Methods

We use a pack of valid procedures:

- Purpose-in-Life Test (modified by D.A. Leontiev);
- the Rokeach Value Survey;
- Parental Attitude Research Instrument (modified by T.V. Nescheret);
- Modified Albert Ellis’s procedure of revealing conventional-stereotyped social attitudes.

To study components of parents’ attitude to children’s upbringing we have developed a special questionnaire determining personal characteristics inherent in men and women and their part in children’s upbringing.

Results

The results of “Purpose-in-Life Test” show that the highest indicator of life’s comprehension is in the group of the women with children, and the lowest is in the group of the women without children. However, there is no significant difference (Mann-Whitney U-test). In general, the group of the women with children has the highest results in three of five scales (the purpose, the process, and the result of life). It can testify that these women more often think about the meaning of their life, and, in particular, about its future, present and spent periods. The group of the women without children has the lowest levels in four of five scales (the purpose, the result, the control-Self locus, and the control-life locus). These indicate some dissatisfaction, in comparison with other groups, with the spent and the present periods of life, and, as result, absence of special plans for the future, and also their higher requirements to themselves and to people around. The maximum results in the control-Self locus and the control-life locus scales of men without children can testify their confidence that they control their life, and also, to some extend, their self-confidence and desire to present oneself as a powerful person.

The group of the men with children is characterized by average indexes in all scales, except the process of life scale where they have the lowest results. It testifies their dissatisfaction with the present life.

“The Rokeach Value Survey” shows that “love”, “health”, “active life” and “happy family life” are the most significant terminal values (values-purposes) for all groups except for the group of the men without children. “The beauty of nature and art”, “entertainments”, “happiness of others” and “creativity” are of the least significance. As for the instrumental values (values-resources), “accuracy”, “good breeding” and “cheerfulness” (except for the group of the women with children) are the most important values, whereas “irreconciliability to demerits of others” is of no importance for all groups.

According to “Modified Albert Ellis’s procedure of revealing conventional-stereotyped social attitudes”, it is possible to draw a conclusion that the men are more rational, than the women. In all scales the men, irrespective of their experience of parenthood, have higher results and, hence, the women have more evident irrational attitudes of thinking. “Parental Attitude Research Instrument” allows us to state that the attitude to their role in the family, optimal emotional contact, emotional distance to the child, and focus on the child significantly differ in men and women, and they also differ depending on presence or absence of the experience of bringing up children.

Conclusions

Summarizing the research it is possible to state that the sense-value attitudes of men and women significantly differ depending on presence of men and women significantly differ depending on presence or absence of their experience in bringing up children, and on the sex of the parents. Women have more clearly defined irrational social attitudes irrespective of experience of bringing up children. Men are more strict and short-tempered parents than women, whereas women are more disposed to self-sacrifice.

Attitude to their role in the family, optimal emotional contact, emotional distance to the child, and focus on the child differ in men and women, and also differ depending on presence or absence of experience in parenting. The leading role in upbringing process belongs to women. The revealed features of potential parents’ sense-value attitudes can predict their future upbringing strategies.

The research has proved that the ideas of respondents about characteristic features of upbringing and also understanding of its process, style and educational methods differ in men and women and depend on presence or absence of experience in parenting.

References

Krutel’eva, L.Ju. (2012). Life-sense strategy as a trajectory of a person’s development: theoretical research.