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PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LIFE-WORLD AMONG THE ELDERLY WITH EXPERIENCE OF ELDERLY ABUSE

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The main contradiction that determines the need for scientific development of the problem of the gerontological violence psychology is, on the one hand, the increase in the number of elderly people and the task of protecting them from violence, maintaining the quality of life, on the other hand - the limited scientific data on the gerontological violence psychology. The average prevalence of elder abuse is 4 to 6% (Etienne G., 2002). High rates of suicide are recorded among people aged 80 years and over (Pridemore W.A., 2003).

Purpose of the study is to identify the conditions and features of the experience of gerontological abuse in the structure of the life-world of elderly.

Methods: transpective analysis; questionnaire for the study of elderly abuse (Puchkov P.V.); the Questionnaire of the openness degree; "Psychological autobiography" (Korzhova E.Yu.); the Questionnaire of quality of life SF-36 (Ware J.E.); "Diagnosis coping strategies" (Heim E.). Statistical methods: descriptive statistics, U Mann-Whitney criterion, factor and regression analysis. The sample included 277 people aged 55 to 85 years: with experience of gerontological abuse - 204; without it - 73 people (men – 56, women – 221 people).

Persons with experience of gerontological abuse significantly more often experience moral and physical suffering from humiliating, offensive words from the outside, loneliness, helplessness. The regression analysis results indicate the possibility to consider the closeness of the psychological system in the social world as a predictor of the deterioration of vitality (no feeling of fullness of strength, energy). Reduced physical functioning and deterioration of somatic health, for example, the performance of daily activities related to physical stress, pain, are directly related to the lack of openness of the psychological system in the world of culture, where they can find information about opportunities (institutions), ways to improve their physical well-being. Closeness to the world of culture is accompanied by closeness to themselves, so older people cannot both extract useful information from the objective world, and use it to improve their physical condition. The degree of openness of the psychological system can act as a predictor of the quality of life in old age.

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