

FEATURES OF AGGRESSION AND FRUSTRATION IN PEOPLE IN DETENTION

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Abstract. The paper aims to highlight some of the specific peculiarities of the convict in detention, the way in which the behavior is conditioned by certain social and psychological factors, and ways in which psychosocial intervention could reduce frustration and aggression. The sample included 90 male prisoners, aged between 15 and 50 years, the average age. The comparative study carried out considering the age and the type of crime committed, highlighting the existence differences and also the influence of maladaptive cognitive schemas on the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression, respectively the way of managing conflict situations.

Keywords: aggression, frustration, people in detention.

INTRODUCTION

Research on the frustration-aggression relationship synthesizes three directions: cases when frustration certainly leads to aggression, aggressive acts that are committed in the absence of any frustration, frustrating states that do not lead to aggressive behaviors. The natural conclusion of this frustration-aggression relationship is that it should not be absolute. However, as T. Bogdan and his collaborators show, deviant acts in general, and typically criminal ones in particular, are largely explained by the existence of momentary frustrations or states of frustration of medium duration and most often by the existence of cumulative, continuous frustrations [1, 2].

Both real and imaginary frustrations can also have a triggering effect, both constituting “reasons” for forms of hostile or instrumental aggression. The acute frustrating situation usually leads to occasional crimes, even murders, these crimes being sometimes provoked or precipitated by the victim’s behavior. Instead, the state of continuous frustration leads especially to aggressive acts prepared long before the act is committed [3].

Taking into account A.H. Maslow’s pyramid of needs, it can be said that a minor with dissocial or antisocial behavior was frequently frustrated either by his physiological needs or by those of security and love. In this case, the non-satisfaction of needs can

lead to a conflict between the individual and the social environment, often manifesting aggressive behaviors [4].

The aggressiveness of delinquents, to a large extent, is primary-instinctive, being related to the low tolerance to frustration as well as the intensity of needs polarized by “dominant libido”. These findings expressed by R. Mucchelli can be related to the opinions of Mira Y Lopez regarding different instinctual tendencies or biological needs, which in certain contexts can trigger criminal acts. These tendencies constitute the primary reasons for delinquency, but, as the individual develops and integrates into the social environment, in addition to the primary reasons - of biological essence - new reasons occur - of social essence - which, due to their order of appearance, were called secondary reasons.

In this sense, the best-known frustration-aggression theory was formulated by J. Dollard. He seeks to explain the mechanism of aggressions through the appearance of frustrations (states of nervous tension created by the occurrence of an obstacle to a person’s desire). Thus, aggression is always a consequence of frustration and frustration always leads to a certain form of aggression. The blockage that occurs in achieving the proposed goal is indeed a generator of frustration, but not all frustration causes aggression [6].

Also in support of the aggression-frustration theory, A. Adler mentions an inferiority complex in

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some individuals that makes them susceptible, reacting exaggeratedly, aggressively to any opposition [7].

Dollard's theory was subsequently revised and thus, L. Berkowitz emphasizes the exaggeration of the aggression-frustration relationship, arguing that frustration can produce anger, a state of emotional preparation for aggression. The frustrated person can give vent to his anger, reaching under certain conditions to the manifestation of aggression [8, 9].

The penitentiary environment causes the individual to direct his aggression either externally or on himself, or to remain somewhat passive towards them and wait for the situation to resolve itself. Knowing the way of manifestation of different categories of prisoners is a strong point in order to reorganize the way of incarceration of prisoners. It is also necessary to take into account the particularities of the age of the individual in the prison environment, as well as the analysis of the offender's profile according to the type of crime committed in order to prevent negative events but also to optimize the system of punishment and rehabilitation of the prison environment, rallying to its objectives of sanctioning the individual and making him aware of the seriousness of his act, in order to make him responsible.

The paper work aims to highlight some of the specific peculiarities of the convict, aiming in a way in which the behavior is conditioned by certain social and psychological factors. Thus, it started from the premise that there are differences in the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations according to age and the type of crime committed. It was also taken into account the premise that maladaptive cognitive schemes such as deprivation and emotional inhibition respectively, abandonment influence the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations.

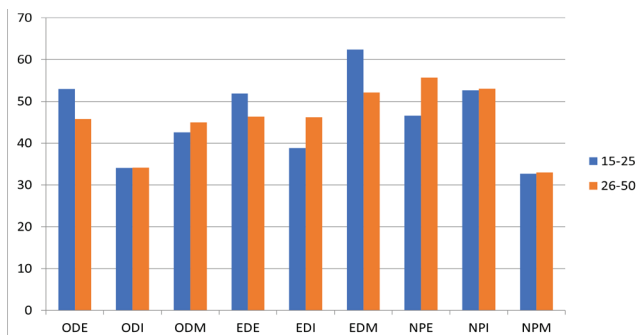


Figure 1. Descriptive indices for the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations.

The prevention of juvenile delinquency calls for the development of a new and unified strategy, with concerted actions by all institutions, bodies and organizations that can contribute to reducing the criminal phenomenon.

METHODS AND INSTRUMENTS

In order to collect the raw data, the ROSENZWEIG Frustration Test and the Young Cognitive Schema Questionnaire - short form were used.

Data processing

The collected data were processed using SPSS software (Statistical Package for the Social Science) version 2.6. Descriptive statistics comparisons and correlation test were performed. The significance level is set to $p \leq 0.05$.

Participants

The sample of the work included 90 male prisoners, aged between 15 and 50 years, the average age being $32.25 / \pm SD = 4.28$, having convictions for murder, robbery and theft. The sample was divided into two groups by age category: 45 inmates aged between 15-25 out of which: 16 convicted of murder, 16 of robberies and 13 of theft and 45 inmates aged between 25-50 out of which: 14 convicted of murder, 13 of robberies and 17 of theft.

RESULTS

Age differences

In order to be able to identify the potential differences according to age found in the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations, a comparative study was carried out

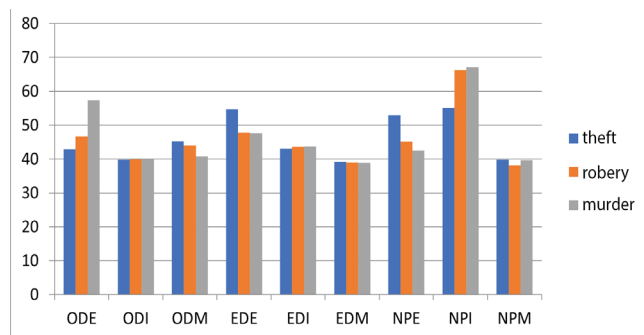


Figure 2. Descriptive indices for the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations.

that targeted the two age groups, the group of young people aged between 15 and 25 and the group of adult prisoners aged between 26 and 50. The variables subjected to analysis were ODE - the object of frustration is perceived severely; ODI - the object of frustration is perceived favorably; ODM - the object of frustration has no importance; EDE - the subject blames someone else; EDI - the subject assumes responsibility; EDM - the subject believes that the responsibility does not rest with anyone; NPE - the subject asks for help from other people to cope; NPI - the subject solves the situation by himself; NPM - the subject believes that time will solve everything.

The statistical analysis revealed significant differences at the ODE level - the object of frustration is perceived as severe $t=2.970$, $p=0.004$; EDE - the subject blames someone else $t=2.149$, $p=0.036$; EDI - the subject assumes responsibility $t= -2.126$, $p=0.025$; EDM - the subject believes that the responsibility does not belong to

anyone $t= 1.483$, $p=0.03$; NPE - the subject asks for help from other people to cope $t= -2.549$, $p=0.013$.

Differences depending on the type of criminal offence committed

The comparative study was also carried out according to the type of crime, theft, robbery and murder, starting from the premise that the inner mechanisms differ in individuals depending on the personality structure and implicitly the type of crime committed.

Significant differences were identified in ODE - the object of frustration is perceived as severe ($F = -2.453$, $p=0.017$); EDE - the subject blames someone else ($F = 2.781$, $p=0.027$); NPE - the subject asks for help from other people to cope ($F = 1.978$, $p=0.031$); NPI - the subject solves the situation by himself ($F = 2.183$, $p=0.031$).

The relationship between maladaptive

Table 1. Descriptive indices for the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations

	Age	N	Mean	SD.	Min.	Max.
ODE	15-25	45	52.98	6.32	48.9	58.8
	26-50	45	45.80	8.13	40.2	50.0
ODI	15-25	45	34.12	6.92	32.4	41.6
	26-50	45	34.22	8.16	31.7	42.1
ODM	15-25	45	42.62	11.20	38.1	45.6
	26-50	45	44.98	8.48	40.2	49.3
EDE	15-25	45	51.88	18.73	46.3	56.2
	26-50	45	46.36	11.65	42.3	50.9
EDI	15-25	45	38.88	11.52	32.6	42.5
	26-50	45	46.21	11.06	41.5	50.3
EDM	15-25	45	62.42	11.20	54.8	67.4
	26-50	45	52.13	12.77	45.3	56.5
NPE	15-25	45	46.58	9.27	42.0	49.6
	26-50	45	55.73	11.43	51.1	59.3
NPI	15-25	45	52.64	8.32	48.4	55.1
	26-50	45	53.10	9.44	50.2	56.4
NPM	15-25	45	32.67	6.91	30.1	39.1
	26-50	45	32.95	7.32	30.4	39.6

Table 2. Correlation coefficients between maladaptive cognitive schemes and the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations

	Emotional deprivation (ED)		Emotional Inhibition (EI)		Abandonment/Instability (AB)	
	Pearson r	Sig. (p)	Pearson r	Sig. (p)	Pearson r	Sig. (p)
ODE	.864**	.000	.709**	.000	.450**	.002
ODI						
ODM						
EDE	.562**	.000	.349*	.019		
EDI	.464**	.001			.630**	.000
EDM						
NPE	.347*	.019				
NPI	.681**	.000	.665**	.000	.290*	.025
NPM						

cognitive schemes and the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression, respectively the way of managing conflict situations

The relationship between maladaptive cognitive schemes such as emotional deprivation (ED), emotional inhibition (EI), respectively, Abandonment/Instability (AB) influences the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression and the way of managing conflict situations in prisoners.

Statistical analysis revealed significant correlation coefficients between ODE and ED ($r=.864/p=.000$), ODE and EI ($r=.709/p=.000$) and also between ODE and AB ($r=.450/p=.002$). Significant associations were obtained also between EDE and ED ($r=.562/p=.000$), EDE and EI ($r=.349/p=.019$), EDI and ED ($r=.464/p=.001$), EDI and AB ($r=.630/p=.000$), NPE and ED ($r=.347/p=.019$), NPI and ED ($r=.681/p=.000$), NPI and EI ($r=.665/p=.000$) and NPI and AB ($r=.290/p=.025$).

DISCUSSION

The comparative study carried out considering the age and the type of crime committed. The obtained data highlight the fact that adolescent prisoners perceive the object of frustration as severe much more often than adult prisoners. Analyzing according to the type of crime committed, those who are convicted of murder tend to perceive the object of frustration much more severely.

Regarding attribution of responsibility, adolescent inmates scored significantly higher than adult inmates, with adolescents tending to assign blame in significantly more cases than adults. Teenage inmates tend not to take responsibility in most cases. On the other hand, the tendency to blame someone else is more likely to be found among prisoners convicted of crimes such as theft. In most cases, offenders blamed an external target for perceived shortcomings, explaining the facts in terms of the fact that the environment and context forced them to resort to theft. Regarding the way to manage the conflict situation, significant differences are visible between the two age groups, teenagers having a much higher average on the factor that involves solving the conflict situation alone, while the adult prisoners obtained a lower average. Statistical data indicate the tendency of adolescents to handle their conflict situations on their own, emphasizing the desire for independence, rebelliousness and apparent

self-confidence of the adolescent offender. It can also explain the lower mean of adolescent inmates regarding seeking help from other people to deal with conflict situations compared to adult inmates. the adolescent's tendency is to manage his conflict situations without the help of others, the desire for independence being visible. These results can be explained by teenagers' desire for independence in managing conflict situations and the fact that they perceive the object of frustration much more severely than adults, constantly causing a high level of stress, frustration and panic being responsible in most cases.

Regarding the way of managing conflict situations, prisoners convicted of robbery and murder have a much higher tendency than prisoners convicted of theft, to manage their conflict situations by themselves. This phenomenon is observed rather in crimes that threaten physical integrity being associated with violence, the solutions to which this category of criminals lend themselves presenting a different profile from that of thieves. Regarding seeking help from other people to deal with critical situations, the tendency to ask for help from other people is found in criminals convicted of theft, those convicted of robbery and murder tending to solve their problems alone by their own methods. . Although this category of criminals takes responsibility for their actions in most cases, very complicated circumstances make them realize their helplessness, the situations being sometimes irremediable.

In conclusion, the present research also highlighted the links of association between maladaptive cognitive schemes and the way of perceiving the object of frustration, the direction of manifestation of aggression, respectively the way of managing conflict situations. The offender's profile [10] hides the existence of some cognitive schemes [11], such as Emotional inhibition(EI) which involves the inhibition of anger, positive impulses, difficulty expressing vulnerability or communicating freely about one's feelings, needs and excessive emphasis on rationality while disregarding emotions, Emotional Deprivation (ED) which implies beliefs that others do not offer us the nurturance, empathy and protection we need and Abandonment / Instability (AB) the feeling that the close ones will not be able to emotionally support us, or to protect us and they will abandon us in favor of someone better.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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