

Research of sex-role stereotypes of cruelty of teenagers

Investigación de los estereotipos de crueldad de los adolescentes sobre los roles sexuales

Galina A. Epanchintseva¹

Orenburg State University - Russia

yepanchintseva60@inbox.ru

Tatyana N. Kozlovskaya²

Orenburg State University - Russia

kozlovskajatn@mail.ru

Irina N. Bukhtiyarova³

Lomonosov Moscow State University - Russia

ira_irina@mail.ru

ABSTRACT

The relevance of this study is caused by the dramatic picture of the psychological theory of the development of the modern teenager in modern science. Rapidly changing social conditions at the beginning of the third Millennium need scientific understanding of possible future prospects of development of the period of childhood and adolescence. The efforts of those responsible for the training of educators, teachers, child psychologists, support for the institution of the family, conducting comprehensive studies of the modern teenager are needed. Of particular importance for the future of the theory and practice of upbringing of the teenager deserves the study of phenomenology for the development of a modern teenager, the rejection of rigid social stereotypes that are the choice of positive strategies in the relations with teenagers. Before the reader is an article in which the authors comprehend the existence of social stereotypes on the issue of gender differences in the manifestation of cruel behavior by teenagers. The authors presented a brief analysis of the scientific problem of cruelty. The problem field of empirical research is defined in the identification of sexual differences in the manifestation of types of cruelty and sexual differences in the attitude to cruel behavior. The study sample is correctly formed, the author's methods of ideographic type are presented, which have passed the stage of approbation in numerous studies. This study belongs to the category of point quasi-experiments. The stages of research are consistently presented. Qualitative analysis of empirical data is based on evidence-based methods of statistical thesaurus. The main conclusions of the study allow us to comprehend the existing social stereotypes of types of cruelty and attitudes to violence on a gender basis.

Keywords: cruelty, sex differences, social stereotypes, teenagers.

RESUMEN

La relevancia de este estudio es causada por la imagen dramática de la teoría psicológica del desarrollo del adolescente moderno en la ciencia moderna. Las condiciones sociales que cambian rápidamente a principios del tercer milenio necesitan una comprensión científica de las posibles perspectivas futuras de desarrollo del período de la infancia y la adolescencia. Se necesitan los esfuerzos de los responsables de la formación de educadores, maestros, psicólogos infantiles, apoyo a la institución de la familia, realización de estudios integrales del adolescente moderno. De particular importancia para el futuro de la teoría y la práctica de la educación del adolescente merece el estudio de la fenomenología para el desarrollo de un adolescente moderno, el rechazo de los estereotipos sociales rígidos que son la elección de estrategias positivas en las relaciones con los adolescentes. Ante el lector hay un artículo en el que los autores comprenden la existencia de estereotipos sociales sobre el tema de las diferencias de género en la manifestación de conductas crueles por parte de los adolescentes. Los autores presentaron un breve análisis del problema científico de la crueldad. El campo problemático de la investigación empírica se define en la identificación de las diferencias sexuales en la manifestación de los tipos de crueldad y las diferencias sexuales en la actitud ante el comportamiento cruel. La muestra de estudio se formó correctamente, se presentan los métodos de tipo ideográfico del autor, que han pasado la etapa de aprobación en numerosos estudios. Este estudio pertenece a la categoría de cuasi-experimentos puntuales. Las etapas de la investigación se presentan constantemente. El análisis cualitativo de los datos empíricos se basa en métodos de tesoro estadístico basados en la evidencia. Las principales conclusiones del estudio nos permiten comprender los estereotipos sociales existentes de los tipos de crueldad y actitudes hacia la violencia sobre una base de género.

Palabras clave: crueldad, diferencias sexuales, estereotipos sociales, adolescentes.

¹ Corresponding author. Doctor of Psychology, Orenburg State University, Orenburg, Russian Federation

² Candidate of pedagogical sciences, assistant professor, Orenburg State University, Orenburg, Russian Federation

³ Candidate of pedagogical sciences, assistant professor, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russian Federation

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INTRODUCTION

To the subject of cruelty at all times treated invariably philosophers, historians, writers, cultural experts, psychologists, psychiatrists (Dzyaloshinskiy, 2011; Bandura, Walters, 2000; Guggenbuhl, A, 2013; Berkowitz, 2001; Enikolopov, 2001; Zmanovskaya, 2003; Kostikova, 2005; Abdullaev, Abdullayeva, 2009; Barkovskaya, 2015; Koltsov, 2012). Nevertheless, the modern science does not have generalizing researches of anthropological or culturological orientation. The most remarkable studies of cruelty in historical retrospect are the works of sh. Letourneau, E. Taylor J. Fraser's. Description of psychological observations of the phenomenon of cruelty in the works of A. Adler, V. James, P. B. Gannushkin, R. Kraft-Ebbing, CH. Lombroso, V. Reich, Z. Freud, K. Jung prompted to new studies of the phenomenon. Research R. Ardi, A. bass, A. Bandura, L. Berkowitz, D. Zillmann, B. Skinner, V. Frankl, E. Fromm considered cruelty in connection to the aggression, destructive behavior of the individual. Again, there are questions about the psychological nature of violence. The results of sociological studies by E. Durkheim, M. Weber, E. Giddens and many others played an important role in answering many questions and etc. Well-Known researches L. Berkowitz, A. Guggenmos, O. F. Kernberg, M. Klein, L., Lewis, D. Meyers, G. Parens, V. Reich is the first attempt to isolate the construct of cruelty from the tangle of psychological and socio-cultural reality in a separate concept (Guggenbuhl, 2013, Berkowitz, 2001).

A number of researchers of cruelty (Igli, J. Steffen, K. Lagerspetz) came to the conclusion that the cruelty is of genetic nature. Men are more prone to violence, women are less cruel. However, it should be noted that in the first years of the child's life cruelty is not expressed, which indicates that this characteristic is not innate (Barkovskaya, 2015).

Cruelty as a personality trait in adolescence takes on a new level; the researchers of different scientific disciplines have noted the ambiguous nature of its symptoms. Some researchers note that the characteristics of adolescent cruelty are largely determined in accordance with gender (D. Krech, R. Crutchfield, N. Livson. However, the current empirical data John Cagon and H. Moss demonstrated a lack of quality of empathy, unmotivated, even pathological cruelty, its horrific senselessness girl's teens (Reshetnikov, 2015; Kapustin, 2016; Asmolov, 2010; Rean, 2015; Bandura, Walters, 2000; Kostikova, 2005). To understand the gender aspects of such a complex phenomenon as cruelty in adolescence, point studies, new research methods are needed.

Objectives: In this regard, the lack of theoretical interpretations and limited empirical research data, we aim to study the features of this phenomenon of cruelty in accordance with gender.

We have decided on the following stages of the study. At the first stage, we revealed the semantic significance of cruelty as a psychological predicate, according to gender, and then gave a gender analysis of the manifestations of cruel behavior and understanding of the attitude to this phenomenon of adolescents. The study was based on the author's methodological apparatus, compiled in a geographical context.

Characteristics of the sample. One hundred seventy-five people were studied by clinical-psychological and experimental-psychological methods. The average age of the respondents was 14.1 years. The sample included 67 teenage girls and 108 teenage boys.

The study was conducted on the bases of several educational institutions

1. Akbulak Polytechnic College (23 %). All subjects had incomplete secondary special education; were trained on one specialty, were representatives of a middle class, are socialized, did not commit an offense, had satisfactory mental and physical health. Also, the pupils of this technical school consisting on the account in a children's room of militia (5 %) were presented.
2. Secondary school of Orenburg (51 %), students in grades 6-7. Respondents had incomplete secondary General education, socialized, did not commit an offense, and had satisfactory mental and physical health. The families of the subjects can be classified as families with average material wealth, adolescents are provided with the necessary clothing, have money for pocket expenses. Families can be called socially stable; the psychological situation in the family is stable.
3. Students of the world Association of Russian martial arts, "Spartak" (21 %). The group was represented by both boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 15.

The study was organized in such a way that the sample was the most representative; it included teenagers studying in different educational institutions. The sample was divided into girls – 38.3 %, boys – 61.7 %.

METHODS

The methodical apparatus of the research includes the following ideographic author's methods:

- Content analysis of the concept of «cruelty»;
- The author's technique "Types of cruelty" is designed to identify the predominant type of cruelty. The method consists of four scales: verbal video violence, cruelty indirect verbal, indirect, physical violence,

direct physical violence;

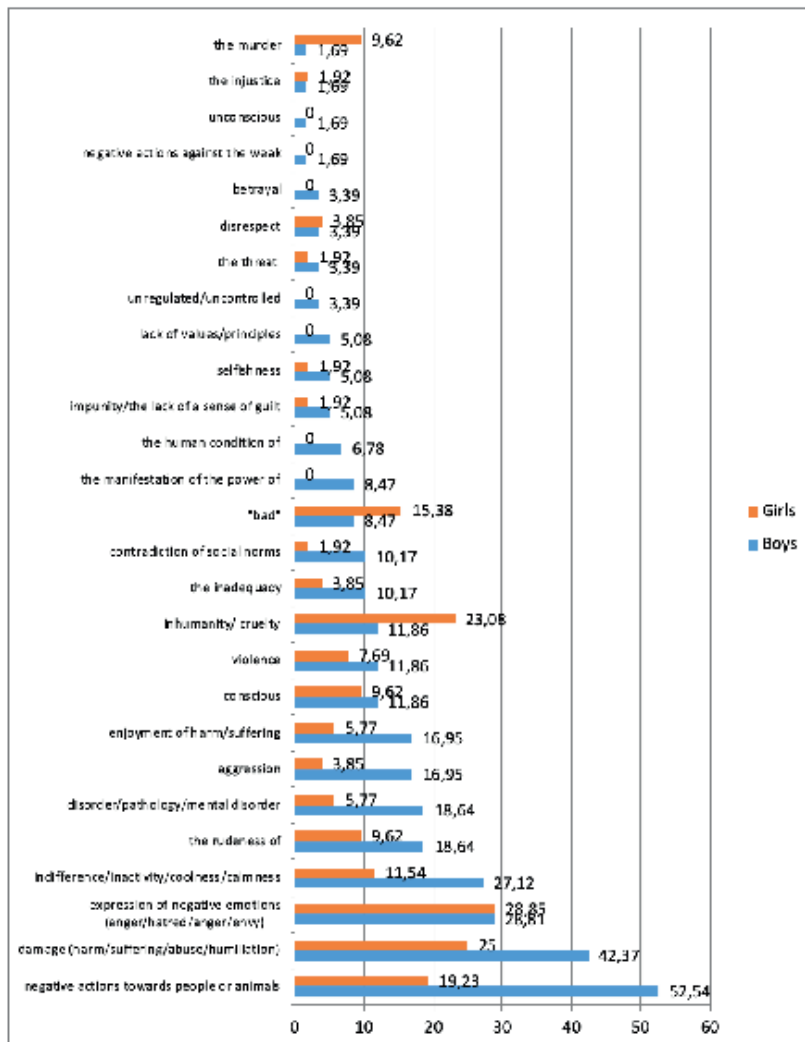
- Author profile "Attitude to violence". The questionnaire aims to study the relationship of man to the "cruelty" through direct assessment of violent actions. The technique consists of 20 situations. Situations are divided into four groups: cruelty to animals, cruelty to elders, cruelty to peers, and cruelty to the younger ones. The respondents had to assess their perception of story-telling. We offered the following evaluation options: justifying (fully supporting the behavior of the characters in the story); neutral (indifferent); affective (very strong emotional shock and inability to assess what is happening; condemning at the emotional level; condemning at the social level. The fully justifying position was evaluated in five points, condemning at the social level in one point. All the others were distributed from the highest to the lowest score.

- Mathematical and statistical apparatus includes descriptive statistics, frequency analysis, student T-test.

RESULTS

At the first stage of the study we conducted a content analysis of the definition of cruelty (picture 1). Teenagers were asked to rank the concept of cruelty, to make a more precise limit of cruelty, to express associative representations of this phenomenon.

Boys and girls were equally neutral about violence as a violation of social norms. Only one tenth of the teenagers noticed that the brutal actions contrary to social norms and the existing morality. We believe that violence is so common in the daily lives of our adolescents that they do not associate violence with violations of the law and social norms. Teenagers note that cruelty brings great harm and damage to people. However, these are manifestations of emotional States, which can not cope with their individual peers. Disapproval of these youth also did not cause. It should be noted that girls gave more detailed definitions of the concept of cruelty. Girls, unlike boys, more often gave estimated conclusions of cruelty, than boys. Girls are also more often expressed the condemnation of cruelty. Girls were more sensitive, reacting to cruelty to younger and weaker. Teenage girls worried for a long time, the manifestation of such types of brutality towards the younger and weaker. Teenage boys did not focus on such situations. Boys are more likely cruelty, as a phenomenon associated with the manifestation of power a more powerful person. Such people have not been convicted by adolescent boys. Boys were more likely than girls to point out that brutality could be an uncontrollable event that was also not censured.



Picture 1 - Results of the content analysis “Definition of cruelty by boys and girls”.

The next stage of the study “Features of cruelty in adolescence.” The main results of the study of cruelty in a group of adolescents enrolled in school are presented. Teenage cruelty we conditionally allocated on the two most important species. The first – when the young person was pioneering forces when he likes to humiliate and to inflict pain. And second – when it shows the cruelty of mimicking a reference for his peers.

In this case, we focused on a detailed study of adolescents enrolled in secondary school. The results of the study of cruelty in this group of subjects are presented below.

The study of cruelty in a group of adolescent schoolchildren using the author’s method “Types of cruelty” showed that the level of severity of the results are either medium or low level of manifestation in both boys and girls. On a scale of “direct physical cruelty” among respondents 55.4 % have a low result, 38.3% - the average result and 6.3 % revealed a high result. No significant gender differences were discovered. Such results, where no gender-based differences were found in the manifestation of physical cruelty, again demonstrate a new trend in the development of adolescent girls. Adolescent girls are as active in physical abuse as boys.

From the results of the study, the maximum number of points was scored on the scale of “direct physical cruelty” (21.9 points). In second place are the results on the scale of “indirect physical cruelty” (21.4 points). 62 % of respondents showed an average level of severity of this level of cruelty and 38 % of respondents showed a low level. However, the average values of the “indirect physical cruelty” scale exceed the average values on other scales. We believe that this result may indicate that adolescents find it difficult to breed the concept of violence, aggression and cruelty.

The next in terms of points (third place) scale is “direct verbal cruelty” (20.9 points). It should be noted that the level of severity of direct verbal cruelty in this group of respondents is low in 53 % of respondents and in 47 % of respondents the average level of severity prevails. Verbal cruelty is more characteristic of adolescent girls, as in numerous similar studies. Girls are more likely to resort to verbal brutality than boys.

And in fourth place are the results on the scale of “indirect verbal cruelty” (17.2 points).

The results obtained in the study indicate the predominance of direct physical and verbal cruelty. Moreover, the absence of a high level of severity of these types of cruelty and a tendency to a low level on most scales characterizes this sample as a group with high values of self-control. A group of respondents is able to cope with difficult circumstances, not to undergo fleeting manifestations of emotions.

The smallest average value was obtained on the Anger scale (affective component), that is, the readiness of adolescents to display negative feelings at the slightest excitement (includes physiological arousal and preparation for aggression - anger) is not expressed. As we can note for the “Anger” scale, the prevalence of the average level of severity (74.5) is most characteristic. Low levels occur in 14.9 % of cases, high in 10.6 % of cases. The scale called “Hostility” in this case is not expressed. However, 53.2 % are characterized by an average manifestation of hostility. For 28.6 % is low. A high level of hostility occurs in 19 % of cases. According to the study, adolescent boys were more likely to show the highest levels of cruelty.

The results obtained in the analysis of the author’s questionnaire “Attitude to Cruelty” have significant statistical values by gender. The features of cruel behavior of adolescents studying at school and college, who are registered, studying at the Spartak Association with regard to gender was considered. Situations presented to adolescents for assessment were divided into four groups: cruelty to animals, cruelty to elders, cruelty to peers, and cruelty to younger ones.

Table 1 - Comparative analysis of indicators of boys and girls according to the methodology “Attitude to cruelty” (p <0.001).

	<i>ca</i>	<i>cy</i>	<i>cp</i>	<i>ce</i>
Girls	1,49	1,98	1,60	1,91
Boys	2,34	3,59	3,49	1,86
t- Student.	5,52	5,26	4,64	6,38

Note: ca - cruelty to animals, cy- cruelty to younger, cp – cruelty to peers, ce– cruelty to elders.

Table 1 shows that the results obtained from male respondents are higher than those of girls. The analysis of primary results showed that boys in the judgments justify behavior of heroes of plots more often, or treat them neutrally. Girls, on the other hand, more often condemn the heroes of situations that show open hostility and aggression.

With regard to cruelty to animals, the results obtained in the study suggest that girls are more likely to present an assessment of condemnation to persons who show cruelty to animals, showing pity for them. Girls are more likely to evaluate the behavior of the characters of the proposed subjects in terms of emotional and social condemnation. In boys, this figure is slightly higher, but more than half of teenage boys also cruelty to animals is estimated in terms of condemnation. The group of respondents did not identify those who would justify this behavior.

Cruelty to younger girls is more evident at the level of affective assessment (29 people), as well as condemning (37 people). When evaluating some scene clips only 1 girl has evaluated the behavior of the characters towards the younger age-neutral. In the boys participating in the survey, the assessment had different values. Of 108 boys 26 has justified the behavior of story characters, 54 people expressed a neutral attitude, and twenty-eight condemned the brutal behavior of the characters towards the younger one. Additional conversation with the people who chose justifying or neutral assessment allowed finding out some nuances. The people explained that the younger one showed himself disrespectful to the heroes and aggressors in the commercials did not listen, so I deserve such attitude. Some have said with confidence that only through physical punishment can obedience and submission be achieved.

It should be noted that in boys, the results of the evaluation of maltreatment towards younger children are similar to the results of the evaluation towards peers. The manifestation of cruelty towards peers in boys is more pronounced than in girls. Perhaps this is due to the desire to be a leader in the reference group, to subordinate others, to resist the rules of society, to stand out from others, to show their omnipotence, strength, ability to violate generally accepted norms. In adolescence, there is an active search for yourself, your place in the world, including among peers. In adolescence, the violation of norms and recklessness are perceived as something that distinguishes such a teenager from the General background. Moreover, the self-assertion of the adolescent aggressor occurs against the background of bullying the younger or weaker physically. Both boys and girls often justify brutality towards younger children, believing that younger children should obey and obey them.

In girls, the results on the scales of “cruelty to the younger” and “cruelty to the older” have almost the same values. This result is significantly lower for boys than in other schools. In conversation, on a question of how children behave in relation to parents or adults such answers were received: ignore, don't talk, pretend that don't hear, don't pay to parents attention when those want to talk, don't answer phone calls, say that to them once, are occupied, “leave off”. At the same time, parents “lose their temper”, trying in any way to “force” the child to pay attention to themselves: turn off the computer, take the gadget, etc.

With the help of student's t - test, we checked the accuracy of the differences in the results. We can say that boys and girls have significant statistical differences in relation to violent behavior.

In boys, these indicators are higher (the accuracy of the difference $p < 0.001$). That is, boys are more positive about the brutality exhibited both in General and separately: animals, junior, senior and peers.

CONCLUSION

1. Cruelty, so characteristic of modern adolescents, as our study has shown, is the most popular repertoire of behavioral patterns of adolescents who are not ready to solve existential issues on their own.
2. Analysis of the associative phenomenon the “cruelty” is formed of teenagers today on the border 10-11 years. Cruelty in most adolescents is associated primarily with strength, with the ability to defend their interests and the interests of the reference group. Adolescent boys and adolescent girls are equally neutral about violence as a violation of social norms. It is revealed that only a tenth of teenagers condemns any cruel acts, and evaluates them as a violation of social norms and existing morality.
3. The comparative analysis of “direct physical cruelty” revealed no significant differences between adolescent boys and adolescent girls. Adolescent girls are as proactive in physical abuse as boys. “Verbal cruelty” is more typical for teenage girls. Girls are still more likely to resort to verbal abuse than boys. Teenage boys were more likely to discover the highest values of cruelty.
4. Adolescent boys are more positive about cruelty to animals, younger, older and peers than adolescent girls. Teenage girls more emotionally condemn cruel acts; more often agree that such a repertoire is contrary to social norms. Teenage girls often react to what cruelty the animals are exposed and to the younger one. Teenage girls like teenage boys do not condemn cruelty to their peers.

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