar, shaxsiy xususiyatlar, fenomen, shaxslararo munosabatlar, hissiy barqarorlik, motivatsion soha, irodaviy-hissiy komponent, labillik, rigidlik.*

Ключевые слова: *инфантилизм, родители, личностные характеристики, феномен, межличностные отношения, эмоциональная устойчивость, мотивационное поле, волево-эмоциональный компонент, лабильность, ригидность.*

Introduction. One of the most common reasons for the manifestation of behavioral deviations in a child is the violation of developmental conditions in the family and defects in family upbringing. It is in the family that the foundations of the child's social experience, value attitudes, character and intelligence, individual features of the psyche are laid, on the basis of which the model of interaction of the personality with the surrounding world is formed. Infantilism is the preservation in the thinking and behavior of an adult of features that are characteristic of childhood. Such features may be unwillingness to bear responsibility, refusal to comply with social norms of behavior, egocentrism, lack of life goals, inability to make independent decisions, immaturity of judgment. The words "infantility" and "infantilism" are usually used as synonyms. But the first option is more common in colloquial speech, and the second - in professional speech. In addition, infantilism is also called chronic conditions: for example, when it is a delay in physical and mental development, not just an unwillingness to behave in an adult way¹.

In pop psychology there is also the term "Peter Pan syndrome". The literary hero is compared to adults, more often men, who tend to enjoy all the benefits of childhood for longer, such as shifting their household chores and necessary expenses to others. Kidults are often called infantile - adults whose hobbies, buying habits and appearance are considered characteristic of childhood. Kidults love cartoons and superhero movies, collect collectible action figures, and choose bright hair and clothing colors. Mental infantilism is associated with disorders in the psyche and brain function².

Main part. The determining importance of the family for the success of a child's socialization is generally recognized. Thus, E.P.Belinskaya and O.A.Tikhomandritskaya emphasize that "the family, as an element of the macro-environment, is the child's guide to culture: religious traditions,

¹ Бакулина А.С. Социальный инфантилизм: общественно-нравственный аспект. // Человеческий капитал. - М.: Изд-во «Объединенная редакция». 2014. №3(63). - С. 24-29.

² Гамезо М.В., Герасимова В.С., Горелова Г.Г., Орлова Л.М. Возрастная психология. - М.: Издательский дом «Ноосфера». 1999. 459 с.

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ethnic stereotypes and moral values are assimilated by children mainly through the family. The role of the family in the transmission of cultural influences is greater the higher the homogeneity of the surrounding social community, however, even with sufficient cultural heterogeneity of society, parents become the main reference source of choice of values and behavioral patterns”³.

The “reverse” side of personal maturity is the concept of “lack of personal maturity” or “personal immaturity”, which are hardly used in the language, both in everyday life, and even less in scientific language. Some “opposition” to “personal maturity” is infantilism – primarily a medical term, which is used to reflect underdevelopment of basic mental processes as “mental infantilism” within the framework of dysontogenesis, applying it mainly to preschool age⁴. Sometimes they also speak about psychological infantilism in adults, also often referring to certain developmental disorders, and defining such a person as egocentric, possessing inflated self-esteem and unbalanced level of claims, external locus of control, reactions of escape from life difficulties, etc., i.e. obvious violations or underdevelopment of the emotional and volitional sphere of personality.

However, more and more often in modern society attention is drawn to the phenomenon of kidalt (literally “adult child”) – the desire, mainly of young people to “prolong childhood”, manifesting itself in various acts of personal regression, but always with a decrease in responsibility for their lives, and this phenomenon is so widespread that the National Academy of Sciences of the United States was forced to propose moving the end of adolescence to 30 years of age⁵. At the same time, the topic according to which “children cannot have children” is increasingly discussed on our screens: the perception that many people live their existence in conditions of hedonism - a life “for themselves” - has become so popular that both national and world reproduction of the European and American populations is threatened. Although some authors, for example, S.A.Lishaev read it necessary to separate prolongation of childhood and adolescence, considering such behavior as juvenile, from true infantilism, the problem remains unsolved: whether we call such behavior infantile or juvenile, it is fundamentally different from the realization of adulthood,

³ Джонсон С.М. Психотерапия характера. Методическое пособие для слушателей курса «Психотерапия». - М.: Центр психологической культуры, 2001. 356 с.

⁴ Кернберг О.Ф. Тяжелые личностные расстройства: стратегии психотерапии. Интегративный психоанализ конца XX века. - М.: Независимая фирма «Класс». 2005. 320 с.

⁵ Мак-Вильямс Н. Психоаналитическая диагностика: Понимание структуры личности в клиническом процессе. - М.: Независимая фирма «Класс», 1998, 480 с.

and even more so from the definition of personal maturity. However, it is also a fact that such kidlets are very often very successful in life⁶.

Another fundamental aspect is the need to separate personality maturity from such phenomena of “clinic” as neurotic or psychopathic personality development, but if we rely primarily on psychoanalytic sources⁷, then according to them, there are actually no completely psychologically healthy people, and each of us can have certain developmental disorders, and mental and psychological health is only a conditional norm. I.e., the question of the extent to which other phenomena are included in the construct of personality maturity is open for the construct of personality maturity, and the signs of borderline personality, however more or less present at any given moment in each of us, are only a special case of our temporary “unhealthiness”. In this connection the moments of understanding and inclusion in the construct of personal maturity of such phenomena as, for example, the phenomenon of psychological infantilism or juvenile style of behavior, for example, according to the example of Kidalt, and also extremely uncertain from the scientific point of view, as well as the correlation or presence in it of such manifestations as trained helplessness or rigidity of personality traits as resistance to the new, seem even more important. In this connection, the question of correlation of psychological infantilism remains purely theoretical, and it, as we have seen, most often has partial manifestations, and, most likely, in this connection, in one way or another can be co-represented in the construct of personal maturity, with problems of conscience, or in the context of psychological understanding, with the personal Super-Ego? To clarify his thought, let us comment that O. Kernberg [5] correlated not only gross personality disorders - psychopathy, sadistic and masochistic manifestations, but also relatively unexpressed ones, such as intergenerational sexual relations, which are not rare nowadays, with the defect of the Super-Ego, and, at the same time, S.-M. Johnson⁸ correlated them with the defect of the Super-Ego. M. Johnson singled out as the “axial motto” of the psychopathic personality its defensivo “I’ll do you all!” (i.e. if such behavior is fully conscious), then it is easy to trace the behavioral moments of a more or less infantile personality in the “coarse”

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⁶ Павлова О.Н. Цивилизационный феномен нарциссизма: векторы объективизации в парадигме психоанализа. // Вопросы философии. 2010. № 6. С. 20-32.

⁷ Скворцова Л.Л. Сравнительный анализ имплицитных концепций личностной зрелости. // Сборник научных работ акадэмп паслядыпломнай адукацыи. - Минск: Государственное учреждение «Академия последипломного образования». 2016. №14. С. 380-395.

⁸ Солдатова Е.Л. Образ возраста как нормативный элемент культуры и идеальная форма развития // Вестник Южно-Уральского государственного университета. Серия: Психология. 2009. №5 (138). С. 62-70.

Finally, psychological infantilism, somehow manifesting itself in the ease of leading one's life, its hedonistic nature, partly in the desire to belong to and demonstrate oneself as a member of one or another "fashionable" social group, is a very modern and commonplace phenomenon, from which it follows, that such partial psychological infantilism itself is a cultural, historical, mass and almost "approved" phenomenon, but it follows from this that it is necessary to treat the structure of personal maturity as culturally, historically and socially determined within the framework of this or that formation.

exploitation of other people, and, at the same time, such exploitation is carried out so naturally and effortlessly that often even very outsiders easily respond to it, not just respond to it, but consider themselves almost obliged to help such a person, and "call" for help almost

The so-called "theatrical" or "stage" personalities (a term used to clarify the differences from the hysterical and demonstrative personality by O.F.Kernberg⁹, N.McWilliams¹⁰, D.Shapiro¹¹, etc.) are the best of all.

Description and solution of a scientific problem. It is clear that here it is more often a question of rather deep personality disorders, for which the conflict of the Super-Ego is obvious (more precisely, it can be poorly organized at all, "seduced" by the personality itself and as a consequence diffuse), but any presence of personal infantilism is very often associated with the absence of experience of shame in using other people, insufficiency of gratitude in their address, i.e., in other words, there is always a weakening of the Super-Ego structure, and in this connection where is the "value" of "inclusion" of manifestations of psychological infantilism in the construct of personal maturity, and, at the same time, let us recall that such a person can be wealthy and even very wealthy in many areas of life?

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⁹ Савков С.Н. Взросление в постнеклассическом социальном пространстве (социально-философский анализ). Хабаровск: Издательство Хабаровского государственного технического университета, 1999. 70 с.

¹⁰ Курышева О.В., Змиевская А.А. Временные и событийные нормы жизненного пути: timing // Вестник Волгоградского государственного университета. Серия 11: Естественные науки. 2014. № 3 (9). С. 62-70.

¹¹ Костромина С.Н., Зиновьева Е.В., Шаболтас А.В. Обоснование необходимости принятия закона о психологической помощи в Санкт-Петербурге: аналитическая записка // Вестник Санкт-Петербургского университета. Серия 12. Психология. Социология. Педагогика. 2011. Вып. 4. С. 309-330.

identify ourselves with it virtually blindly, especially since the imposition of some forms of behavior as a social reality.

In our opinion, there is another paradigm of existence: joint co-determination of such concepts as, in particular, personal maturity (with its criteria identified) with naturalness in manifestations of narcissism (to do what needs to be done and to do it in the best possible way; to do the best that can be done in the current situation, and to consider the evaluations of others and one's own comparison with others as an important, but by-product; to try to come as close as possible in one's knowledge to the objective cognition of the world at the given level of society's development; to reach the maximum possible level of knowledge of the world.

Otherwise, both personal autonomy, responsibility, resilience, reflexivity, and positive self-relationship, i.e., those and a lot of other components that stand out as components of a mature personality, will be only a set of declarations-simulacra, which sooner or later will be recognized by others as such, and the emptiness of the person demonstrating them will be obvious to them, no matter how much he strives to show himself and others the stages of his "personal growth" and the milestones of his "personal maturity".

It can be assumed that the consistent increase in interest in the problems of the phenomena denoted by the concept of "infantilism" is due to the change in the social guidelines of adulthood and, as a consequence, the de-standardization of its content and temporal characteristics. Modern researchers note the tendency to weaken the "markers of adulthood", the blurring of the content of social roles and ideas about the normative time of occurrence of life events corresponding to them, the increasing variability of models of adulthood and life path in general.

Our previous studies have shown that at the present stage the content of the concept of "personal infantilism" includes a wide range of cognitive, regulatory, reflexive and moral characteristics of personality, and this concept is opposed to the concept of "personal maturity", representing a pole of the social construct "personal maturity - personal infantilism", which has predominantly negative connotations. Self-esteem in the continuum "mature personality - infantile personality" in this regard is an emotionally intense task that inevitably arises before a person in the process of growing up, and the problem, designated as manifestations of "personal infantilism", quite often becomes a subject of discussion in the discourse of psychological counseling. Thus, analyzing the materials of the forum www.b17, which is one of the most popular Internet spaces, in which free interaction between professional psychologists and people seeking psychological help or simply interested in psychology is carried

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The following can be attributed to objective factors that influence the development of social infantilism in modern youth. First, it is the material insecurity and vulnerability of young people. Representatives of the young generation are not protected in economic terms, as most of them have the status of pupils and students, while the issue of employment is also problematic.

out, it can be noted that this evaluative construct is quite often used by people to identify their own psychological difficulties or problems attributed to third parties¹².

It is worth mentioning the change in the structure of needs. For a person who has reached the stage of maturity, first of all social, the needs for self-expression, recognition and belonging are relevant. Infantile personality is primarily concerned with the satisfaction of basic needs (physiological and security needs). Thus, the issues of self-realization, setting life goals, searching for oneself are in the background, which corresponds to the delayed process of maturation.

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Conclusion. In the modern world, many scientific concepts enter the everyday lexicon, where their primary meanings undergo more or less significant additions and distortions. The collision of scientific and everyday meanings of concepts in different discursive spaces increases the degree of their content uncertainty. A vivid example of this is the concept of “personal infantilism”, the content of which has undergone significant changes in recent decades due to the growing interest in the problems associated with understanding the regularities of growing up.

If initially with the help of the concept of “infantilism”, which appeared in medical discourse, denoted a special type of stoppage of

¹² Elkind D. The hurried child: growing up too fast too soon. Massachusetts: Perseus Publishing, 2001. 344 p.

personality development at the juvenile stage, then today the interpretation of “infantilism” has expanded beyond the subject area of psychiatry and clinical psychology. In psychology and related sciences, the term “personal infantilism” is actively used, applied to people whose behavior does not show any manifestations of developmental pathology, but their chosen ways of interacting with the world around them do not correspond to age-related explanations - society’s expectations of representatives of the adult period. Such behavior is interpreted as a manifestation of the gap between biological and sociocultural maturation of a person, which is expressed in the refusal of certain forms of social activity or social obligations in connection with the processes of growing up.

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