ABSTRACT

Reflections of an adolescent's own future may contribute to its future direction. The concept of one's own family occupies an important position in these reflections and, to a certain extent, determines their form. Individuals from institutional care have disrupted original family ties, which are supposed to negatively affect their own family concepts. The diploma thesis is based on a qualitative methodological approach. The family concepts of individuals both from institutional care and regular family environment are investigated under the light of individuals’ future orientations. The semi-structured interview and projective graphical methods were assigned to six individuals from institutional care and six individuals from regular family environment. A qualitative analysis of the data gathered confirmed that the concepts of a planned family of adolescents from institutional care differ from those of teens from the regular family environment. Adolescents from institutional care lack the emotional aspect of the family, and the family is perceived primarily as an institution serving to protect its members. Moreover, gender aspects are more pronounced in their family concepts, especially in parental roles, than in adolescents from the control group. Differences between groups are also found in other aspects: sophistication of ideas, degree and nature of concern, aspirations, etc. The results suggest that many specific features of family-owned adolescents from institutional care can be understood as a consequence of their social relationship experience. At the end, recommendations for practice and possibilities of follow-up are also given.

KEYWORDS

institutional care, children’s home, adolescence, family, family background, future orientation