

SOCIOLOGY - СОЦИОЛОГИЯ**KAKHI KOPALIANI****Doctor of psychology, Professor – Sukhumi State University (Georgia)****TAMAR ADEISHVILI****Doctor of social sciences, Associate Professor – Sukhumi State University (Georgia)****CHARACTERISTICS OF AGGRESSION MANIFESTATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEFENSE MECHANISMS IN CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT AND NON-IMMIGRANT PARENTS****DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52340/isj.2024.27.03>**

The role of parents in raising a child is very important, it can be said that it is irreplaceable and incomparable. It is in the family that the child's fundamental values are formed, therefore the role of parents is very important in terms of social development. In the process of proper upbringing in the family, moral norms and basic values, which become the basis of humane behavior are formed to the child. It is clear that the role of parents and their attitude towards them has a significant impact on their upbringing process.

The contribution of parents in maintaining the psychological balance of children and forming a healthy psyche is immeasurably great. However, due to increasing emigration in recent years, many children are growing up away from their parents. Every year more citizens leave the country. The main reason is unfavorable working conditions and tough economic times in the country. According to the data of 2022, the number of people who left Georgia was 125269 (National Statistical Service of Georgia). It should be noted that most of the emigrants are women, and the main reason for their leaving the country is to create appropriate living conditions for their children. However, it is undeniable that only financial security does not involve the existence of all the necessary conditions for children to be brought up properly [1].

Despite constant financial support, attention and online contact, it is certainly difficult for children to cope with parental separation. They often see other children with parents, and they have a strong desire to be with their parents as

well, not only online (on the phone), but also physically. In the background of this kind of stress, aggressive behavior of children is not uncommon, which, in turn, is related to the function of psychological defense mechanisms, because children often hide stress caused by the separation with their parents with aggressive, rude behavior towards others, and in this way they show as if the conditions around them are acceptable [1].

Indeed, emigration is a transformative process that has a profound impact on the family (especially children) and also has the potential to have long-term effects on the child's socio-emotional development. By any measure, emigration is one of the most stressful events a family can experience, as it separates a person from family members, takes away important social relationships - best friends and loved ones [2]. Unfortunately, in the modern society, many families are units of emigration.

According to statistical data, it is clear that in recent decades the rate of emigration of women for work has increased compared to men, although in the past women were considered as passive followers of men emigrating for work. In fact, children are the main reason their parents decide to emigrate, because there is a lack of employment opportunities in their own countries, or often the jobs available do not even pay a living wage. Emigration was defined by Galbraith (1979) as «the oldest action against poverty». But parents do not always know that their decision to emigrate will have a strong negative impact on

their children, who remain without parents in an environment that is still less reliable for them [3].

The fact that parental emigration has a negative impact on children's educational achievements is particularly noteworthy, especially when the mother emigrates for work and the children have to stay at home only with the father or other family members. In modern society, including our country, the mother's role is predominant in the process of child care and education, and their emigration means a lack of maternal attention and care for children, despite the fact that they stay with other family members, the role of the mother in the process of upbringing and care is irreplaceable. That is why, quite often, the educational results of children can differ depending on whose parent is an immigrant and who is the one whose parent stays at home with the children [4].

As you know, the mentioned issue is quite relevant in our country and it raises the following legitimate questions: What effect does the emigration of parents have on the life satisfaction of their children who remain in the country? What is the effect of parental emigration on children's education, health, aggressive behavior or anxiety, and other psychological characteristics?

The discourse on emigration and complete development of a child recognizes that emigration can help immigrants and their families improve their standard of living and well-being, but to what extent does it help to improve the psychological well-being of family members and especially their children? To what extent is the child able to cope with difficult and unfamiliar problems and situations without a parent? All of these are still a controversial issue for researchers and lead to many different opinions [5].

Based on the above, the objective of our research was to identify and describe the forms of aggression and psychological defense mechanisms, including the determination of statistical significance on the example of children of immigrant and non-immigrant parents.

Research methodology. Tests on aggression and psychological defense mechanisms were

used for the research.

In order to assess aggression, we selected the aggression spectrum test developed by A. Buss and A. Dark. Different types of reactions (forms) are distinguished by the authors, which consist of 8 scales: physical aggression, indirect aggression, irritation, negativism, abuse, jealousy, verbal aggression and feeling of being guilty.

According to Buss and Dark, manifestation of aggression can be divided into two main types: the first - motivational aggression as a self-goal; The second is - instrumental aggression, as a way of achieving something. It is implied that both can be experienced consciously (with the control of consciousness) and spontaneously (beyond the control of consciousness) and both can be connected with emotional feelings (hostility, anger). For a practitioner psychologist, motivational aggression is interesting, as a direct expression of the destructive tendencies characteristic to a person. By determining the level of such a destructive tendency, it is possible to predict the manifestation of open motivational aggression (to some extent). Buss-Dark test is one of the diagnostic tools created for this purpose. The test also allows to detect and separate the index of hostility and aggressiveness.

In order to study the psychological defense mechanisms, we selected the Kellerman-Plutchik test «lifestyle index», which allows us to identify 8 types of defense mechanisms.

The test is recognized as the most relevant diagnostic tool for psychological defense mechanisms. The test is based on R. Plutchik's Psychoevolutionary Theory and H. Kellerman's Structural Theory of Personality. It allows both the diagnosis of the entire system of psychological defense mechanisms and identifying the leading, basic mechanisms, as well as assessing the tension of each defense mechanism. Undoubted advantages of this test are theoretical proof and validity, simplicity of constructs and purposeful multi-dimensionality.

According to the theoretical studies of Kellerman and Plutchik, in which psychoanalytical and socio-biological concepts are combined,

there is an interconnection between emotions and psychological defense mechanisms. This or that defense mechanism is intended for the regulation of this or that emotion: there are eight basic defense mechanisms corresponding to eight basic emotions. These are: replacement, projection, compensation, regression, repression, denial, reaction formation and intellectualization.

Research results and analysis. The research was conducted throughout Tbilisi, the total number of respondents was 172 teenagers aged 14-19. 53% of the respondents were children of immigrant parents, and 47% were children of non-immigrant parents.

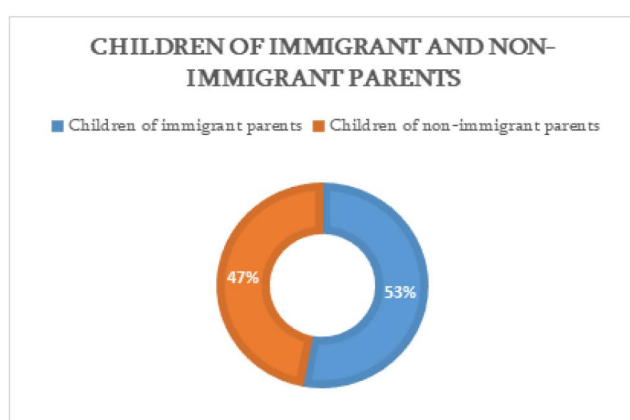


fig. 1.

Based on the data analysis of the conducted research, the forms of aggression and psychological defense mechanisms with the children of immigrant and non-immigrant parents were identified and described, also the relationships of statistical significance between the mentioned variables were identified.

According to the analysis of the aggression data, it was found that the adults of both groups show verbal aggression the most, and negativism the least.

The fact that the data of all forms of aggression, except the feeling of guilt, is higher in the case of children of immigrant parents than in the case of children of non-immigrant parents.

However, forms of aggression such as verbal

aggression ($M=7.33$) and irritability ($M=5.95$) were detected with the highest frequency among them (children of immigrant parents). However, the latter variable (irritability $M=5.18$) was detected with such a high frequency among children of non-immigrant parents, as with the children of immigrant parents. The data on the manifestation of verbal aggression ($M=6.95$) maintains a high frequency with them as well.

Based on the obtained results, we can talk about the following profile of aggression with the children of immigrant parents: even in case of slight excitement, they become quite explosive and rude, they express negative feelings in a negative form and content - screaming, yelling, cursing, abuse, threatening, etc.

This fact is natural, since the children of immigrant parents have to live without their parents, they feel helpless because they cannot share their feelings with their parents, and therefore they cannot receive the expected support from them. As a result, even small irritations that accumulate over time, raise the level of aggression in them.

The analysis of psychological defense mechanisms gave us the following picture. In the case of children of immigrant parents, a significantly higher rate was identified on the regression scale ($M=8.47$). Then comes Projection ($M=8.17$) and intellectualization ($M=7.81$) that are not among the psychological defense mechanisms used with such a high frequency. The least used psychological defense mechanism is repression ($M=5.69$).

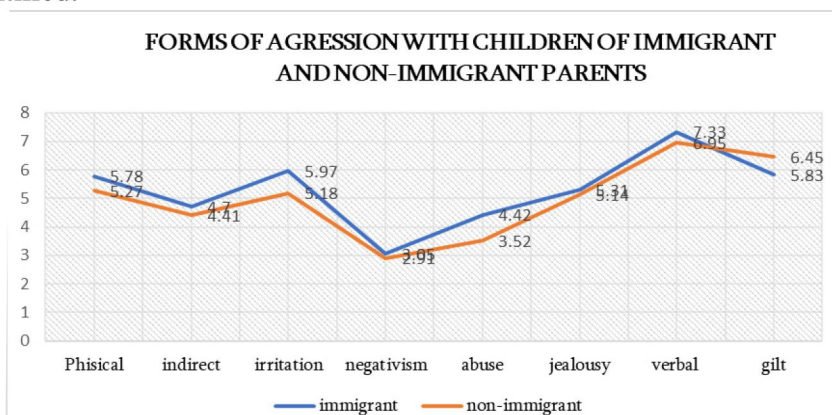


fig.2.

Children of non-immigrant parents most often refer to projection (M=8.39) and intellectualization (M=8.14).

Based on the obtained results, the following profiles of the use of psychological defense mechanisms of children of immigrant and non-immigrant parents were identified:

- Children of immigrant parents - in difficult and tense situations, they show uncontrollable actions and try to find easy and affordable ways to get out of such situations. For example, when they feel pressure and tension in a particular situation, they try to get rid of the problem by running away from it and returning to the earlier stage of development when adults took care of them. In such situations, they increasingly use the forms of behavior characteristic to children, become more unrestrained, take immature and impulsive actions, often expect that others are obliged to help them.
- Children of non-immigrant parents - in order to justify their aggressiveness and reluctance, they attribute feelings and thoughts unacceptable to them to other people, they can easily blame others. Most of the time, they look at the people around them with suspicion and show distrust towards them. However, there are times when positive, socially desirable feelings, thoughts, or actions are attributed to other individuals by them.

As you know, the research test on aggression selected by us also allows to identify the index of manifestation of hostility and aggressive behaviour.

Compared to children of non-immigrant parents, both hostility and aggressiveness are higher in children of immigrant parents. Hostility includes abuse and jealousy, while aggressiveness includes physical aggression, irritation, and verbal aggression.

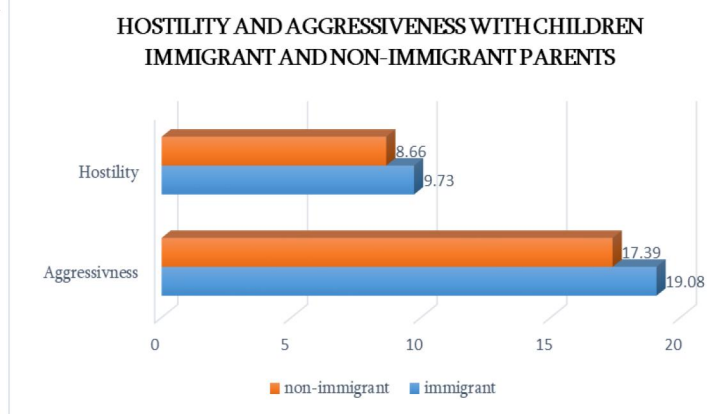


fig 4.

It was also interesting for us to check the correlation between the most manifested forms of aggression (irritability and verbal aggression) and psychological defense mechanisms. Based on the empirical analysis, a statistically significant relationship was established between the mentioned forms of aggression and psychological defense mechanisms as regression and projection (irritability - regression $r=0.504$, $P<0.01$; irritability - projection $r=0.376$, $P<0.01$; verbal aggression - regression $r=0.253$, $P<0.05$; verbal aggression - projection $r=0.338$, $P<0.01$;) In other words, the more the children of immigrant parents manifest such forms of aggression as irritability and verbal aggression, the more they use such psychological defense mechanisms as projection and regression.

As for such a mechanism of psychological defense as intellectualization, which is also presented with a high frequency together with regression and projection, its relation with irritability and verbal aggression was

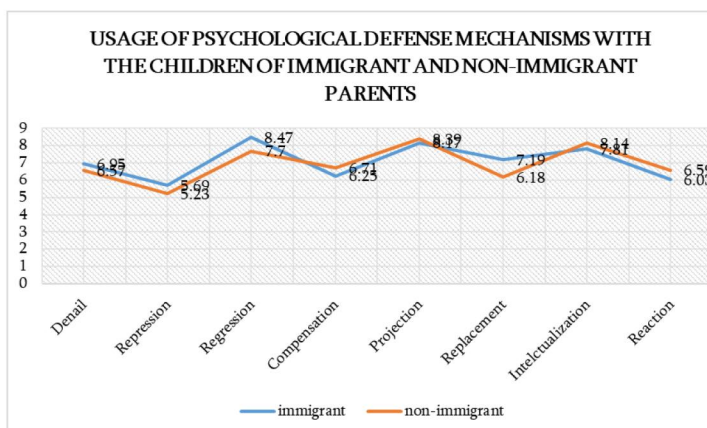


fig 3

not confirmed. Moreover, there is a tendency of relationship with the opposite sign between the mentioned variables.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the conducted research data, the following conclusions can be made:

- Children of both immigrant and non-immigrant parents show verbal aggression the most, and negativism the least;
- The data of all forms of aggression, except the feeling of guilt, are higher in the case of children of immigrant parents than in the case of children of non-immigrant parents;
- Verbal aggression and irritability were detected with the highest frequency among

children of immigrant parents;

- The data are also different according to the use of psychological defense mechanisms. In the case of children of immigrant parents, a significantly higher rate was revealed on the regression scale. Children of non-immigrant parents most often resort to projection and intellectualization.
- On the basis of empirical analysis, statistically significant connections were established between some forms of aggression and psychological defense mechanisms. In particular, the more children of immigrant parents resort to such forms of aggression as irritability and verbal aggression, the more they use such mechanisms of psychological defense as projection and regression.

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РЕЗЮМЕ**ОСОБЕННОСТИ ВЫЯВЛЕНИЯ АГРЕССИИ И ИСПОЛЗОВАНИЕ МЕХАНИЗМЫ ПСИХОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ ЗАЩИТЫ У ДЕТЕЙ РОДИТЕЛЕЙ-ИММИГРАНТОВ И НЕИММИГРАНТОВ**

В статье описаны особенности выявления форм агрессии и механизмы психологической защиты у детей родителей-иммигрантов и неиммигрантов.

Исследование проводилось по масштабам Тбилиси, общее количество респондентов составило 172 подростка в возрасте 14-19 лет. В исследовании использовался тест на агрессию, разработанный А. Басом и А. Дарком, и тест Келлермана-Плутчика «Индекс образа жизни», позволяющий выявить механизмы психологической защиты.

На основе анализа полученных результатов были выявлены наиболее доминирующие формы агрессии у детей родителей-иммигрантов и неиммигрантов, а также определены различия между ними. Также выявлены особенности использования механизмов психологической защиты, составлены профили проявления агрессии и действия механизмов психологической защиты у детей родителей-иммигрантов.

На основе эмпирического анализа установлены статистически значимые связи между формами агрессии и механизмами психологической защиты.