Conflicts in student families

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Abstract: It is well known that student families tend to have more conflicts. A number of articles by young Russian scientists and students are devoted to this problem. However, the reasons for this situation are not clear. The purpose of the article is to identify the major trends typical of student families. The results of our pilot study helped us to shed light on the main issues that arise in student families. The study attempts to confirm two of the three hypotheses that we developed at the beginning of our study. Student families are supposed to have the same problems as non-student families. But the aim of our study is to show how the factor "students" affects the conflict of such families. The comparison of student families with non-student families is beyond the scope of the study.
Keywords: conflict, student family, relationship, survey, interview, respondents

We focus on families in a registered or unregistered relationship in which one or both spouses are students. The paper attempts to consider causes of conflicts in student families.

We have developed the following hypotheses:

1. In financially secure student families, people are less likely to have conflicts.

2. A cause of a conflict may be the discrepancy or inconsistency of mutual role expectations and claims.

3. The presence and the number of children affect the level of conflict.

In the course of our study we interviewed families in a registered or unregistered relationship in which one or both spouses are students. It is worth noting that this study is of pilot character, as we intend only to identify the major trends.

In the course of this study, 23 families have been interviewed and divided into three categories:

1. The families in which one student is a wife – 9 families.

2. The families in which both spouses are students – 11 families.

3. The families in which the student is a husband– 3 families.

Most students from all the categories of families study full - time , and about 10% of the respondents study part time. As a matter of fact, they are mostly men.

To the question "Do conflicts often arise in your family" the majority of the respondents have answered that "They do not practically arise". But in the first category in a quarter of the families conflicts arise every day. This led to the conclusion that this category of families is the most conflictive.

We presumed that one of the factors of conflict is low material security, as students do not work. Based on the results of the survey, in the first category of families both spouses work in half of the cases. And in about half of the cases, only a non-student spouse works. In the family category, where both spouses are students, approximately 60% of the time one of the spouses works, in a quarter of the families both spouses work, despite the fact that they are students.In families where the husband is a student, both are employed. Thus, student employment does not prevent conflict, because in the third category of families where husbands are fully employed, the level of conflict is in the second place. Presumably, by combining study with work a spouse earns little and this becomes a reaon for conflict. The analysis of the proportion of families of different categories on the basis of the presence and the number of children did not give grounds to speak about the impact of this factor on the level of conflict.

Based on the data we received, we can conclude that the category of families in which the student is a woman, is the most conflictive. On the second place there is the third category of families where the student is the husband. And the second category of families where both spouses are students is less conflictive. We have made an assumption that it might be explained by coincidence of value orientations.

It should also be noted that there are higher rates of conflict in families where spouses do not support the partner's desire to study, as well as in families with children, compared to those consisting only of spouses.

We processed the data obtained using the method of mathematical statistics named Pearson's coefficient In this part of the work we analyze the answers to questions about the frequency of conflicts in the family, about the attitude of the spouse who is not a student to study, and children in the family. In order to process the data by the selected method, the nominal scale is converted into the ordinal scale (i.e. the serial number depends on the level of well-being, how it follows from the answer: the safest – highest points, and the least satisfactory 0 points). We assumed that the factors of conflict are financial well-being, leisure, subjective factors of student status, the presence of children and their age, and the number of them. However, the statistically significant correlations were found only between the level of conflict and the low subjective acceptance by spouses of the student status of their partner. In addition, we have discovered the significant trends to observe conflicts in families where the spouse is not ready to tolerate the fact that their partner performs worse household duties due to employment, as well as the risk of conflict was higher in families with older children. Conclusion: The study tested the working hypothesis.As a result, the hypothesis (in financially wealthy student families, conflicts are less likely to occur due to fewer reasons for conflicts) has not been confirmed. We

have also seen that the cause of conflicts is likely connected with the discrepancy of mutual role expectations and the presence and the number of children also affects the level of conflict.

Let's try to analyze the situation and try to find a solution. For analysis, we use the method and tools of cognitive modeling. The key point of cognitive analysis is that the most complex problems and trends in the development of the system should be reflected in a simplified form in the model, investigating possible scenarios for the emergence of crisis

The analysis of the percentage distribution of families of different categories on the basis of the presence and number of children did not give grounds to speak about the impact of this factor on the level of conflict. Based on the above, we can conclude that the category of families in which the student is a woman, is the most conflict. On the second place on conflict there is a third category of families where the student is the spouse. And the second category of families where both spouses are students is less conflict – thanks to the coincidence of value orientations can explain the lowest conflict in the second category of families. It should also be noted that there are higher rates of conflict in families where spouses do not support the partner's desire to study, as well as in families with children, compared to those consisting only of spouses.

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Conflicts in the student family

Subjective acceptance   **Children (number and age)**
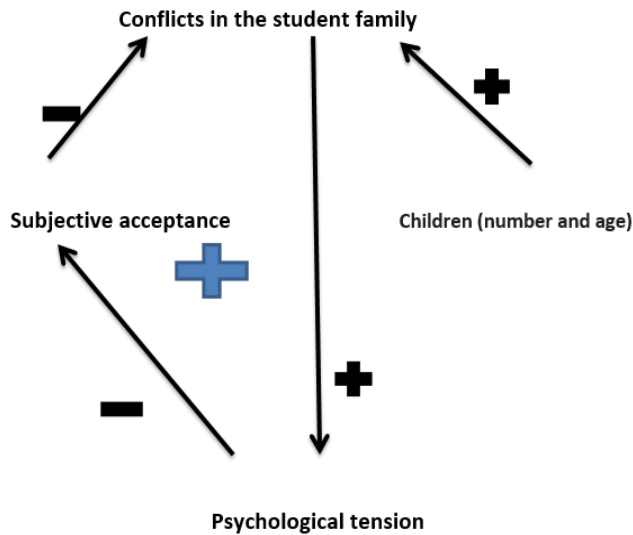
Psychological tension

Fig. 1 Cognitive conflict map in a student family.

The model is a positive feedback loop showing that reducing the subjective acceptance by the second spouse of the student status of his partner leads to increased conflict in the family. The growth of the latter determines the growth of psychological tension (positive connection). In turn, psychological tension is inversely proportional to the level of subjective acceptance of student status by the spouse. The model also specifies the "Children" factor, revealed during the statistical processing. Therefore, we propose the following model - Fig. 2

Professional Mediator

Conflicts in the student family

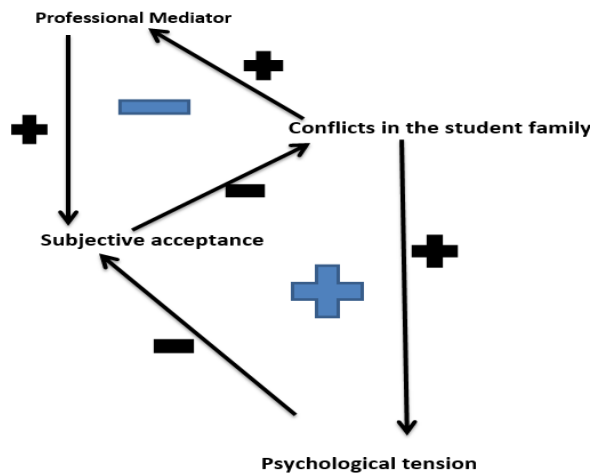**Subjective acceptance**

Psychological tension

Fig 2. Cognitive map of conflict reduction in student families

To reduce the effect of the conflict factor "subjective acceptance" is possible with the participation of a professional mediator - a psychologist, a conflictologist, whose positive participation will increase the subjective acceptance by the spouse of the status of a student of his spouse. The formed negative contour (stabilizing) can balance the positive contour presented initially.

Conclusion: The study tested the working hypotheses.As a result, the hypothesis (in financially wealthy student families, conflicts are less likely to occur due to fewer reasons for conflicts) has not been confirmed. We have also seen that the cause of conflicts is likely connected with the discrepancy of mutual role expectations and the presence and the number of children also affects the level of conflict.