

Family Life For the Institutionalized and Non-Institutionalized Teenage Girls : Case Study - Romania



Education

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Helena Maria SABO

Faculty of Psychology and Science of Education, Babes-Bolyai University, Sindicatelor Street, No. 7, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

ABSTRACT

According the UNICEF documents, institutionalized children are facing different types of difficulties (impossibility of being raised by their own families because of the loss of one or both parents separation from one's family because of an armed conflict, because of abandonment, of rejection, of child abuse, of parents being deprived of their parental rights, of parents divorcing etc.).

In this paper is analyzed the institutionalized and not institutionalized young girls opinion on family life, in especially in Cluj-Napoca area. This study analyzed the opinion of young girls on marriage, their knowledge regarding sexual relationships, their attitude, and the opinion of the young girls on the quality of the future partner.

This study show that the opinion about family, the education, attitude, life expectations differ at institutionalized and not institutionalized young girls.

INTRODUCTION

Marriage (as in DEX) "represents the legal union, free consent between a man and a woman to start a family" (DEX, 1998). To love a traditional family, the "normal" one it means to esteem his values and their possibilities by promoting them always, to discover the dangers and evils that threaten the family to know how to beat them (Holenstein A., 2007)

Research concerning life conditions and their effect on the development of institutionalized children are more and more numerous. John Bowlby and M. D. Ainsworth (1956) claimed – and their opinion has been widely acknowledged by the scientific community (though not entirely) - that life in an institution have a negative impact on a child's development because:

- delays physical and motor development and, therefore, increases the risk of diseases;
- delays mental and speech development;
- results in lack of adaptability and of self-control, and in apathy, indifference, and psychic unease;
- it pushes to nervous breakdown;
- it results in behavioral problems: hyperactivity, lack of focus, restless sleep, excessive need for affection, need for the attention from the other; selfishness while playing with other children, lack for the experience in playing with toys, insubordination, crises of fury;
- it results in low social adaptability, in rigidity in social relationships, in a lack of social feeling, and in a higher frequency of the antisocial behavior and delinquency;
- it results in difficulty in making friends at teenage, in maintaining friendship and affective relationships, in difficulty of managing money, and in difficulty in organizing and leading one's life.

Starting from these considerations, we analyzed comparatively the vision of family life of both institutionalized and not institutionalized young girls.

We want to highlight the importance of school and of the family in the development of a child and how these help them to face the challenges of life. The teacher's educations are important, by how they transmit the information, fully and confidently (Bhatt, 2013).

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The goal in this paper consisted in analyzing the opinion on family life in both cases institutionalized and not institutionalized young girl, especial in Cluj-Napoca area.

The objectives of the research were:

- to analyze the opinion of teenage girl on marriage;
- to analyze the process of establishing relationships between young girls and the opposite sex;

- emphasizes the set of knowledge concerning sexual relationship in young girls.

The hypotheses of the research are there:

- hypothesis 1: Is a correlation between the impact of institution on the young girl's interest in having children;
- hypothesis 2: The lack of a family model drives young girls towards concubines rather than towards marriage;
- hypothesis 3: Raising boys and girl separately in institutions can be correlated whit the difficulty of establishing relationships with the opposite sex (Telleri F. 2003).

The research sample was made up of 120 institutionalized and 120 not institutionalized young girls, with age 18-27 from Cluj-Napoca, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Data show that there is a correlation between the institution where young girls are raised and the low interest in having children, while in not institutionalized young girls the interest in having a family and children (in most cases, two children) is high. The wish to have a family reaches 96.66% in young not institutionalized girls compared to 46.66% in institutionalized young girls. This can be correlated with the lack of the family pattern during childhood and to the fear of future, living in a hostile environment is a painful experience that cannot be forgotten. Lacking a good family example, young girls ignore the fact that marriage can be a pleasant life experience. This is why we need to implement a family pattern in institutions so that children can enjoy full psychosocial development.

We present below only four of the questions of the questionnaire we have applied and the responses of the two lots of young girls: institutionalized and control ones.

Opinion on marriage. The opinion of the young girls on the institution of marriage is represented in table 1.

Table 1. Young girl's opinion on marriage

Attitude	I* Young girls	N-I** Young girls
Positive	84 (70%)	104 (86.6%)
Negative	28 (23.4%)	8 (6.6%)
Don't know	8 (6.6%)	8 (6.6%)

***Institutionalized, ** Non-Institutionalized**

Most institutionalized young girls have a positive opinion on marriage, but the percentage of the young girl's negative opinion is also high. There is the same positive attitude in non-institutionalized young girls 86.6%, while the negative attitude is very low, which means that being married is something desirable, an accomplishment, a goal in life.

The Qualities of the Future Partner. The opinion of the young girls on the quality of the future partner is represented below (see table 2).

Table 2. Opinion of the young girls on the quality of the future partner

Qualities	I* Young girls	N-I** Young girls
Careful	8 (6.67%)	4 (3.33%)
Good parent	4 (3.33%)	12 (10%)
Honest	28 (23.34%)	60 (50%)
Intelligent	32 (26.68%)	8 (6.67%)
Respectful	20 (16.66%)	4 (3.33%)
Romantic	16 (13.32%)	24 (20%)
Wealthy	12 (10%)	8 (6.67%)

***Institutionalized, ** Non-Institutionalized**

The above table show that institutionalized young girls wish to have intelligent partners (26.68%), followed by honesty with a comparable share (23.34%). As the opinions of the young not institutionalized girls, they wish to have an honest and trustful partner (50%), followed by romanticism with a smaller share (20%). All this shows that young girls, no matter their raising environment, need to have somebody reliable in their life.

Marriage Intention. The young girl’s intention to get married is represented in the following table.

Table 3. Young girl’s marriage intention

Attitude	I* Young girls	N-I** Young girls
Positive	56 (46.66%)	116 (96.66%)
Negative	32 (26.67%)	4 (3.34%)
Don’t know	32 (26.67%)	-

***Institutionalized, ** Non-Institutionalized**

The perception of the young girls that do not wish to get married (26.67%) could be related to the lack of a family pattern during childhood. On the other hand, the high percentage of the young girls that have not made an opinion on getting married (26.67%) could be related to their fear of future.

For institutionalized young girls, living in a hostile environment was a painful experience that they cannot forget. Having no other example of family, they are not aware of that marriage can be a happy life experience. Young girls that have been not institutionalized do not reject marriage (96.66%). Being married and having children is a joyful, fulfilling experience.

The Perception on marriage of the young girl’s, how they see the marriage is represented in table 4.

Table 4. The young girl’s perception on marriage

Attitude	I* Young girls	N-I** Young girls
Positive	76 (63.34%)	92 (76.66%)
Negative	40 (33.33%)	28 (23.34%)
Don’t know	4 (3.33%)	-

***Institutionalized, ** Non-Institutionalized**

Both categories of young girls have a positive opinion (63.34% and 76.66%, respectively). There are also young girls that think it is not good for a girl to get married. This is due to social prejudices.

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of our research are the following:

- Institutionalized young girls do not wish to get married because they had no family and they do not know what having a family means: according to their responses, they are afraid of what marriage could mean, they do not know how they should behave in a family and, for fear of making mistakes, they’d rather not get married but live in a concubinage in most cases.
- Institutionalized young girls would like to have no more than one child, mainly because they would like to provide them with the best they can, all this because of their material (financial) condition. They would like to provide what did not have and, if they will have several children’s, this would not be possible.
- However, the research in the field shows that the lack of sexual education turns institutionalized young girls into mother of more than two children, so that everything turns into a vicious cycle in which, as mothers, they will also abandon their children because of material needs. They will be in finally as their parents.
- Because of their lack of communication with young boys, institutionalized young girls get to have an improper type of relationship with the opposite sex: they do not know how to communicate and therefore, they end in sentimental failure.
- The need to implement a family pattern in institutions to provide children full psycho-social development.
- The fundamental task of the staff in such institutions is mainly to help the children gain self-respect. Children need to know they are somebody, that they have a certain identity, a certain value, that they are people capable of projecting their own future both theoretically and practically.
- The support institutions for children in need should substitute affective relationships, as much as possible.
- As for the period of deinstitutionalization, there is an acute need for more training for the young people leaving the institutions. They should be taught how to live a social life without crimes and how to be on their own.

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