

Home representation among Russian youth and adults

Ekaterina Braginetc, Alexandra Bochaver, Sofya Nartova-Bochaver, Natalia Dmitrieva and Sofya Reznichenko

Background and Aim: Existing research within environmental, everyday life and developmental psychology shows that home environment is an important source of the person's identity, well-being, and positive functioning¹. The attachment to home changes with person's maturity and personal home images as well. The goals of this paper are 1) to specify the components that form personal home concept, and 2) to find out the main psychological needs linked with this conceptualization among youth and adults.

Methods: 66 adults of 18-59 years old ($M_{age} = 29$) answered 9 open questions about their homes, ideas of home, and possibilities of the mutual alterations between the home and the habitant. Three experts have processed about 1100 elements using content-analysis and classifying the answers into groups according personal needs by A. Maslow. Distributions of different needs over the questions were compared using Fisher's ratio test and then two age groups (18-27 years and 28-59 years) were compared by ranking the described needs.

Results: We found four coexisting components of the personal image of home representation: general, everyday, dynamic, imaginary. Also we detected that the home perception from the perspective of the personal needs is relatively constant during the adulthood.

Discussion and implication: We showed the simultaneous existence of the different images of home and described the complex constellations of the personal needs satisfying by home that changes with maturity. Acknowledging the psychological multifunctionality of a home environment underlines a serious practical and psychotherapeutic potential of home studies. Home perception is constant during the adulthood, but the physiological needs are more important in youth than the aesthetic ones. It may be explained by development of self-awareness with maturity and improvement of the environment transformation skills by a person.

Supported by Russian Science Foundation, project № 14-18-02163.