

Psychological Characteristics of Paternity

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Questions of the essence and structure of paternity, the leading factors that influence the formation of readiness for paternity, are poorly studied and relevant. From a psychological point of view, paternity can be considered as a system of relations to parenthood in general, to parent role, to himself as a father and to the future child. This article describes search correlation study of a selection of men (N = 30). The selection included men-fathers of different ages, with experience of paternity from 2 to 30 years, with different social status (married/divorced) and education level. The study used the following projective methods: the method of “Who am I?” (M. Kun and T. Maklartland), the “Essay” (on the theme “My baby”, “My wife”, “I am the father”) and draw test “My family”. The data analysis has showed that, first, the extent of acceptance of the role of father is not associated with the experience of paternity, nor with the characteristics of emotional relationships to himself as a father, to the child and to the wife; secondly, quite close connections have been identified between the attitude to himself as a father, attitude to the child and attitude to the wife; and, thirdly, differences in average values of indicators of the relationships between fathers with children of different sexes, have not been proved significant.

Keywords and phrases: paternity as a psychological phenomenon, psychological readiness for paternity, the role of father, attitude to the child, attitude to the wife, the phenomenon of parenting, family system.

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