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**CONTENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE MEANING SPHERE OF  
ADOLESCENT ORPHANS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Relevance of the research topic**

Changes in recent decades of psychological and pedagogical paradigms, the growth of the level of humanization of our society, as well as modern achievements of medical and biological sciences, contribute, on the one hand, to an increasingly detailed clinical differentiation of various forms of mental retardation in adolescents, and on the other - expand the range of research into this type of dysontogenesis [117]. The study of the psychological characteristics of adolescents with intellectual disabilities and developmental disorders is currently becoming increasingly relevant. Mild degrees of mental underdevelopment are increasingly becoming the object of attention of researchers both in the context of the development of correctional (special) psychology and defectology, and in line with related psychological sciences [18; 19; 23; 36; 59; 62; 67; 68; 81; 82; 88; 91; 95; 111; 119; 129; 132; 138; 173; 182; 189; 203; 205; 257; 258; 263]. This is due to the inclusion of adolescents with mild mental retardation in the educational system, which is important in itself [6; 27; 87; 136; 139]. In addition, nowadays there is an urgent need to search for those psychological features that provide this category of adolescents with successful social adaptation and socialization [282; 289].

Among the significant psychological features is the meaning sphere of personality [37; 120; 144; 274; 279; 290]. The study of the peculiarities of the meaning sphere of adolescents with a mild degree of mental retardation, left without parental care, is particularly acute. Parental deprivation largely determines the problem of preparing these adolescents for independent adult life [198]. The upbringing, education and living of adolescents with mild mental retardation in state institutions of primary vocational education (PVE) does not eliminate this problem [260]. Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation who live continuously or for a long time in structural units

- orphanages or PVE institutions - are more vulnerable than their normally developing peers, are less independent and experience significantly more difficulties in entering adult life: both in choosing a profession, and in finding positive meanings for their existence. At the same time, adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation are much more susceptible to maladaptive behavior and various addictions - this is due to their age, psychological, psychophysiological, and physical characteristics.

Modern correctional psychology and defectology need to understand the role of intellectual development in the dynamics of formation of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans in the context of their maturation under the influence of social factors. Despite the acute need, there is clearly not enough research devoted to the peculiarities of the meaning sphere of this category of adolescents under conditions of parental deprivation (S.M. Moskvitina, Y.T. Matasov, I.A. Korobeinikov). They mainly study psychological characteristics, value and meaning-in-life orientations of adolescents without disabilities living in families, or they focus on the study of relationships in families with children with intellectual disabilities (T.N. Vysotina, M.E. Paatova, D.A. Karabut, A.V. Zhukov, L.V. Kosikova, N.A. Deeva). There are practically no comparative studies of the peculiarities of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and adolescents of the same category living in families. The need for such research is determined by the contradiction between the assessment of the behavior of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation by reduced cognitive processes, and the need for them to comprehend significant aspects of their lives in the process of social adaptation.

There is also a contradiction between the need of adolescent orphans with disabilities, mild mental retardation, in psychological assistance and rehabilitation, studying in PVEs, and the insufficient effectiveness of existing correctional programs that do not take into account the peculiarities of the formation of the meaning sphere and its internal factors. As a consequence, in practice, specialists face difficulties in adapting adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation upon completion of their education in PVEs. In order to eliminate these contradictions, a special study of the peculiarities of the meaning sphere is necessary.

The meaning sphere in the conducted research is understood as a dynamic system naturally forming in the personality structure, consisting of cognitive, reflexive and emotive components, realized in meaning-in-life orientations, existential fulfillment, subjective satisfaction with life and experiences of crisis situations, and transforming under the influence of social and psychological factors.

**Objective of the research** is to identify the specifics of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation living in an orphanage at PVE institutions.

**Object of the research** is the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation from 15 to 17 years of age.

**Subject of the research** is the meaning sphere of the personality of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation living in an orphanage.

**Hypotheses of the research - H0:**

Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, and normal intellectual development have no differences in the content and structure of the meaning sphere.

**The alternative hypothesis - H1**, accordingly, is formulated in such a way that the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation have their own peculiarities that distinguish it by the expression of features from the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development, also brought up in the conditions of an orphanage.

**Tasks of the research:**

1. To systematize scientific positions in understanding the psychological aspects of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development.
2. To reveal the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans.
3. To develop a model of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of the personality of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation.

4. To develop a methodological complex for determining the features of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation.
5. To determine the distinctive features of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation.
6. To determine the influence of a mild degree of mental retardation on the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans.
7. To identify the relationship between the peculiarities of the meaning sphere and manifestations of maladaptation in adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation.

**Theoretical and methodological framework for the study:**

- the main provisions of the systematic approach to the description of psychological phenomena (V.A. Barabanshchikov, K. Baker, L. von Bertalanffi, J. Beavin, M. Bowen, A.Ya. Varga, P. Watzlawick, D. Jackson, B.F. Lomov, E.G. Eidemiller, V.V. Justitskis);
- basic provisions on understanding the meanings, their relationship and mechanisms of functioning, and understanding the reflexive nature of the process of experiencing (B.S. Bratus, F.E. Vasilyuk, W. Dilthey, D.A. Leontiev, S.L. Rubinshtein, A.S. Sharov), approaches to understanding reflection, reflexive mechanisms (A.V. Karpov, Yu.N. Kulyutkin, V.I. Slobodchikov, S.Yu. Stepanov, I.N. Semenov, G.P. Shchedrovitsky and others), the principle of unity of external and internal determination (L.S. Vygotsky, K.K. Platonov, S.L. Rubinstein);
- ideas about the structure and functions in the concept of developmental psychology and correctional psychology about general, modally non-specific and modally specific features of development (L.S. Vygotsky, D.N. Isaev, T.A. Kolosova, I.A. Korobeinikov, V. V. Lebedinsky, V. I. Lubovsky, V. M. Sorokin, G. Ya. Troshin);
- the dysontogenesis concept (L.S. Vygotsky, 1997; D.N. Isaev, 2007; V.V. Lebedinsky, 2003; N.Ya. Semago, M.M. Semago, 2001; V.M. Sorokin, 2012; L.M. Shipitsyna, 2005 and others);

- modern concepts of maladjustment (D.N. Isaev, 2007; A.E. Lichko, 1983; S.T. Posokhova, 2010, etc.);
- humanistic approach in psychology (C. Rogers, 1986, V. Frankl, 1990);
- activity approach in psychology (P.K. Anokhin, L.S. Vygotsky, A.N. Leontiev, S.L. Rubinshtein, I.M. Sechenov);
- existential approach in psychology (L. Binswanger, A. Längle, V. Frankl);
- requirements for the organization of comparative psychological research (B.G. Ananiev, 1977).

### **Scientific originality**

For the first time, scientifically and statistically substantiated evidence was obtained of the ability of adolescent orphans, including adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, to comprehend life orientations, existence, life satisfaction, and experiences of crisis situations - all components of the meaning sphere.

The four-component model of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation with the leading role of negative affectivity in the organization of meaningfulness of various manifestations of life, Self, and regulation of maladaptive behavior was empirically confirmed. For the first time, the selectivity of the relationship of negative affectivity with maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation was revealed.

The significance of the cognitive component of the meaning sphere in the differentiation of the content and manifestation of meaning-in-life orientations in adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intellectual development has been revealed. It was found that the reduced manifestation of the signs of the reflexive component brings together adolescent orphans with different intellectual development.

Common signs of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intellectual development, manifested regardless of the influence of the meaning sphere, have been revealed.



### **Theoretical relevance of the research**

The idea of dynamism, multidimensionality and regulatory capabilities of the meaning sphere has been expanded. It was proved that the content, structural and regulatory features of the meaning sphere are determined by a system of social, psychological, and age-related developmental factors: parental deprivation, the state of intellectual development, and the peculiarities of adolescence. The inclusion of the meaning sphere in the regulation of maladaptive behavior of adolescents was found.

The developed four-component model, combining cognitive and reflexive processes, positive and negative affectivity, corresponds to the organization of the meaning sphere of adolescents brought up in different social conditions, and differing by intellectual development. The content of the meaning sphere is concretized in the peculiarities of their meaning-in-life orientations, existential fulfillment, experiences of crisis situations, and subjective satisfaction with their lives.

Mental retardation as a special type of dysontogenesis is revealed from the position of similarities and differences of the meaning sphere, its participation in the regulation of maladaptation of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development. The functional features of cognitive, reflexive, positive-affective and negative-affective components of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation have been established. The predominant role of negative affectivity was revealed.

The phenomenon of parental deprivation is enriched by ideas about the preservation in its conditions of the ability of adolescent orphans, including adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, to comprehend various manifestations of life, crisis situations experienced, the ability to comprehend their personal experience of social interaction and existentiality. Parental deprivation enhances the significance of negative affectivity in the structure of the meaning sphere of adolescents, regardless of their intellectual development.

### **Practical relevance of the research**

The results obtained in the thesis can be used for a systematic analysis of personal characteristics, comprehensive diagnosis and assessment of psychological resources of

the personality of teenage orphans with mild mental retardation, as well as the range of their adaptive and regulatory capabilities for self-realization in society.

Also the results of the study can be used in the work of psychologists and teachers of structural units and orphanages at institutions of primary vocational education. The likelihood of practical use of the results increases in the process of individual counseling of teenage orphans experiencing crisis situations, as well as in group work with teenage orphans with different intellectual development.

The conclusions and main provisions can be taken into account in the selection and development of correctional and psychological-pedagogical programs of support for adolescent orphans with different intellectual development, experiencing a crisis, as well as for the prevention of their maladaptive behavior.

The results of the present study orient correctional psychologists and defectologists to the use of ideas about the meaning sphere in work with adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation after the completion of training in boarding schools, in the process of their professional orientation. Practitioners can draw from the difficulties of goal-setting for this category of adolescents, from their reduced ability to recognize the value of their own plans and goals. The attention of correctional psychologists can be focused on adolescent orphans' experience of crisis situations as a particularly significant emotional component of their life and reflexive activity. The research answers the question about the main "targets" of correction, including fears, inferiority feeling, and problems in communication, tendencies to bad habits, maladaptive forms of behavior.

The results obtained can be used in the development of training courses for specialists in cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, correctional, and developmental psychology, family psychology and family education, as well as defectology and pedagogy.

### **Research methods and techniques**

The following methods were used in the study: the method of theoretical analysis of scientific literature, organizational methods (comparative and complex), as well as empirical methods (psychodiagnostic methods): testing, questionnaires, interviews,

observation; diagnostic and biographical methods (B.G. Ananiev, N.A. Loginova), content analysis of specialized journals and questionnaires of adolescent orphans; descriptive, correlation analysis, factor analysis, regression analysis - methods of mathematical and statistical processing of experimental data.

Psychometrics was performed using the following standardized methods:

- The Test of Meaning-in-life Orientations (MLO) by D.A. Leontiev, an adapted version of The Purpose-in-Life Test (PIL) by J. Crumbaugh and L. Maholick;
- The Existence Scale (ES) (Existenzskala, ESK) by A. Längle and C. Orgler (adapted by S.V. Krivtsova);
- The Life Satisfaction Questionnaire by A.V. Zhukov;
- "Experiencing crisis situations" by A.V. Zhukov;
- Map of observations of maladaptive behavior by S.T. Posokhova, L.S. Rashitova (based on D. Stott's Observation Map).

**The principle propositions of the research to be defended:**

1. The meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation is a dynamic four-component psychological phenomenon encompassing cognitive, reflexive, and positive-affective and negative-affective components, the content, structural, and regulatory features of which are associated with the conditions of parental deprivation, and impaired intellectual development. Negative affectivity is a key component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, with high sensitivity to parental deprivation, and selectivity in the regulation of maladaptive behavior.
2. Parental deprivation is a social factor that preserves the ability of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development, studying in institutions of primary vocational education, to comprehend different manifestations of life, experienced crisis situations, the ability to comprehend their personal experience of social interaction and existentiality. Parental deprivation enhances the significance of negative affectivity in the structure of the meaning sphere of adolescents, regardless of intellectual development.

3. The meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation is represented by a combination of cognitive, reflexive, positive-affective and negative-affective components. The cognitive component is most significant for differentiating the content and expression of meaning-in-life orientations of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, and adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development. The reflexive component brings together adolescents with different intellectual development in the meaningfulness of life's unfulfillment. Mental retardation did not significantly affect the content of positive and negative affectivity.
4. The maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation shares common features with the behavior of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development. Negative affectivity is selectively related to maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation.

#### **Approbation and introduction of the research results:**

Materials related to the dissertation were reported: at the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress with international participation "Mental health, evolution and integration in psychotherapy" (St. Petersburg, 18.06.2021); at the 5th International scientific conference "Current topics in modern science, and ways to solve them" - Act on the implementation of research results and their approbation No. 14/08-237 10 of the International Research Institute Research and Innovation Center (Moscow, 30.08.2014); at the 25<sup>th</sup> International Scientific and Practical Conference "Modern Society and Social Development: problems and prospects" (Moscow, 28.04.2016); at the 1<sup>st</sup> All-Russian Congress of Defectologists (Moscow, October 26-28, 2015).

The main results of the empirical research were presented at seminars for the administration and the psychological and pedagogical staff of the St. Petersburg State Educational Institution "Industrial and Shipbuilding Lyceum" (St. Petersburg, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018); and also for the administration and the psychological and pedagogical staff of St. Petersburg State Budgetary Institution "Youth and Youth Center of the Vasileostrovsky District of St. Petersburg" (St. Petersburg, 2017); and at the seminar "Trends in the Development of the Informal Youth Social Environment", held

by the St. Petersburg State Budgetary Institution “City Center for Social Programs and Prevention of Antisocial Phenomena among Youth “Kontakt” (St. Petersburg, 2017).

The dissertation materials were used in the training courses "Psychology" and "Bioethics" for medical students of the direction "General Medicine" and "Dentistry" of the St. Petersburg Medical and Social Institute (St. Petersburg), as well as in training courses "Psychological correction of behavior in case of intellectual impairment" for students of the Department of Special Pedagogy and Psychology of the Institute of Special Pedagogy and Psychology (St. Petersburg).

Theoretical and empirical results of the study were discussed at meetings and methodological seminars of the Department of General and Special Psychology of the Institute of Special Pedagogy and Psychology (St. Petersburg, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), at postgraduate seminars of the Department of Special Psychology, St. Petersburg State University (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019), and at meetings and methodological seminars of the Department of Educational Psychology and Pedagogy, St. Petersburg State University (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023).

**Reliability, validity and credibility** of the research results are determined by the theoretical validity of the general idea of the study, the use of methods adequate to the subject and objectives of the study, the organization of the study in accordance with the standards of domestic methodology of psychological research, the combination of qualitative and quantitative analysis of the collected data, as well as the use of modern statistical methods in processing the results.

### **Structure and body of the work**

The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, summary, list of references, and 3 appendices. The main content of the work is presented on 133 pages; the total amount of work is 179 pages. The list of references includes 300 items in Russian and 30 in English. The text of the dissertation contains 32 tables and 32 figures.

### **Publications**

On the topic of the dissertation, 4 works were published, 3 of them in publications recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission under the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia for publishing the results of dissertations.

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# **CHAPTER 1. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE RESEARCH ON THE MEANING SPHERE OF ADOLESCENT ORPHANS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES**

## **1.1. Mental retardation in the context of modern human science**

### **1.1.1. To the background of the issue**

Historically, societal attitudes towards people with intellectual disabilities have been filled with prejudice, contempt and fear. For example, in ancient Rome such people were used as jesters for entertainment, and during the Reformation they were considered to be possessed by the devil and denied a soul, ignored and feared even by medical professionals [184]. Even in our enlightened times, when the humanistic worldview prevails, many vestiges of such an attitude towards persons with disabilities remain in the public consciousness, and people with intellectual disabilities face negative reactions from others, and children and adolescents are often subjected to bullying [189; 255; 295]. Up until the mid-nineteenth century, the phenomenon of mental retardation was poorly understood and unpopular among researchers, and, as a consequence, mental retardation was not differentiated by severity. People of all age groups who would be diagnosed with mental retardation today were segregated and often placed in treatment with people suffering from mental illness [312].

By the end of the nineteenth century, in most countries of Europe and North America, the treatment of people with intellectual disabilities and special educational needs had come under the responsibility of public schools and institutions, but patients in such institutions were wrongly considered incurable and became lifelong residents, where they were taught only basic vocational skills. The theory of evolutionary degeneration (J. Langdon N. Down, 1866) and the doctrine of "negative" eugenics [226; 322], which appeared in England and became popular in the United States in the late

19th century, led to tragic consequences; although they explained "logically" the intellectual and social problems of children with mental retardation, they were built on false inferences and speculations. These insufficiently scientifically substantiated and categorically formulated misconceptions, accepted in a number of countries as a scientific theory, led to the fact that in many Western countries: Canada, USA, France, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Switzerland, and in the East, in Japan, people with mental defects were considered a threat to society (Leo Kanner), and in the early twentieth century, began to be subjected to forced sterilization, and later to physical destruction. It is a sad and tragic fact of history, but the idea of "active euthanasia" of defective people had many supporters in the academic world - among scientists and thinkers of the time, including such famous ones as Carl Jung and Konrad Lorenz, who sought natural scientific justification for the actions of Nazi politicians, doctors and Nazi psychiatrists [226].

In Nazi Germany, propaganda for the murder of inferior people was actively conducted. According to the eugenic "T-4" program adopted at the state level ("Operation Tiergartenstrasse 4"), about 70 thousand children and adults with mental retardation were killed in Germany, and more than a hundred thousand were killed in the occupied countries of Eastern Europe and the USSR during World War II [207; 322]. Although the Nazi crimes against people with mental retardation were condemned as early as the Nuremberg Tribunal at the Doctors' Trial [324], it should be noted that at the official level of the German professional community the guilt for these atrocities was recognized with great resistance - only decades after the end of World War II - it was not until 2001 that the German Psychiatric Association and the German Society for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Neuropathology publicly apologized for them for the first time.

From journalistic investigations in the mid-60s of the last century, the general public also became aware of the harsh living conditions and gross violations of the conditions of treatment of patients in state clinics for people with mental retardation in the United States.



Gelb's opinion confirms these facts and was worded in such a way that "The feeble-minded, whose intellectual disabilities were the least, were considered a threat to society because, unlike the insane, they could easily pass for normal. People with intellectual disabilities...were once again perceived as a threat to society; they were once again feared and ostracized." (Gelb, 1995).

The situation in the world today is dramatic, and in some countries tragic. It is with great concern that we observe how the spiritual and socio-moral crisis is unfolding in the society of the so-called "collective West" led by the United States, how traditional family, socio-cultural and moral values are being systematically destroyed, where the ideas of nihilism and negative eugenics have become popular again. In many of these countries, deviations of psycho-sexual and abnormal personality development, some mental and behavioral disorders of children and adults are now recognized as normal, active and passive euthanasia are legalized and practiced, which in past decades only a few allowed themselves to reason about as permissible and acceptable (J. Rachels, 1983).

From its origins, the Russian school of psychology developed in a humanistic vein. Therefore, even the "Russian Eugenic Society", which emerged and existed from 1920 to 1929, rejected negative eugenics and dealt with the problems of positive eugenics, and the attitude to people with mental retardation was humane. And in modern Russia the traditions of humane treatment of people with mental retardation continue [49].

### **1.1.2. Institutionalization of attitudes in society towards mental retardation**

Nowadays, the attitude towards people with intellectual disabilities, and, in particular, towards children with mental retardation, is institutionalized in almost all countries of the world. According to Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989 (hereinafter - the Convention), ratified in most countries of the world, including our country (in 1990 - the USSR, in 1991 - the Russian Federation), a child is considered every human being until the age of

18. Article 3 of the Convention requires States to provide social protection, security and health care for children. Children who are temporarily or permanently deprived of a family environment are entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State (Article 20 of the Convention). According to article 23 of the Convention, children with intellectual disabilities should lead a full and decent life in conditions that ensure their dignity, promote self-confidence and facilitate their ability to participate actively in society. Children with disabilities have the right to special care and assistance, effective access to services in the field of health rehabilitation, education, preparation for employment, medical care, etc. The State must also take all necessary measures for the psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims and survivors of crisis situations (Article 39 of the Convention).

Domestic scientists, psychiatrists, special and correctional psychologists pay great attention to the study of people with intellectual disabilities, and especially children and adolescents with mental retardation, the study of the phenomenon of mental retardation itself, and the search for effective ways of psychological assistance to people with intellectual disability. Numerous aspects of mental disability, issues of socialization of persons with mental disabilities are studied and developed by medical anthropology and bioethics.

Even a brief excursion into history shows the positive dynamics of changes in the attitude of public consciousness to the problem of mental retardation.

In our society, more and more attention is being paid to persons with disabilities as their number tends to increase both in our country and in most countries of the world [318]. This is due to both an overall increase in the population of states and improved identification and registration of such persons. Among different disability groups [158; 159], according to the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10), it is customary to single out a separate category of persons with a mild form of mental impairment - F70, or, as this status is commonly called in correctional psychology, persons with minimal disabilities (mental) health (MMHD) [177]. In ICD-11, the same psychological status is classified as 6A00.0 [178; 329]. In the American classification

DSM-5, the term "mental retardation" is replaced by the terms "intellectual disability" and "disorders of intellectual development", respectively [302].

Currently, about 1.6 million people of different age and gender groups with diagnoses of mental disorders are registered in psychiatry in Russia [299] (the figure is given without taking into account the division of this condition by degree of severity). Among these diagnoses, mild mental retardation - F70 - ranks among other disabling mental conditions with complex irreversible consequences [19]. In Russia, children and adolescents account for about 23-24% of those diagnosed with mental retardation (of varying degrees of severity) [52]. In 2011-2021, the dynamics of the general morbidity of mental retardation was characterized by a decrease of 14.1%, but it should be noted that the primary morbidity rate of mental disorders decreased in all age categories, with the exception of 15-17 year olds, where an increase of 6.0% was noted [159]. According to foreign authors, in populations of European countries, 2.5-3% of the population is recognized as mentally retarded [305; 311].

The health care and education systems in modern Russia have specific features due to the results of the reforms carried out over the last decades [237]. The frequency of the diagnosis of mental retardation has now increased compared with the period at the end of the last century. However, this diagnosis is perceived as stigmatizing by a significant number of members of society [52; 114]. Therefore, some of the former orphanage residents who were diagnosed with such a diagnosis during adolescence are willing to refuse disability on this basis [95; 157, 202; 203] if there are objective reasons for this. This circumstance determines one of the grounds for the relevance and social significance of our study of the peculiarities of the meaning sphere in orphaned adolescents with a mild degree of mental retardation.

Persons with mental retardation, or persons with disabilities (F70), in the case of mild degrees of severity of intellectual disability, are quite capable of integrating into the system of socioeconomic relations [89; 90; 136; 139; 157]. Particularly productive results can be expected and obtained if we begin to prepare such persons for full social integration at an earlier age [146].

### **1.1.3. Modern approaches to the study of mental retardation in adolescent orphans**

In modern psychological literature there are many concepts and theoretical approaches to understanding the problem of mental and intellectual development. Often contradicting each other, with essentially different ideas about the driving forces and mechanisms of this development, about its indicators and regularities, with fundamentally different ideas about the origin and the very existence of mental reality [1; 3; 125; 131; 233; 247; 287]. Nevertheless, generally accepted theories of intelligence are developed mainly within the framework of rational critical worldview, and in practical terms, psychometric (IQ theory) and systemic theories of intelligence are most often discussed [30; 86; 147; 175; 284; 288]. A special direction in science is the study of the genetics of mental retardation [138].

The concepts of "mental retardation" and "normative intelligence" are conventional concepts [26; 66]. The very concept of "norm of mental development" is only one of the ways of thinking of a researcher, one of the tools of rational search for scientific truth. However, this concept is by no means a phantom or a simulacrum; it acquires weight and significance in the context of situations of responsible life decisions. In our case, these are situations when an expert assessment is required of the readiness of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation for work, the ability to be responsible for themselves and their actions, readiness for independent living [6; 10; 123; 136; 139; 156].

This approach makes it possible to specify how the type of dysontogenesis - mild mental retardation - is related to other properties (qualities) of an adolescent orphan's mental reality. This, in turn, creates both the problem of prognostic psychodiagnostics, and gives the opportunity to talk about reasonable correctional work of a special psychologist with an orphaned adolescent on the directed change in the parameters of his mental development.

The purpose of the presented analysis of mental retardation research was not only to show the existence of different clinical and integrative approaches to the problem. The aim is also to discover and highlight the circle of authors whose approach is close to each other, who recognize the existence of psychic reality as belonging to the individual being of a person, and subject to change during life. For our research, it is important that they recognize and single out specifically relatively stable and relatively changeable qualities and properties (characteristics) of the psyche, considering the complex structure of the mental organization of the personality [1; 21; 22; 55; 83; 122; 128; 132; 135; 137; 144; 147; 201; 214; 218; 220; 229; 236; 267; 274; 287; 300].

In modern scientific psychological-pedagogical and socio-psychological works and publications on the psychology of mental retardation, there are tendencies of release from under the strict regulation and dominance of medical terminology, more and more often preference is given to psychological-pedagogical terms, which are more humane and socially acceptable [26; 82; 118]. We also adhere to the point of view that all these terms should be considered in unity: mental retardation - intellectual insufficiency - mental underdevelopment; as well as minimal brain dysfunction - learning difficulties - mental retardation. All these concepts consistently reflect the psychological, medical and pedagogical view of the same object (subject) of research [91; 101; 119; 138; 169; 170]. However, the uniqueness of each considered mental phenomenon cannot be ruled out. The interdisciplinary approach helps to expand the understanding of the phenomenon under study, in particular to see the combination of general and specific in it [39; 60; 200].

In the tradition of the Russian school of defectology, among specialists, in particular defectologists, there have been several approaches to understanding the essence of mental retardation. L.S. Vygotsky put forward the idea of the systemic structure of the defect: primary disorders of biological nature and secondary - social. The most common is the definition of S.Ya. Rubinshtein (1970), mental retardation is a persistent impairment of cognitive activity due to organic brain damage, which has a diffuse character. The ICD-10 gives a different, in a sense, more detailed definition: "Mental retardation is a state of delayed or incomplete development of the psyche,

which is primarily characterized by impaired abilities that appear during maturation and provide a general level of intelligence, that is, cognitive, speech, motor and social abilities” [177].

In recent decades, in line with the development of psychological sciences, there has been a significant change in the understanding of mental retardation, and the role of sociocultural factors has been increasingly revealed [6; 152; 264].

Various approaches consider mental retardation as:

- persistent impairment of cognitive activity [19; 205; 254];
- a disorder of the emotional and volitional sphere [90; 141];
- qualitative changes in the entire psyche, personality as a whole, a special atypia of development, in which not only intelligence but also affective sphere is disturbed [18; 26];
- social maladaptability [118; 163; 216].

All of the above approaches to varying degrees reflect the actual state of affairs, which confirms the complexity and multidimensionality of the studied phenomenon of mental retardation. However, this multidimensionality of approaches has its limitations, and it does not correspond to the current challenges facing correctional psychology in the context of providing systemic psychological assistance to adolescents in this category.

Modern research and social practice show that adolescents in cases of mild intellectual disabilities can be socially adapted and taught a profession if specific methods, techniques and means of education are used, with proper organization, corrective orientation of education and individual differentiated approach [282]. Although the number of psychological, defectological, pedagogical and social studies of mentally retarded adolescents has recently increased, but with regard to adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, studies of mental development factors are still insufficient, and in our study we tried to expand the ideas about the structure of mental disorders, and their adaptive capabilities, because the psychology of education and vocational training of adolescents with developmental disorders is one of the areas of research in correctional psychology [289].

At present, correctional psychology and defectology have considerable data on the specifics of mental activity of persons with mild mental retardation, but the question of the causes of mental retardation is still debatable, although the history of its study has deep roots [26; 49; 85; 119; 151; 160; 160; 169; 169; 219; 299; 296; 305; 305; 310; 311; 312; 319; 321; 323; 326; 328]. According to one of the most famous specialists D.N. Isaev (2003), it is possible to identify the cause only in 6-35% of cases. Most often the causes of mental retardation are classified as follows - conventionally divided into two groups: endogenous, caused by genetic factors, and exogenous, associated with external factors (traumas, infections, etc.). The pathogenesis of various forms of mental retardation is different, and depends on the quality and intensity of the harmful factor, and also on the stage of ontogenesis when the damaging effect that leads to pathogenesis occurs (D.N. Isaev, 1982).

Experimental studies largely complement the picture of the manifestations of mental retardation [18; 23; 36; 81; 88; 88; 95; 95; 110; 110; 114; 114; 129; 132; 182; 205; 211; 259; 295; 308]. Among many disorders, the leading one is pathological inertness of nervous processes (V.V. Lebedinsky, D.N. Isaev, 1982). Clinical observations also show that children and adolescents with mental retardation in activity and behavior stereotypically repeat the same forms and have great difficulty moving from old established relationships to new ones. The motives for activities of adolescents in this category are related only to a specific situation, and often prevent the achievement of long-term goals (T.A. Vlasova, L.S. Vygotsky, 1983; O.V. Zashchirinskaya, 2013; D.N. Isaev, 2003; T.A. Kolosova, 2013; I.A. Korobeinikov; V.I. Lubovsky, 1963, 1989; I.I. Mamaichuk, 1995; M.S. Pevsner, 1973; M.S. Pevsner, A.R. Luria, 1973; S.Ya. Rubinstein, 1986; V.M. Sorokin; 2012; L.M. Shipitsyna, 2012).

## **1.2. Approaches to the study of the meaning sphere**

The eternal existential problem of mankind is the theme of the meaning of life. In different philosophical and religious worldview systems, approaches to this problem have different variants of solutions: hedonistic, eudaemonistic, optimistic, pessimistic,

skeptical, humanistic, activity-based, etc. The development of philosophical thought from antiquity to New Age philosophy has generated three paradigms of the meaning of life: "the meaning of life in life itself", "the meaning of life beyond life", "the meaning of life in human self-realization". Many philosophical concepts of the meaning of life also connect this phenomenon with the concept and phenomenon of faith. From the standpoint of historicism, the most ancient (the earliest, preceding the scientific type of worldview) are religious concepts of the meaning of life (through man's union with God), which today psychologically can be interpreted as man's identification with a holistic meaning-life concept personified in the image of God. In fact, by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the philosophical reflection of the ancient idea of the meaning of life had received its other existence, and was articulated in the form of the psychological problem of a person's search for the meaning of his or her own life, either in his or her individuality or beyond it. And the phenomenon of faith began to be considered as having both religious (S. Freud) and social (U. Eco) grounds.

The phenomenology of modern man's psyche is such that all types of worldviews historically formed in phylogenesis: myth, religion, philosophy, and science are *simultaneously* present in his consciousness with different degrees of expression. In the ontogenesis of an individual's psyche (in norm) the formation of these types of worldviews corresponds to the age periodisation: mythological - from the moment of mastering speech up to 6-7 years old; religious - during the school period in the process of mastering writing and mastering basic rules and axioms; philosophical - during the period of adolescent existential crisis; scientific - with the mastering of critical rational and systematic thinking in the process of higher education.

In the paradigms of modern psychological science, the study of the phenomenon of human consciousness - faith - is of special interest, since faith is one of the important components of the meaning sphere of personality and psychological mechanisms of realisation of the meaning of life. The realization of the mechanism of faith is an important psychological determinant of the formation of the meaning sphere of personality, which unites moral beliefs and morality of a person (B.S. Bratus, N.V. Inina, 2011). Such determination is also important for the research psychologists



themselves, who choose ways of solving problems on meanings, the organization of whose meaning sphere sets the character of their personal moral regulation and determines the place and significance of ethical problems in their scientific and educational activities [200; 261]. A scientist, at least, *must* believe in progress (development), pre-established harmony (systematicity) and continuity of being (determinism). Here a dialectical contradiction is revealed, because from a scientific point of view, faith is the acceptance of something as truth, which does not need the necessary full confirmation of the truth of what is accepted from the senses and reason, and, therefore, cannot claim objective significance. The resolution of this contradiction is the source of the movement and development of science.

In psychological sciences, schools and directions, there is a variety of approaches to the study of the processes of a personality acquiring the meaning of existence [103; 274; 300]. It is no coincidence that in many theories of personality the meaning sphere occupies a central place as determining the character of personal development [37, 120, 121; 135; 144, 165; 195].

V. Frankl created the theory of striving for meaning as an essential characteristic of a person, and meaning itself became the main notion in his concept of logotherapy. According to Frankl, "meaning is something that must take place" [279]. After all, it is the person who chooses the ideas about the meaning of his/her life, and realizes them himself/herself during the life journey. Empirical research in existential psychotherapy by I. Yalom (2008) confirmed the value of a positive sense of the meaning of life and the need to consider the meaning of life in an evolving perspective throughout the life of an individual. In the humanistic psychology of Carl Rogers, the subject's consciousness of personal meanings and his own behavior is a condition for his "psychologically healthy development" [233]. In K. Jaspers' existentialism, the meaning of life is an actual dynamic experience of perception of internal psychic connections.

Within the framework of the dynamic approach the problem of the meaning of life was studied primarily in the context of the study of personality psychology and subject psychology. In the paradigm of meaning regulation of activity, meaning is considered as a directed activity and the leading need of the personality (S.L.

Rubinstein, L.I. Antsyferova), as well as a condition for overcoming neuroses, as a way of finding harmony with oneself and the world.

From the standpoint of the classical psychoanalytic approach, the meaning of life is seen as a way of adapting to the circumstances of the external world and the influence of internal factors, by striving to acquire universal values, experiencing meaning and the need to find meaning. In the context of socio-culturally oriented directions of neo-Freudianism, the meaning lies in gaining freedom in choosing one's own life attitudes, and the very problem of searching for the meaning of life has a neurotic character (K. Horney).

The founder of analytical psychology C.G. Jung (1991) defined the meaning of life as a natural, specific need of man to join his generic essence. In the individual psychology of A. Adler (1998) the meaning of life is unique for each person and is reflected in all mental and behavioral manifestations.

The concept of the meaning of life of an individual is also a value category that expresses the degree of his/her belonging to a certain social group. The meaning of life represents the process of self-realization of a person both for himself and the process of realization of his ideals in his life activity for the society [73; 102; 128; 199; 235; 304; 315]. In the value-normative theory the concept of the meaning of life is used in solving the problems of criminal psychology [124; 246].

Thus, in the mode of psychological science, the meaning of life is a kind of subjective understanding, a generalization of generally accepted models of the meaning of life (a set of meanings), which is internalized into the structure of the individual's personality, and which can be subject to changes at different stages of personal development. A person, in the process of his/her formation, development of reflexion and self-reflection, experience of experiencing crisis situations, inevitably finds himself/herself in a situation of choosing meaning [191; 194; 201; 245; 265; 265; 277; 286]. This allows us to talk about the presence of a special new formation in the structure of human personality - the meaning sphere of personality.

In the tradition of the Russian school of psychology, theoretical provisions of the concept of "meaning sphere" of the human psyche, as well as social and intrapersonal

factors in the formation of its content, structure and functions are considered in the works of many authors (B. G. Ananiev, G. Ananiev, L.I. Antsyferova, A.G. Asmolov, L.I. Bozhovich, E.I. Golovakha, B.I. Dadonov, B.V. Zeigarnik, A.F. Lazursky, A.N. Leontiev, D.A. Leontiev, B.F. Lomov, V.N. Myasishchev, K.K. Platonov, S.L. Rubinstein, B.M. Teplov, V.E. Chudnovsky, P.M. Yakobson, etc.). Many authors have studied the dynamics of the meaning sphere in psychology in connection with the study of the axiological sphere as a whole (B.S. Bratus, 1981; F.E. Vasilyuk, 1984; D.A. Leontiev, 1997; A.S. Sukhorukov, 1996; A.S. Sharov, 2000, etc.).

Currently, in psychological science, understanding of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of personality is presented from different positions, including cultural-historical, activity-based, systemic approach, existential-humanistic, resource-based, socio-psychological, and others. Most approaches to the study of the meaning sphere of personality emphasize the development of meaning systems as the main driving force of its development [125].

L.S. Vygotsky introduced the concept of "dynamic meaning system" to denote the unity of affective and intellectual processes [50]. In particular, according to V.E. Chudnovsky, it is of undoubted interest to study the structure of this formation, the correlation of cognitive, emotional and volitional components in it, to study the very process of life meaning formation, the mechanism of its action, the changes that occur with it in critical life situations, as well as in the course of age development [290].

In the context of the activity approach it is proposed to distinguish between "big and small dynamics of meaning formations (A.G. Asmolov, B.S. Bratus et al., 1979). The "big dynamics" of meaning formations development is understood as the processes of emergence and transformation of personal meaning formations during a person's life, in the course of changing different types of activity. The "small" dynamics of the development of meaning formations is understood as the processes of emergence and transformation of meaning formations in the course of a particular activity.

According to B.S. Bratus, the movement of the meaning sphere is ensured by the individual's appeal to wider contexts than those directly actualized by the current situation - for example, by appealing to one's own ultimate values or to moral universal

values, which is commonly referred to as "bottom-up". The above-mentioned author writes in his work, "...in our opinion, the basic internal regularity remains the same for all cases - psychological meaning systems are born in complex, multifaceted correlations of less to more, of separate situations, acts of behavior to broader (actually meaning-forming) contexts of life. In accordance with this, their realization is always a process of a certain internal correlation." [37].

D.A. Leontiev considers the small dynamics of the meaning sphere from the procedural-dynamic side [144]. He distinguishes three classes of the form of meaning dynamics: the processes of meaning formation, meaning awareness and meaning building. Thus, meaning formation is defined as "the process of spreading meaning from the leading, meaning-forming, "nuclear" meaning structures to particular, peripheral, derivative ones in a particular situation of unfolding activity." In the process of meaning formation, the movement of meanings is "top-down", from greater to lesser, "the source of change is some a priori higher meaning instance, the highest meaning. These kinds of formations are the union of the cognitive scheme of objective reality with the irrational reflection of this scheme, and represent the condensation of the experience of relations with the world, i.e. " meaning experience" (D.A. Leontiev, 2007). According to D.A. Leontiev, the search for meaning is predominantly a cognitive process, in which the solution to the problem of meaning occurs through the subject's awareness of meaningful connections, but the meaningfulness of life is understood not as its mindfulness, but as the *orientation* of the subject's life activity to some meaning. And "the meaning sphere of personality is a specially organized set of meaning formations (structures) and connections between them, providing meaning regulation of the integral life activity of a person in all its aspects".

In psychology, from the standpoint of a systematic approach as a methodology of scientific knowledge, the meaning sphere (object) is considered as a system: an integral complex of interrelated elements (I.V. Blauberg, V.N. Sadovsky, E.G. Yudin); as a set of interacting objects (L. von Bertalanffy); as a combination of essence and relationships (R.I. Feidzhin, A.D. Hall). Integrity, structurality, multiplicity and

systematicity are the main principles of the system approach applicable to the understanding of the meaning sphere of personality.

The existential approach in psychology is based on the recognition of the uniqueness of the existence of an individual person, and is based on the phenomenological principle, according to which the focus of the psychologist's attention is primarily on the sphere of the subjective world of the individual [153]. This approach allows us to study the personality, crises and experiences of a person in a temporal perspective, to understand more deeply the formation of his individuality in specific life situations: how a person "chooses" himself - finds his life goals and meanings, and his willingness to be responsible for his life choices. And this approach allows us to understand and explain human behavior in a different way than the reaction to external "stimulus" situations, as it is usually done, for example, in behaviorism. Or in psychoanalysis, when a person is understood as an irrational being, completely conditioned by unconscious drives and his past experience, being in a constant unconscious conflict between biological and social factors. And, since one of the main tasks of existentially-oriented psychology is to help a person to develop his/her self-reflection and to choose his/her own positive path of personal development [315], we chose this approach as one of the methodological bases of our study.

The socio-psychological approach determines that the meaning sphere of personality is based on the community of values of generic, group, and individual order. The meaningful orientation in this approach is determined by value categories [43; 218; 235; 274].

The meaning-in-life concept includes a person's perceptions and attitudes related to his present, near and far perspectives of life, and his attitude to his past [122; 149; 185; 199; 206; 210; 210; 224; 231; 231; 243; 249; 275; 291]. The well-being and healthy filling of the meaning sphere of the person determines the dynamics of his socio-psychological adaptation [196]. Meaning-in-life orientations are not only psychological [183], but also philosophical and sociological category, covering a set of typical ways of life activity of an individual, social group, including class and nation of

society as a whole, which is taken in unity with the conditions of life that determine it [102].

Summarizing the results of scientific research, we can conclude that the meaning sphere of personality is a multidimensional phenomenon (including many components: cognitive, affective, emotional, conative (behavioral), etc.) which has a dynamic structure and performs an important regulatory function in human life. We can say that the meaning sphere is an ontological space of subjective perception and experience of meaning relations, the nature of which directs human activity. Despite the long history of studying the meaning sphere of personality and the numerous explanatory and interpretive approaches, the issue of determinants of the formation and transformation of the meaning of life, the specifics of meaning formation at different stages of a person's life path remains debatable [300]. In this context, there is a shortage of research on the peculiarities of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation living in an orphanage.

Since the main studies of this phenomenon were conducted in relation to individuals with normal intellectual development living in families [12; 53; 65; 78; 84; 121; 140; 145; 183; 196; 212; 213; 223], in the context of correctional psychology and defectology the question about the structure and functions of the meaning sphere in individuals with intellectual problems who are in conditions of parental deprivation naturally arises [133].

Our research of the subject - the study of the phenomenon of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation - we conducted both as the study of the integrative characteristic of mental reality, and as their individual psychological features (qualities) - the content and structure of the meaning sphere as indicators and patterns of mental development.

### **1.2.1. Approaches to the study of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans**

The process of socialization and education of young people in our country has traditionally received much attention. Therefore, it is especially relevant to study the

factors that reduce the effectiveness of youth integration into the social sphere [68; 123; 136; 269]. From the standpoint of developmental psychology, adolescence is a difficult transitional period in the formation of a person, when the process of forming a system of meanings of life and activity begins [1; 72; 76; 176; 268; 270; 281]. To date, the question of how the formation of the meaning sphere of the personality of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, and normal intellectual development affects their social and psychological adaptation: both during the period of education and by the time they enter independent adulthood remains poorly studied [56; 146; 156].

Research practice shows that a significant proportion of orphanage graduates have some problems in integrating into social relations and difficulties in social adaptation [114; 209; 240; 242]. This is particularly characteristic of orphans with mild mental retardation [198; 273; 282].

In modern correctional psychology, more and more attention has recently been paid to the study of factors and patterns of deviations in the mental development of adolescent orphans, obtaining objective data on various aspects of disturbed psychogenesis [23; 36; 162; 219; 219; 232; 257; 258; 280; 294]. However, to date, the structure and content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation remain relatively understudied; as well as the role of intelligence - the influence of the mental factor on the functions of the meaning sphere [46; 275].

The process of forming a system of meanings does not occur without problems even in adolescents with normal intellectual development [31; 47; 51; 58; 104; 105; 230; 244; 253; 266; 276; 298]. Moreover, in adolescents with certain peculiarities or deviations in mental health and (or) those who find themselves in special socio-psychological conditions – in conditions of family deprivation – the formation of meanings has even greater specificity [211; 231]. Thus, orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation (HIA, F70 according to ICD-10) [63] have restrictions imposed on this difficult age period related to the state of their mental health, as well as the effect of the factor of living in an orphanage [44; 62; 85; 114; 115; 154].

The performed study of the peculiarities, as well as the level of formation of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation was

aimed at obtaining actual data, the use of which in the educational process contributes to minimizing the negative impact of characteristic developmental factors on the success of socio-psychological adaptation of this contingent [161, 205].

In this connection, it was suggested that the structure and content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation have their own peculiarities that distinguish it in terms of the severity of features from the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a normal level of intellectual development, who are also brought up in an orphanage.

The performed research was aimed at studying the meaning sphere, and especially those aspects of the mental sphere of the above-mentioned contingent, the state of which essentially determines the social integration of adolescent orphans - graduates of special (correctional) schools of VIII type into social and labor relations [27; 289]. The problem of studying the structure and content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation and adolescent orphans with preserved intelligence is directly related to the problem of preparing them for independent adult life [9; 36]. This contingent of pupils is studying and living on a permanent basis in state institutions of primary vocational education (PVEs) and has no opportunities to learn models of social and communicative behavior from parents (guardians).

Meta-analysis of recent works in this subject area - peculiarities of the structure and content of the meaning sphere of the personality of adolescent orphans with different levels of mental health - has shown that the topic in question is not popular among researchers. Practice shows that this circumstance leads to the fact that the preparation of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation for independent life within the framework of educational programs of orphanages and PVE institutions has certain imperfections, manifested in the fact that most of the graduates of such institutions are not ready for successful socio-psychological integration into society upon their graduation from these institutions [89; 90; 209].

It is believed that half of the graduates of PVE institutions with conventionally normal intelligence adapt to independent adult life. Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, living continuously or for a long time in structural units -



children's homes at PVE institutions, are more vulnerable in terms of socio-psychological adaptation to new conditions compared to their peers living in families. They are less independent, more naive, more suggestible, less resistant to temptations and experience much more difficulties in entering independent life. Graduates of orphanages often have difficulties in finding positive meanings of their existence [24; 36; 223].

The category of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation living in orphanages is much more prone than their peers to various addictions: addictions, delusions, delinquent behavior, etc. [91; 250; 296]. [91; 250; 296]. It is known from the general theory of behavioral psychology that purposeful behavior is conditioned by the cognitive-affective content of the subject's mental sphere [64; 140]. This content is formed in the process of upbringing and professional training [20; 54; 197; 273].

Thus, in order to improve the effectiveness of preparation for independent life of orphaned adolescents in PVE institutions, modern correctional psychology, defectology, and pedagogy need further study of the peculiarities of the meaning sphere of this contingent of persons in the context of their growing up, and taking into account the fact that they live without parental care in specialized units - orphanages at PVE institutions.

Traditionally, the meaning sphere of personality is studied from the following positions: the content, filling and features of interrelations between the constituent elements (components) of this system, i.e. the structure and content of the meaning sphere of personality [37]. The research conducted in the context of this topic is mainly asymmetric. The dominant position is occupied by the study of the meaning sphere of adolescents brought up in families with parents (guardians). Recently, only a few studies have been devoted to the structure and content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, and adolescent orphans with preserved intelligence living in an orphanage [18; 36; 85; 133; 182; 223].

Investigating this issue, the author considers it appropriate to note that there are practically no comparative studies of the peculiarities of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with disabilities ( $F70$ ,  $50 < IQ < 70$ ) and the meaning sphere of adolescents with preserved intelligence living in an orphanage. Thereby, understanding

by specialists working in orphanages and PVE institutions of the peculiarities of the structure and content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with disabilities (F70) presents certain difficulties, as a result of which psychological assistance to such adolescent orphans becomes less effective than it could be.

### **1.3. Formation of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation**

One of the most important areas of correctional psychology is the study of the problems of mental and social deprivation of adolescent orphans, and adolescents without parental care [11; 29; 32; 61; 223; 242; 280; 301; 327]. In the context of the tasks of complex correctional care, much attention is paid to the study of psychological and pedagogical problems of family deprivation of adolescents with disabilities (developmental disabilities), and psychological aspects of the formation of features of deviant and addictive behavior of adolescents with various deviations and developmental disorders [15; 74; 106; 119; 133; 133; 182; 222; 295].

Parental deprivation, primarily maternal deprivation, is considered the ultimate variant of disturbed parental attitude and behavior (I. Landgmeyer, 3. Mateychik, 1985; E.T. Sokolova, 1981; L.M. Shipitsyna, 2005; J. Bowlby, 1950, 1980, 1988, M.D. Ainsworth, 1964; M. Rutten, 1975). In conditions of complete maternal deprivation, the following variants of mental pathology are observed: 1) personality formation disorder; 2) mental and intellectual development disorders; 3) mental disorders. Thus, children brought up in institutions without maternal care and affection are characterized by lower intellectual capabilities, emotional immaturity, and disinhibition. They are characterized by increased aggressiveness in relations with peers, lack of selectivity and constancy in emotional attachment to adults. In adolescence, orphaned children's trust relationships are manifested in the unity of personal meaning, reflection and value of trust objects, and the expression of stressful experiences. Living in deprivation conditions leads to a reduction in the spectrum of trust perceptions (Yu.R. Zaripova, 2009).

Thus, deprivation symptomatology in orphaned children and adolescents includes virtually the entire scale of mental deviations - from mild peculiarities of mental reaction to gross disorders of intelligence, character, and will [85]. The depth and severity of deprivation disorders vary depending on the period of deprivation, its duration, and intensity, as well as on the quality of deprivation. In this regard, we can assume that constitutional-psychotypological bases of an individual determine psychological, psychic, personal and behavioral forms of response when interacting with adverse factors in the form of mental deprivation, changing or disrupting the nature of adaptive compensatory capabilities of the individual, which predetermines the problem of providing systemic psychocorrectional assistance.

Most modern personality-psychological studies clearly show the interrelation of adaptation and personality processes. The analysis of studies on children growing up in conditions of family deprivation allows us to formulate the main problems that characterize the development of adolescents in this context, namely: in the field of cognitive development, in the field of emotional-volitional development, in the fields of personal and social development [16; 45]. The formation of the meaning sphere of adolescents is considered by many researchers as the development of the psychological mechanism of adaptation [37; 144; 218]. Particular attention is paid to the problems of adaptation and socialization of adolescents of this category with intellectual developmental disorders who are in different conditions of education and upbringing (in the conditions of inclusive education, in residential institutions, in special correctional and educational institutions) [62; 68; 100; 107; 112; 118; 198]. [62; 68; 100; 107; 112; 118; 198].

Many researchers believe that socio-psychological adaptation is a multidimensional phenomenon that includes a large number of components [188; 297]. And one of its most important components, which is actively studied by psychologists, is personal adaptation potential [192; 283; 330], which represents the first level in the structure of socio-psychological adaptation. Determination of human adaptation to social reality and development in it has a systemic character, which is fixed by researchers in such concepts of varying degrees of generality as "socio-psychological

competence", "social intelligence", "intelligence" (D. Wechsler, V.N. Druzhinin, J. Piaget, Ch. Spearman, L. Thurstone, M.A. Kholodnaya, D.V. Shakov, et al.), "social thinking of personality" (K.A. Abulkhanova), and others.

For example, the resource approach in psychology allows us to study "personal potential" (D.A. Leontiev, 2002), a set of abilities of an individual to adapt, to overcome crisis situations, to further self-actualization. And also to create a general model of psychological resources and the structure of human personality depending on the real process of human interaction with life conditions of the external world (B.G. Ananiev, 1968).

S.T. Posokhova (2001), studying the problem of adaptation, distinguishes four components of personal adaptation potential.

The first component is bioplastic, it reflects evolutionarily fixed expedient forms of life activity of the human organism and innate energy resources: behavioral programs, bodily biochemical constitution, neurodynamic organization with functional asymmetry, etc. It includes energy resources of the personality, which influence the level of health, physical efficiency and tolerance to unfavorable environmental factors. The role of the first component is great in achieving success in interaction with the environment.

The second component - biographical - is the individual life history of a person. It accumulates the micro society and the micro culture where a person is born and immersed at the early stages of his/her life journey. The connection with them, to an explicit or implicit degree, a person retains throughout his or her life. Child-parent relations, family atmosphere and traditions, significant immediate environment lay the foundation for a certain repertoire of adaptive behavior of an individual.

The third - psychic - is a component of adaptive potential, which is provided by hidden and real human capabilities that allow to reflect the objective reality in all its diversity, and regulate various relationships with it and with oneself, to preserve one's own integrity, self-improvement and self-education.

The fourth component of personal adaptive potential is an established system of personal regulation (personal-regulative component), which makes it possible not only to manage one's behavior in accordance with the normative requirements of society, to

achieve the necessary level of success in professional activity, but also to develop and improve.

The problem of identifying the factors of adolescent maladaptation attracts special attention of researchers [2; 70; 97; 179; 217; 239; 240; 292; 303; 309]. Especially the factor of orphaned adolescents' experience of crisis situations [113; 187; 190]. Experiencing, in the works of domestic and foreign researchers, is understood as an internal reflexive activity aimed at overcoming the "life gap", changing the existing values and meanings [42; 65; 76; 94; 99; 116; 220; 278; 293; 306; 307; 314; 317; 318; 320]. Crisis is understood by researchers as an inability to collect and complete oneself, one's "Self" in a coherent and consistent way, when the aspiration for one's own significance is blocked, and a person experiences it acutely [71; 75; 93; 96; 98; 108; 108; 164; 164; 252; 266; 286; 313; 316].

For example, A.V. Zhukov emphasizes the importance of experiencing crisis situations in the formation of maladapted behavior. In girls 15-17 years old, maladaptation in social interactions is manifested in shyness, anxiety, isolation, emotional instability. In young men, the experience of crisis, suppression of dignity, social interaction, and vital values is expressed in shyness, emotional instability, and indiscipline. Thus, the experienced crises also play a major role in the formation of maladaptive behavior [79].

The development of correctional programs implies understanding the specifics and factors of maladaptation of adolescents of this category. The study of external factors of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans is currently presented quite widely in correctional psychology and is popular among researchers. For example, M.I. Lisin's concept of communicative activity, V.S. Mukhin's concept of self-consciousness formation in ontogenesis, A.V. Petrovsky's stratometric concept, M.Yu. Kondratiev's concept for studying a closed group. However, there are very few studies of internal factors of personal determination of adolescent orphans' maladaptation - they are scattered and fragmentary (I.A. Korobeinikov, N.N. Tolstykh). And studies of internal factors of maladaptation of adolescent orphans with peculiarities of intellectual development remain practically unattended.

The analysis of scientific research on the problem under study allowed us to draw the following conclusions:

1. The widest explanation of the mechanisms of formation of responsible and conscious attitude to life in the subject is contained in the studies of the meaning sphere of personality in the context of the following approaches: activity, dynamic and existential. The systemic approach allows solving the problem of systemic determination of the plurality of phenomena of the meaning sphere of a person.
2. There is an active research interest in the clinical and psychopathological, and psychosocial characteristics of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation. However, the number of works analyzing the mutual influence and interrelation of the type of dysontogenesis, personal characteristics of the meaning sphere, meaning-in-life orientations, life satisfaction, experiences of crisis situations, and maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans living in an orphanage is very few, which served as the basis for our study.
3. The meaning sphere represents an empirically undiscovered aspect in the knowledge of psychological features of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, but is of vital importance for their social integration and adaptation.
4. Under conditions of parental (maternal) deprivation, the conditions of the early socialization process are distorted in adolescent orphans with mental retardation (F70). This is associated in many of them with multiple experiences of crisis and stressful situations, with the risk of mental and physical violence, with the risk of developing neuropsychiatric disorders with various deviations of behavior. In other adolescent orphans with mental retardation (F70), the distorted conditions of early socialization are accompanied by an immoral-criminal environment with the risk of involvement in asocial and criminal activities, with the formation of personality deformations and stable forms of delinquent and further criminal activity.

5. The inability of adolescent orphans with mental retardation (F70) to think abstractly, weakness and unrestraint of motives, lack of initiative, increased suggestibility, lack of purposefulness of actions, their impulsiveness and inconsistency - all of the above makes it difficult for an adolescent orphan with mental retardation to enter independent life.
6. The adaptation potential of mentally retarded adolescent orphans (F70) in relation to adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development is reduced. Their adaptation is often incomplete, and new life experience is formed with difficulty. The life path of an orphaned adolescent with mild mental retardation takes place in the context of adaptation and maladaptation processes.
7. Disadaptation is an impairment of the interaction of the individual with society and himself. Disadaptation is interpreted as a consequence of dysontogenesis, as the opposite of adaptation, and as a form of deviant behavior. Factors of maladaptation are divided into internal (dysontogenesis, crisis experiences, self-esteem, unmet needs) and external (social conditions, family situation, criminal reference group). Disadaptive manifestations affect behavioral, affective and cognitive spheres.
8. The nature of behavioral disorders in mentally retarded adolescent orphans (F70) is not limited to the action of biological factors, but is largely determined by social and psychological causes. Behavioral reactions of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation have their own peculiarities.
9. The study of internal regulatory mechanisms and factors of maladaptation, and consideration of these facts is necessary in the ways of implementation of correction and developmental work aimed at both correction and prevention of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with mental retardation. For this purpose, we conducted the present study to identify the specifics of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation living in an orphanage at an PVE institution.

## **CHAPTER 2. OBJECT AND METHODS OF RESEARCH OF THE MEANING SPHERE OF ADOLESCENT ORPHANS WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF INTELLIGENCE**

### **2.1. Rationale for the chosen research direction**

Modern psychology is dominated by the notion that the meaning sphere of personality cannot be reduced to any simple formula, but is a complexly organized and most often, according to researchers, dynamic system [12; 17; 25; 28; 37; 40; 43; 43; 65; 78; 120; 121; 135; 144; 165; 183; 196; 201; 204; 212; 213; 218; 246; 291; 300]. However, having turned to the experience of research on the meaning sphere, we encountered a rather limited set of methods used for such studies [260]. It also turned out that even fewer methods are used to study the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans. Most often researchers in this subject area use two methods: The Test of Meaning-in-life Orientations (MLO) by D.A. Leontiev (an adapted The Purpose-in-Life Test by J. Crumbaugh and L. Maholick) which allows studying the features of the meaning sphere of personality [143], and the technique of ultimate meanings (D.A. Leontiev and V.N. Buzin) [142]. The toolkit for disclosing the meaning sphere of adolescents with mental disorders is fragmentarily presented.

This circumstance, namely the minimalist set of targeted psychometric techniques, prompted us to search for a new approach that would allow us to expand our understanding of the formation and functioning of a multidimensional phenomenon - the meaning sphere, in particular - in adolescent orphans with intellectual disabilities. In this regard, the present study was organized in accordance with the principles of complex and comparative approaches.

Based on the systematization of scientific research, the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans was presented as a system consisting of elements united by various links, representing meaning-in-life orientations, existential fulfillment, experiences of



crisis situations, as well as a certain level of subjective satisfaction with their lives. The hypothetical model of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans can be presented as a four-component theoretical construct, the direct observation of which is possible through cognitive, reflexive and emotional manifestations, which is shown in Figure 1.

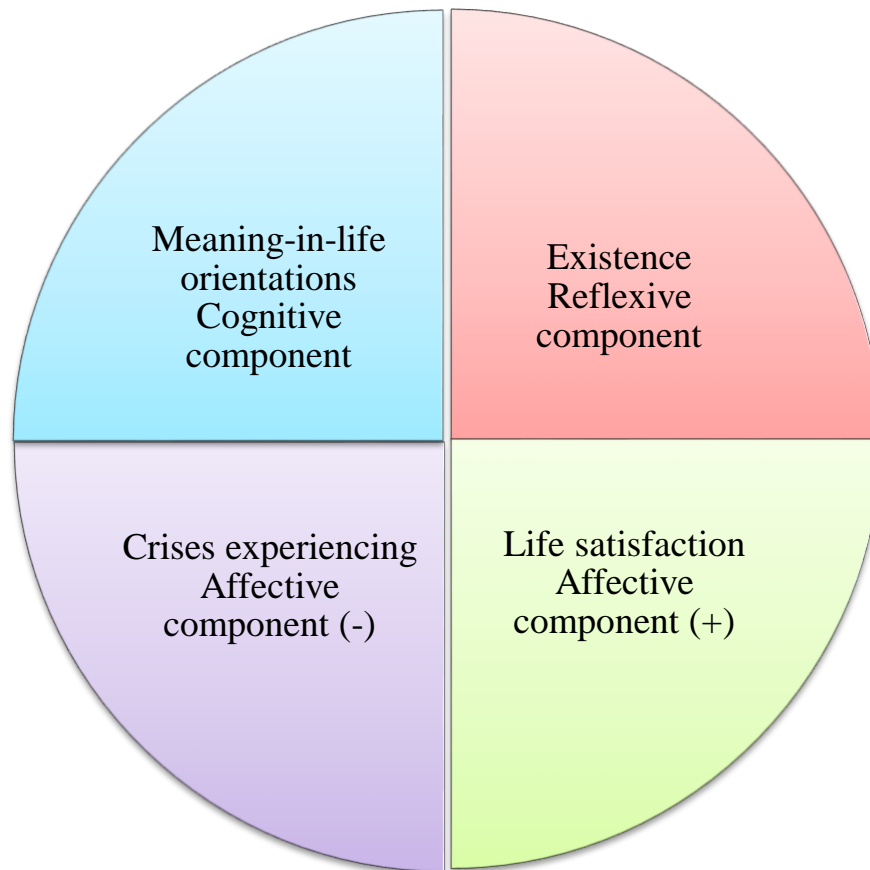


Figure 1 - Hypothetical model of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans

The value, as well as the need for empirical study, of any psychological phenomenon is determined by its role in the social system in which the personality is integrated. The special social role of the meaning sphere consists in the fact that meaning structures are included in the regulation of adaptive behavior and can become preventive factors of its destructiveness. The structural approach, supplemented by the functional approach, expands the vision of adaptation and integration potentials and the personal basis for the formation of community with the social environment in

adolescents with intellectual disabilities. In this regard, according to the hypothesis of the study, each component of the meaning sphere is presumably associated with maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation (Figure 2).

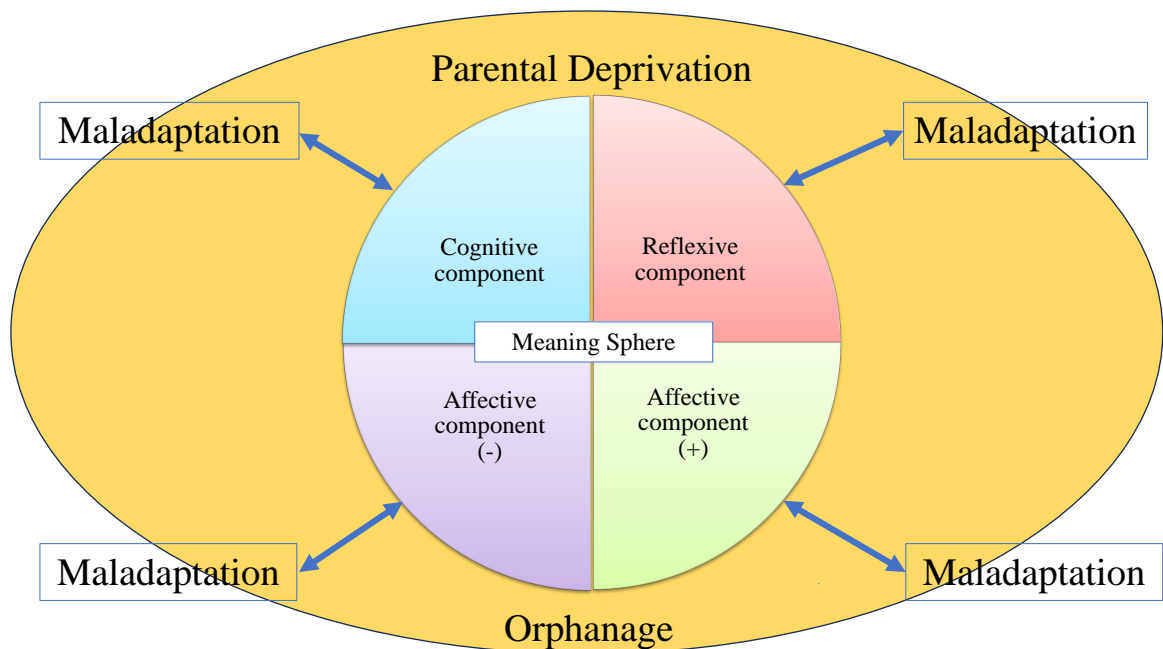


Figure 2 - Hypothetical model of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans under conditions of parental deprivation

The proposed hypothetical model allows a dynamic correlation between the components, as well as changes in their links with maladaptive behavior depending on the features of intellectual development of adolescents. It is logical to assume that the expression and orientation of such relationships may differ depending on the component of the meaning sphere.

The proposed model, which combines the content, structure and functions of the meaning sphere, is applicable for identifying the consequences of social deprivation, particularly parental deprivation, in adolescence. In order to increase the level of development of social and psychological adaptation skills in adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation and adolescent orphans with preserved intelligence graduating

from orphanages and PVEs, it is advisable to continue clarifying the set of factors, the management of which will make it possible to solve this problem more effectively. The study of the peculiarities of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, who live permanently in orphanages and are pupils of PVE institutions, can help to improve the provision of systemic corrective psychological assistance to them, and improve educational and educational programs.

The object of our study is adolescent orphans and adolescents left without parental care, of 15-17 years of age, with a mild degree of mental retardation. These are teenagers who have experienced many crisis situations: various types of neglect (rejection), exploitation, abuse, and punishment. They are often deprived of a family environment that supports their interests, or have experienced the death of parents (relatives). The concept of "adolescents", which we use, is more in line with the set goals, objectives, and adequate to the logic of our research and the phenomenology of human mental development itself. Thereby concretizing a certain stage of human life, which is available for study as a state of different qualities of mental reality and as an integrative characteristic [3; 5; 51; 130; 137; 145; 213; 230; 241].

The study design is presented in more detail below.

## **2.2. General characteristics of the object and organization of the study**

The study involved 100 adolescent orphans aged 15 to 17 years (average age 16.6 years), of both sexes, who are pupils of orphanages at PVE institutions in St. Petersburg. Of these, 50 people were included in the main group ( $N_o=50$ ) and 50 in the comparison group ( $N_c=50$ ). Samples of adolescents were balanced in number and age.

The main group of adolescents consisted of 25 males and 25 females. The criterion for assigning an adolescent to the main group was a record in the profile journal of the diagnosis "mental retardation" (MR) F70 (including  $50 < IQ < 70$ ). Adolescents with mild mental retardation were educated in correctional-developmental

groups of VIII type [27; 87; 208]. The adolescents in the main group all had a mental disability of group 2 or 3.

The comparison group consisted of 43 males and 7 females - 50 individuals (adolescent orphans) who were characterized by normal intellectual development (IQ > 70) (not diagnosed with F70). In the comparison group, only some of the adolescent orphans had disabilities, but for other conditions.

All adolescents brought up in a situation of family deprivation have their own features of maladaptive behavior because they are in the context of a difficult life situation [33; 79; 80; 85; 107; 115; 133; 154; 182; 187; 198; 211; 222; 223; 239; 242; 262; 269; 280; 294]. Some adolescent orphans have relatives with whom they keep in touch, who visit them in the orphanage or even sometimes take them to their homes for the weekend with the consent of the management of the PVE institution. It should be noted that it often happens (due to various circumstances) that communication with these relatives is destructive, if these relatives lead an immoral way of life, abuse alcohol or psychoactive substances, or the relatives try to parasitize at the expense of money from the pension and benefits of the orphan or his/her living space.

Another significant negative factor affecting orphans is some former graduates of orphanages, who involve them in illegal activities (theft, fights), incline them to bad habits (smoking, drinking alcohol and psychoactive drugs), etc.

It is also worth noting that each adolescent orphan from the main group with a diagnosis of mild mental retardation has his or her own individual history of orphanhood, his or her own experience of relationships with adults, and his or her own special character of personal development, which in not all cases can be qualified as mental and intellectual retardation. Some adolescent orphans have been diagnosed as having once been temporarily placed in a psychoneurological boarding school or placed on the psychiatric register for "bad" behavior in the orphanage they were in before entering PVE institutions. Some of these adolescents expressed a desire to withdraw the diagnosis of "mild mental retardation" in order to be able to live a full life. Due to these circumstances, individual correctional work with an adolescent orphan with mild mental retardation is necessary.

Despite the presence of some general features characterizing the mental development of orphans, we proceeded from the fact that as an object of psychological research they represent a rather conventional group, internally differentiated. In essence, the deprivation syndrome is the only basis that allows us to unite orphanage inmates at the initial stage into one sample.

The study was carried out in three stages:

At the first stage, adolescent orphans were united into a single group. The task of this stage was to propose a correct, consistent from theoretical positions version of the content and structure of the personal meaning sphere of adolescents in conditions of parental deprivation.

At the second stage, the subjects (and, accordingly, the results of their test tasks) were divided into the two groups described above. The purpose of the division is to identify the specific features of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, and to determine the influence of such a modality of dysontogenesis as intellectual impairment on the meaning sphere of these adolescents.

At the third stage, the targets of correctional work for overcoming maladaptive behavior were identified, and the interrelations and influence of the features of the meaning sphere on maladaptation of these adolescents were investigated.

In organizing the study in terms of time and location, we were actively assisted by the heads and specialists of PVE institutions in St. Petersburg, as well as helped to print the necessary amount of stimulus material - test forms.

The study was conducted by the author in 2015-2018 in the course of his professional activity in a regulated working order. Examination procedure of the subjects: the wards of the orphanage were tested by a teacher-psychologist and the head of the structural unit "Correctional Department", which, in turn, is part of the structural unit "Orphanage for orphans and children left without parental care", in accordance with the plan of this study and the plans of the annual educational program of the PVE institution.

Some adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation had difficulties in performing certain psychodiagnostic techniques. First of all, it concerned the questionnaire tests and blank methods. For better understanding of the methods used in the work by adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation (F70), the content of some methods was explained to them in more detail. Mentally retarded people needed much more time to comprehend the tests offered to them. The slowness of their perception of texts was determined by the fact that, due to mental retardation, they have difficulty distinguishing the main things, often do not immediately understand the internal links between the parts of the tasks, as their perception is characterized by less differentiation.

Adolescent orphans were tested in classrooms of educational institutions during their free time, optimal for productive work, in a small group (usually 2-3 people), or were invited individually to the psychologist's office at the "Correctional Department" of the structural subdivision "Children's Home" at PVEs in St. Petersburg, where, in a friendly atmosphere, they were offered to answer the test questions concerning the meaning sphere of personality, and the instructions for the tests were read to them. This, in turn, was justified by the search for individual approaches to each adolescent orphan and taking into account his or her personal characteristics. Due to the individual characteristics of each participant in the diagnostic process, he or she was gradually included in the work. One diagnostic procedure with an orphaned adolescent took an average of 30-40 minutes.

Most of the adolescents were interested in the testing, and they wanted to know the results obtained. However, we believe it is important to note that special (the greatest) difficulties arose during the diagnosis of orphaned adolescents with normal intellectual development. Among them there were those who were impatient, tried to answer the test questions faster, spoiled the questionnaire or avoided the test altogether. The latter managed to be fully tested only after some time, sometimes quite a long time, and in some cases only the next year at a favorable time suitable for them, when teenagers were ready for it themselves and they became interested. The main diagnostic work with orphaned adolescents was carried out for 2 years.

It should be noted that, in general, adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation showed much greater willingness, interest and trust in taking the survey than their peers with normal intelligence, who were often apathetic or initially distrustful, and worried that the test results might turn out to be "negative" or become publicly available. Therefore, the latter had to be interviewed before the examination and reassured of the confidentiality of the study.

It is worth noting that orphaned adolescents were more willing to undergo individual testing than group testing when they were with their peers, when it could be observed that, on the one hand, they felt some shyness and embarrassment in front of each other, and, on the other hand, they often tried to look up answers from other test takers.

The testing procedure had to be carried out with adolescent orphans in several approaches over two to four meetings. Since the pilot study revealed that the large amount of stimulus material offered sharply reduces the motivation of adolescents, many adolescents were characterized by a state of mental exhaustion when performing such tasks. Adolescents were much more willing to take the test if it was one-page long. The Existence Scale, a lengthy test of several pages, was the most labor-intensive for orphaned adolescents with mild mental retardation, so it had to be administered separately.

In the course of the preliminary survey (pilot study), it became clear that not all orphaned adolescents studying in an PVE institution gave their consent to participate in the study. There were many cases when answers to test questions were given incompletely or with missing answers, and in some cases adolescents refused to take the test again in order to correctly fulfill the test task.

93 adolescent orphans additionally participated in the pilot study, which involved the creation of a methodological complex, and the assessment of the reliability and validity of the methods. A group of experts – 22 people (6 educators, 5 class teachers, 5 masters of industrial training, 3 educational psychologists, 3 medical psychologists). A total of 215 people participated in the study.

### **2.3. Research methods and techniques**

The following methods were used in the study.

#### **1. The method of theoretical analysis of scientific literature**

The method of scientific analysis of the problem was used in the review of domestic and foreign psychological and pedagogical research. Various approaches used by researchers and their results were analyzed and systematized, which made it possible to determine the methodological foundations of our study, develop the design of the study, and compile a battery of psychometric methods.

#### **2. Organizational methods**

The study was organized in accordance with the requirements of the comparative and complex method (B.G. Ananiev) [14].

#### **3. Empirical methods**

The study used psychodiagnostic methods: testing, questionnaires, interviews [99; 167; 168; 271; 325], observation; diagnostic and biographical methods (B.G. Ananiev, N.A. Loginova), content analysis of specialized journals of orphaned adolescents and the method of statistical processing of experimental data [38; 69; 166; 172; 248; 285].

The cognitive process of searching for the meaning of life is a mental process that has external manifestations and can be psychometrically measured. After generalizing the classical approaches of general and existential psychology to the study of the structure of the meaning sphere of personality, a number of psychometric techniques were selected. Standardized psychometric techniques with sufficient validity, according to the expert community, were used as research tools, which were combined into two groups, namely:

1. Techniques for revealing the components of the meaning sphere of the personality - the Test of Meaning-in-life Orientations (MLO) by D. A. Leontiev [143], the Existence Scale test by A. Längle and C. Orgler (ESK) (adapted by S. V. Krivtsova) [127], as well as questionnaires by A.V. Zhukov: The Experiencing crisis situations test, and the Life Satisfaction Questionnaire [79].



These methods contain evaluation scales, according to which a more detailed assessment of the content and structure of the meaning sphere of personality is performed. Their selection takes into account both the objectives of the study and the age of the respondents. Combining them into a test battery is conditioned by the necessity of solving the problems of correctional psychology.

2. Technique for detecting maladaptation - "D. Stott's Observation Map", modified by S.T. Posokhova, L.S. Rashitova [63; 227].

### **Methods for the study of the meaning sphere of the personality of adolescent orphans**

#### **D. A. Leontiev's Meaning-in-Life Orientations Test [143]**

The Meaning-in-Life Orientations Test (MLO) is a psychodiagnostic tool consisting of a set of 20 scales (adapted from the Purpose-in-Life test by J. Crumbaugh and L. Maholick). According to the author's description, each scale is represented by a statement with a bifurcating ending: two opposite endings set the poles of the evaluation scale, between which seven gradations of preference are possible (from 1 to 7), with the maximum score (7) always corresponding to the pole of having a purpose in life, and the minimum score (1) - to the pole of its absence. Test takers selected the most appropriate of the seven gradations by marking the corresponding digit. Processing of the results involved summarizing the numerical values of all 20 scales and converting the total score into standard values [143].

In this study, the expression of all components of meaning-in-life orientations was recorded:

- life goals (future) - the subscale measures the presence or absence of future goals in the subject's life that give life meaningfulness, direction, and time perspective;
- life process (present) - the subscale measures the extent to which the examinee perceives the very process of his/her life as interesting, emotionally rich and meaningful;
- life performance (past) - the subscale measures the assessment of the passed part of life, how productive and meaningful was the lived part of it;

- locus of control - I (I am the master of life) - the subscale reflects the perception of oneself as a person with sufficient freedom of choice, able to live in accordance with one's goals and ideas about its meaning;
- locus of control - life (controllability of life) - the subscale reflects the belief that a person can control his/her life, freely make decisions and implement them.

The original technique is applied to reveal and estimate subjective representations and correlation by the person of his past, present and future, which makes it possible to identify individual levels of meaning regulation of life activity, level of meaning development of the person on the basis of meaning-in-life orientations, and meaningfulness of life as a whole.

### **"The Existence Scale" by A. Längle and C. Orgler (ESK)**

**(adapted by S.V. Krivtsova) [127]**

“The Existence Scale” is a 46-item questionnaire reflecting various aspects of a person's very awareness of himself and his life, which are asked to assess how appropriate the answer choices are to the questions offered.

In the study conducted, the performance of the test was preceded by an interview with the test taker in order to ensure that he or she was able to understand the test and answer the questions, and that the test was truly completed without deliberate or unconscious falsification.

The Existence Scale questionnaire was processed by calculating the scores from 1 to 6 assigned to responses to direct items ("true" - 1 point, "not true" - 6 points) and responses to reverse items from 6 to 1 ("not true" - 1 point, "true" - 6 points).

Further, the overall existential fulfillment score and the indicators for each of the four subscales are summarized, as well as the indicators of the personality, existentiality and fulfillment (existential) parameters. The “Existence Scale” makes it possible to identify two ways of tendentiousness and social desirability of responses [127; 155].

The study recorded the intensity of the following components of existence:

- self-distance - the subscale measures the person's ability to create an inner space, to stand back at a distance in relation to his affects, prejudices and desires, to himself;

- self-transcendence - the subscale measures free emotionality, the ability to respond emotionally, to feel values, the ability to focus on meaning in actions, and not only on the goal (to live for someone/ something), to perceive deep inner relationships (the existential significance of what is happening);
- freedom - the subscale measures the ability to decide on actions and find real opportunities for them;
- responsibility - the subscale measures the ability of a person to bring his decisions to the end.

The “Existence Scale” measures existential fulfillment subjectively felt by a person [315]. The very concept of existential fulfillment appeared in the psychology of V. Frankl to describe the quality of human life [279]. The level of existential fulfillment shows the amount of what is meaningful in the life of the person being tested, whether a person can deal constructively with himself and with the world, despite the peculiarities of his/her psychodynamics and life circumstances. Existential fulfillment shows how well a person can deal with his or her problems. The "Existence Scale" is primarily concerned with a person's abilities to make sense of life. These abilities to a certain extent depend both on the past experience in connection with the experience of problems and the difficulties of the actual life situation.

#### **Life Satisfaction Questionnaire by A.V. Zhukov [79]**

The questionnaire is the author's standardized methodology for surveying adolescents at risk of maladaptive behavior. The questionnaire consists of 10 items: the first two are the respondent's gender and age (biographical data), and 8 items reflecting (measuring) subjective satisfaction with various aspects of their life, and with themselves, which are defined as individual adaptation resources [79]. In the questionnaire, the test subject is asked to evaluate how suitable the options of answers to the test questions are for him/her.

The concept of "life satisfaction" is a phenomenon in psychology, which is considered an integral formation (characteristic) of personality [4]. According to many Russian and foreign authors (D.A. Leontiev, K. Mudzybaev, C. Rogers, S.L. Rubinstein, V. Frankl) there is a relationship between life satisfaction and such

psychological phenomena as the meaning of life, values and self-actualization of personality.

In this regard, we considered it necessary to include in the hypothetical (theoretical) construct of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans a component consisting of the scales of the Life Satisfaction Questionnaire: state of health; stable interests: sports, hobbies; signs of spirituality: faith in God, faith in help from above; satisfaction with academic performance, satisfaction with life, financial situation.

The survey results were processed by calculating the scores from 5 to 1 assigned to the answers ("excellent" - 5 points, "good" - 4 points, "average" - 3 points, "bad" - 2 points, "very bad" - 1 point), and to the answers to the answers from 3 to 1 ("yes" - 3 points, "hard to say" - 2 points, "no" - 1 point).

The study registered the intensity of all the above-mentioned components of life satisfaction.

#### **The questionnaire "Experiencing Crisis Situations" by A.V. Zhukov [79]**

The questionnaire is the author's standardized methodology for the examination of adolescents at risk of maladaptive behavior. The questionnaire is composed of a list of 25 main life situations that a teenager of this category has to face in life, and which the teenager perceives as crisis situations. The test subject is asked to mark only those of them that he/she had to experience by circling the serial number of the crisis situation, and to evaluate how crisis-like it was for him/her on a ten-point scale from 1 to 10. It should be noted that in this sample all the testees did not mark two situations from the list related to pollution and destruction of the environment, and destruction of stereotypes (remarriage of one of the parents, destruction of religious ideals, appearance of a new family member), so they had to be excluded from this methodology.

Since not only in the context of correctional psychology, but also in other areas of psychological science, the manifestations of the experience of crisis situations, the meaning of life, and maladaptation are considered in unity [12; 22; 33; 41; 43; 48; 65; 75; 78; 79; 80; 84; 98; 108; 126; 126; 196; 196; 213; 218; 238; 246; 272], we considered it necessary to include in the hypothetical model of the meaning sphere a component consisting of 23 scales of the questionnaire "Experiencing Crisis Situations":

- death of a significant other;
- violence;
- living with an alcohol-dependent;
- robbery;
- parental divorce;
- social exclusion;
- physical injuries;
- breaking up a relationship with a friend;
- loneliness;
- death (loss) of a beloved pet;
- communication barriers;
- conflicts with classmates;
- proneness to conflict;
- experiencing uneasiness;
- fear of not meeting the expectations of others;
- chronic illnesses;
- sicknesses;
- possibility of being unemployed;
- poor academic performance;
- guilt over past misbehavior;
- disruption of the social ecology;
- fear of death;
- self-worth reduction.

The study recorded the expression of all of the above components of adolescent orphans' experience of crisis situations. Integral characteristics of crisis situations affecting vital values, suppression of dignity, social interaction, self-value and the future were used in the analysis of the obtained results [79].

**Methodology for the study of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans**  
**Modified "D. Stott's Observation Map" (modified by S.T. Posokhova and L.S.**  
**Rashitova) [227]**

The map was composed of 15 scales that represented the most distinct types of maladaptive behavior of adolescents to determine the individual profile of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans [227]. Two scales of maladaptive behavior - involvement in informal groups, and sexual problems - had to be subsequently excluded from this methodology because no verified data were obtained for them [92].

We needed the obtained data in order to be able to comprehensively investigate the existence of the relationship between the components of the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans, and to identify the influence of the type of dysontogenesis on these phenomena. According to many other researchers in this subject area [7; 12; 24; 57; 57; 78; 83; 84; 85; 106; 107; 109; 124; 124; 180; 196; 216; 222; 240], the parameters of maladaptation occupy a central place in psychologically corrective work with adolescents of this category.

The observation map was filled in by specialists from PVE institutions: special educators, educational psychologists, orphanage educators, and industrial training masters who knew the orphan teenager well.

In the registration form, they assessed those types of maladaptive behavior that correspond to or are most characteristic of a given teenager. The severity of each indicator was assessed on a scale of 1 to 3 points, where 1 was the absence of this sign, 2 was the episodic severity of the sign, and 3 was the constant severity of the sign.

In the conducted study, the severity of the following listed below manifestations of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans was recorded:

- smoking;
- alcohol consumption;
- drug use;
- fighting;
- use of profanity;

- absenteeism from classes;
- aggressiveness to adults;
- aggressiveness to peers;
- leaving the orphanage without permission;
- problems with academic performance;
- family situation;
- record in the juvenile department;
- theft.

Integral characteristics of maladaptive behavior of adolescents are described by researchers using factors common to maladapted and adapted adolescents: "abnormal behavior", "aggressiveness", and "delinquency" [227].

This methodology was used in our study both to diagnose the difficulties of adolescent orphans' adaptation in an PVE institution, and to analyze the nature of maladaptation, and the degree of non-adaptation of adolescent orphans to education based on the results of long-term observation. It also provides an opportunity to get a picture of the maladaptive behavior of an adolescent orphan, which does not allow him/her to adequately adapt to socially acceptable norms in independent life.

#### **2.4. Methods of statistical data processing**

The original depersonalized results of the psychometric examination of the subjects and statistical data processing are available for review at the following email addresses: <https://disk.yandex.ru/i/TFTY2h4jFbPIpw>; factor analysis results - <https://disk.yandex.ru/i/3YYANV-6VJXStQ>; regression analysis results – <https://disk.yandex.ru/i/Aa-N99Dt4rpPCA>. The following designations were introduced in the initial matrix of components: column A: 1 – mild degree of MR; 2 - normative intelligence [92].

A number of methods of statistical analysis were used to identify the reliability (statistical significance) of the results obtained and the relationship between indicators [69; 186; 248].

Methods of variation statistics calculated mean group values, which reflect the generalized value of the measured trait, as well as the standard deviation - an indicator of the variability of indicators in the group, dispersion of values relative to the mean [186].

The Fisher's Z-criterion - was used to test hypotheses regarding the equality of mean values of indicators in two samples under normal distribution.

The Bartlett's sphericity criterion (Bartlett's test) - was used to check the equality of dispersions of our samples. It allows us to detect deviations both in the greater and in the lesser directions.

The Lilliefors significance correction - the criterion was used to check the normality of the sample distribution.

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov criterion was used for one sample, it detects the difference between the distribution of the variable and normal.

The Mann-Whitney U-test was used to ascertain differences between two independent samples in the level of intensity of an ordinal variable [186; 248].

The Kruskal-Wallis H test allows us to ascertain differences between several independent samples in terms of the level of intensity of an ordinal variable.

The  $\chi^2$  criterion for one sample determines the degree of difference between the observed distribution of frequencies by gradations of the variable and the expected result.

The reliability of the influence of factors was checked using ANOVA analysis of variance.

The Spearman rank correlation coefficient  $\rho$  was used to determine the measure of a linear relationship between random variables, to assess the strength of which not numerical values are used, but the corresponding ranks [248].

Exploratory factor analysis, a multidimensional general scientific research method of data reduction, was used to determine the structure of relationships between



the values of variables within each method within each group - to compare the structure of the factor space between groups and to visualize the multi-parameter object of analysis. The study used several factor analysis techniques:

- Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) sample adequacy measure – a value used to assess the applicability of factor analysis. When the value is from 0.5 to 1.0, factor analysis is applicable, and when the value is less than 0.5, factor analysis is not applicable to the sample.
- factor extraction method: principal component analysis (PCA) was used to reduce data dimension with minimal loss of information;
- rotation method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization - orthogonal factor rotation method, was used to minimize the number of variables with high loads on each factor;
- the rocky scree criterion – the rocky scree graph is a method for graphically determining the optimal number of factors proposed by Cattell (1966), the meaning of which is to find the point where the decrease in eigenvalues slows down the most and highlight a significant number of factors.

Regression analysis, stepwise selection method, quadratic and linear regression were used to study the dependence of some feature - the dependent variable on the factors influencing it - the independent variables.

The mathematical-statistical method of data analysis was carried out using the statistical program SPSS [69]. In addition to quantitative processing of the results, their qualitative analysis was carried out [34; 38; 171; 172; 285]. The initial psychometric data were subjected to exploratory statistical analysis. Based on the results of this analysis, it was decided to use non-parametric methods of statistical analysis. This decision is due to the following circumstances:

firstly, not all obtained data fulfill the requirement of normality of distribution of trait parameters;

secondly, the use of nonparametric methods allows us to work with values having any type of distribution;

thirdly, the measured parameters are not always quantitative - there is a certain number of nominative scales [248].

## **CHAPTER 3. RESULTS OF THE STUDY OF THE MEANING SPHERE OF ADOLESCENT ORPHANS WITH A MILD DEGREE OF MENTAL RETARDATION**

### **3.1. Results of the study of the content and structure of the meaning sphere in adolescent orphans**

#### **3.1.1. Results of the study of the content of the meaning sphere in adolescent orphans**

In order to solve one of the research tasks related to the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescents in conditions of parental deprivation, let us consider the results obtained on a sample of adolescent orphans as a whole. The basis for this approach was the hypothesis that in conditions of parental deprivation adolescents have the ability to conceptualize various manifestations of the surrounding reality and the events of their lives. It was also assumed that the content and structure of the meaning sphere reflect the comprehension of the most significant aspects of life for adolescent orphans.

As a result of the theoretical analysis of the problem, it was ascertained that the essence of the meaning sphere consists of four specific interrelated components: cognitive, reflexive, positive affectivity and negative affectivity. The results of measurements of these components in adolescent orphans are presented in full in Table 1 and Table 2 of Appendix A.

Below we consider the content of each component separately. The cognitive component is represented by the ability of adolescents to realize key life guidelines that guide their behavior, goal achievement, and efforts. Table 1 presents the expressivity of the *cognitive component* of the meaning sphere of orphaned adolescents in comparison

with similar indicators obtained by other authors in the study of the meaning sphere of adolescents living in families.

Table 1 - Expressivity of the cognitive component of the meaning sphere in adolescent orphans (N=100)

Method	Indicators	Average group values, standard deviations (points)	
		Adolescent orphans	Metadata, D.A. Leontiev, 2000
The of Meaning-in-life Orientations Test	Goals in life	30,44±6,87	30,64±6,08
	The process of life	28,93±6,38	29,94±5,29
	The effectiveness of life	25,33±5,91	24,38±4,62
	Locus of control-I	20,59±5,04	19,85±4,07
	Locus of control-life	28,38±6,53	29,42±5,95

As can be seen from the results presented in Table 1, adolescent orphans are able to realize their life orientations. At the same time, they have the most expressed meaning-in-life orientations towards *goals in life*, reflecting the aspiration to the future. Then follows the expressivity of meaning-in-life orientations to the process of life as a characteristic of the present. To a lesser extent, adolescent orphans are oriented to the past in the form of realizing the results of life. The expressivity of the meaningfulness of the future, present and past experience does not differ significantly from the average age norm. A similar ratio is formed in relation to the awareness of control over life processes. Both control loci - Locus of Control-I and Locus of Control-life - are expressed equally in the group of adolescent orphans and in the comparison group. Adolescents are united by the predominance of Locus of Control-life over Locus of Control-I. In adolescent orphans, the ability to understand the controllability of life in general is more represented in consciousness than the ability to include their own self in the choice of control method.

It can be assumed that the level of cognitive abilities of adolescent orphans is quite sufficient to realize the meaning of life orientations. Another assumption is that the factor of parental deprivation does not have a significant impact on this ability. This

confirms V. Frankl's idea that the search for the meaning of life is inherent in every person [297]. Parental deprivation preserves the ability to realize life processes in general.

The methodology used in the study reflected only the ability to realize different aspects of meaning without analyzing its content, which is always individual and determined by many social and psychological factors. In the MLO method, the *meaningfulness* of life is understood not as its awareness, but as the *focus* of the subject's life activity on some meaning [143].

Table 2 presents the expressivity of life fulfillment indicators as a sign of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans.

Table 2 - Expressivity of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans (N=100)

Method	Indicators	Average group values, standard deviations (points)	
		Adolescent orphans	Metadata, A. Längle, 2009 (levels/points)
The Existence Scale	Self-distancing	25,79±7,52	Low (below 26) Medium = 35.5 High 43-48
	Self-transcendence	60,19±11,90	Low (below 58) Medium = 73 High 81-84
	Freedom	42,35±9,68	Low (below 37) Medium = 49 High 58-66
	Responsibility	46,52±12,69	Low (below 41) Medium = 57,5 High 70-78

According to the results obtained, the peculiarities of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans should include their ability to reflect on their existence, fulfillment of their life. The expressivity of the indicators of existence tends to decrease from both low and medium values relative to the average statistical norm. This tendency creates a special picture of existence experiencing of by adolescents in conditions of parental deprivation.

Low indicators of *self-distancing* mean that adolescent orphans have difficulties in reflecting the inner space of their own self. It is difficult for them to build a distance from their experiences, it is difficult for them to navigate their feelings and understand what is happening to them. They react quickly to stimuli and become dependent on random circumstances. This may be due to inner tension, confusion caused by conflicts, post-traumatic states and unmet needs.

The expressivity of the *self-transcendence* indicator tends to be low, which reflects a lack of emotionality in adolescent orphans, flat affectivity and a low amplitude of feelings. The penury of emotional life leads to feelings of helplessness and insecurity. The sense of importance and value of the content of experience is limited, which reduces the ability to have a positive sense of meaning in life.

Based on the results presented in Table 2, it can be considered that such an indicator of life fulfillment as freedom tends to low values in the group of adolescent orphans. This tendency demonstrates the obvious difficulty in decision-making and uncertainty of adolescents in their own choices. This tendency is accompanied by anxieties and fears. It also means that adolescent orphans are passive and prone to fatalism, depressive experiences, and dependent forms of living. Most likely when, for example, alcohol, money or gambling can fulfill a compensatory role due to low existentiality.

A low level is also distinguished by the expressivity of the responsibility indicator. It can be argued that adolescent orphans have little sense of personal involvement in life, and are rarely guided by a sense of duty, which is not sufficiently formed in them. Adolescents in this category are prone to anxiety reactions, fears of efforts and problems, and the need to comply with obligations. They are prone to depressive experiences, hysterical responses to the demands of others. Hence, frivolity and carelessness in behavior are possible.

Thus, the presented results give reason to believe that adolescent orphans are capable of reflecting on existence. However, their level of existence is low compared to the average norm.

Table 3 presents the results of the expressivity of positive affectivity as a component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans.

Table 3 - Expressivity of the component "positive affectivity" of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans (N=100)

Method	Indicators	Average group values, standard deviations (points)	
		Adolescent orphans	Metadata, A.V. Zhukov, 2010
The Life Satisfaction Questionnaire	Satisfaction with life	4,15±0,83	4,16±0,75
	Satisfaction with health	4,13±0,82	4,02±0,76
	Satisfaction with academic performance	3,94±0,96	-
	Financial situation	3,6±0,88	-
	Sports activities	2,28±0,80	1,64±0,63
	Having a hobby	2,61±0,70	1,75±0,54
	Faith in God	2,2±0,75	1,2±0,77
	Faith in help from above	1,96±0,69	-

The peculiarities of positive affectivity of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans include high values of *life satisfaction* - 4.15 (with a maximum value of 5 points). It is likely that adolescent orphans are generally satisfied with their life, and their health. Also high satisfaction is noted in relation to their academic performance and financial situation. This in turn can be interpreted as a tendency to hedonistic feeling and lifestyle, when pleasure becomes a significant terminal value and one of the meanings of their life. This idea is supported by the fact that for adolescent orphans the pleasure of playing sports, and having a hobby is significant.

According to the data of Table 3, in the group of adolescent orphans, the expressivity of satisfaction with life and health generally corresponds to adolescents raised in a family. At the same time, there is more expressed satisfaction in the sphere of entertainment. It can be noted that the faith in God is more expressed in orphaned teenagers than in teenagers brought up in a family, which may be related to the specificity of moral education, which is carried out in this kind of institutions.

Along with this, the negative affectivity of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans was also considered.

The specificity of the negative affectivity of the meaning sphere in adolescent orphans consists in a wide range of individual experiences of crisis situations. The full expressivity of negative affectivity of orphaned adolescents is presented in Table 2, Appendix A. Orphaned adolescents have the most expressed experiences of crisis situations related to death and loss. In the structure of experiences of crisis situations in adolescent orphans, the dominant position is occupied by the experience of death of a close person (which corresponds to the metadata in comparison with family adolescents) and the loss of a favorite animal. For adolescents in this category it is significant.

Adolescent orphans also have an expressed experience of crises of interpersonal interaction. These include the experience of conflicts with classmates, which ranks second in the hierarchy of experiences, the experience of loneliness (5th place), and the breakdown of relationships with friends (6th place). The experience of vitality values related to health is also significant: the experience of illness and physical injuries. In general, this corresponds to their age-related development.

Adolescent orphans are less susceptible to experiencing those crisis situations that reflect the difficulties of entering a broader society. In particular, it can be noted that adolescents in this category have the least expressed experiences of crisis situations related to social interaction and comprehension of the general social context of life. These include the possibility of unemployment, social exclusion (public humiliation, sexual problems), violence, robbery, and disruption of the social ecology. Negative experiences are accompanied by: communication with alcohol and drug addicts, ethnic conflicts, economic and political crises. The correlation of *integral characteristics of crisis situations* [227] experienced by adolescent orphans is presented in Figure 3.

A comparison of the correlation between the integral characteristics of the crises experienced by adolescent orphans shows the greater significance of their experiences of crises of social interaction, self-worth, and vital values than of their experiences of crises related to future prospects, and suppression of dignity. At the same time, statistically reliable differences in the expressivity of these characteristics were not found.



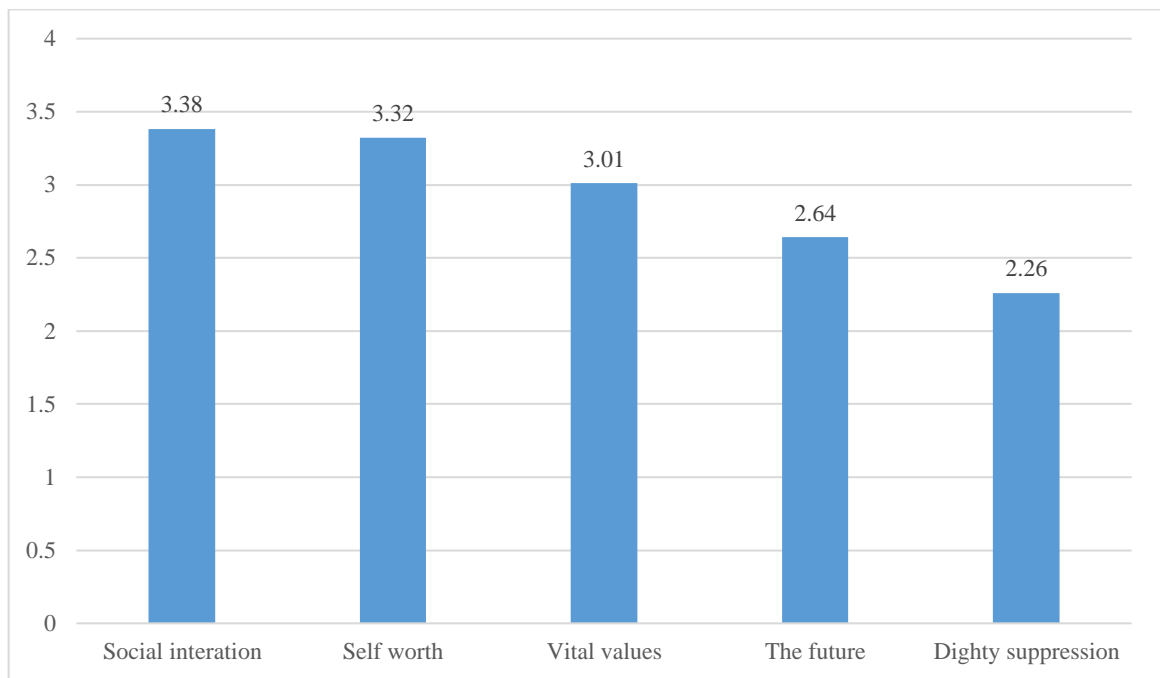


Figure 3 - Correlation of integral characteristics of crisis situations experienced by adolescent orphans

The identification of the peculiarities of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans requires not only the description of the expressivity of its individual features, but also the consideration of its structural features.

### 3.1.2. Results of the study of the structure of the meaning sphere in adolescent orphans

In order to identify the structural features of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans, a factor analysis was conducted using the scales proposed in Tables 1 and 2 (Appendix A). The statistical significance of Bartlett's criterion reaches a high level ( $p=0.0001$ ) and indicates that the results of the factor analysis can be considered. This is also evidenced by the high value of the  $\chi^2$ -square criterion (Table 1, Appendix B).

Using the "rocky scree" criterion, we identified 7 factors up to the point of curve flattening with a cumulative variance of 57.49%. (Figure 1, Appendix B).

The identified factor structure reflects the internal organization of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans. The results of factor analysis are summarized in Figure 4 "Factor structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans ".



Figure 4 - Factor structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans

Let us consider the content of each factor.

The first factor explains 12.44% of the variance. It includes with positive weights only the indicators reflecting adolescent orphans’ experiencing of crisis situations. These include: conflictness (0.80), guilt due to previous behaviors (0.71), decreased self-worth (0.71), illness (0.70), poor academic performance and change of institution (0.67), conflicts with classmates (0.65), and physical injuries (0.61). The content of the indicators included in the first factor allows to designate it as an integral attribute "*meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations*". The highlighted first attribute reflects such a component of the meaning sphere as "negative affectivity", addressed to the category of life meanings of social interaction, self-worth, and health.

The second factor explains 11.19 % of the variance. This factor is also formed with positive weights from the indicators of orphaned adolescents' experience of other crisis situations. The factor combines communication barriers (0.82), relationship

breakdown (0.74), fear of not meeting the expectations of others (0.72), fear of death and surgery (0.65). The selected factor can be interpreted as an integral attribute "*meaningfulness of the experience of communicative problems*". In its content, the second attribute, like the first one, refers to the component of "negative affectivity" in the structure of the meaning sphere, but it is directed or refers to the category of communicative life meanings.

The third factor explains 9.47% of the variance. It included with positive weights all indicators characterizing meaning-in-life orientations of adolescent orphans. The third factor included locus of control-I (0.84), goals in life (0.84), locus of control-life (0.83), life effectiveness (0.81), life process (0.75). The content of the indicators included in this factor allows us to define it as an integral attribute "*meaningfulness of the experience of searching for the meaning of life*". The selected attribute reflects "cognitive activity" as a component of the meaning sphere, directed or addressed to the categories of cognitive life meanings and self-fulfillment.

The fourth factor explains 7.25% of the variance. This factor with positive weights included indicators reflecting orphaned adolescents' existences. It includes freedom (0.87), responsibility (0.84), self-distancing (0.82), self-transcendence (0.74). According to the content of the indicators, it can be defined as an integral attribute "*meaningfulness of subjective feeling of the quality of life*". It characterizes the reflexive component of the meaning sphere, which can be called "constructive activity", addressed to the category of existential life meanings.

The fifth factor explains 7.23% of the variance. The fifth factor with positive weights includes three more indicators characterizing the adolescent orphans' experience of crisis situations. The factor is represented by the experience of robbery and loss of property (0.75), disruption of social ecology (0.71), and the possibility of remaining unemployed (0.65). The content of the indicators included in this factor allows us to define it as an integral attribute "*meaningfulness of social context*". It characterizes the component of the meaning sphere "negative affectivity", which is focused on the categories of status life meanings and self-fulfillment.

The sixth factor explains 4.97% of the variance. It includes two indicators of life satisfaction with positive weights: sports activities (0.75) and satisfaction with one's academic performance (0.72). The content of the indicators allows us to designate it as an integral attribute "*meaningfulness of self-satisfaction*". It characterizes the component of the meaning sphere "positive affectivity", which is addressed to the category of hedonistic life meanings.

The seventh factor explains 4.91% of the variance. The last factor with positive weights also includes indicators of adolescent orphans' experience of crisis situations. It is represented by the indicators death (loss) of a favorite pet (0.74), and divorce of parents (0.64). The content of the indicators included in this factor allows its interpretation as an integral attribute "*meaningfulness of the experiencing of loss*" of the component of the meaning sphere "negative affectivity", referring to the category of family life meanings.

The empirical model of the correlation between components and integral features (structure) of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is presented in Figure 5.

As can be seen from the figure, the component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans "Experiencing crises" has the greatest weight and the most complex internal structure, consisting of four integral features. The other three components of the meaning sphere have one integral feature each.

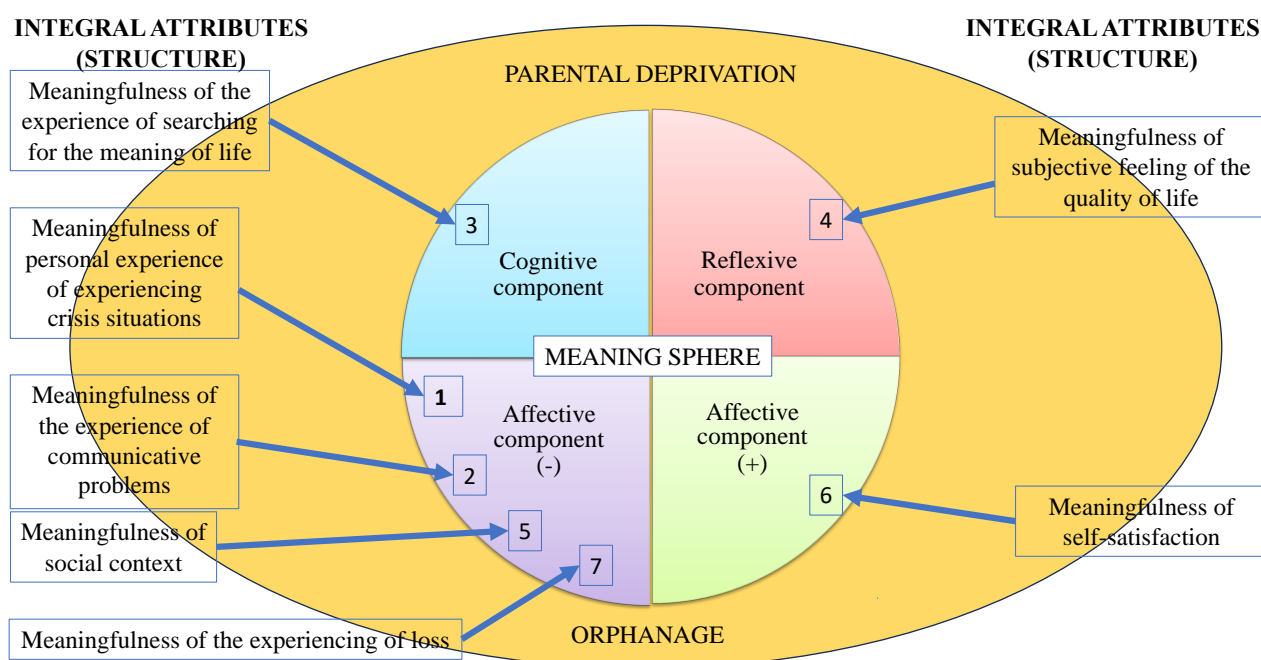


Figure 5 - Empirical model of the correlation of components and integral attributes (structure) of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Summarizing the results of the analysis, we have constructed an empirical model of the correlation of components and integral features (structure) of the meaning sphere with the categories of life meanings. The correlation is shown in Figure 6.

Thus, the structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is represented by seven significant integral features characterizing the comprehension of different aspects of reality and one's own Self. The revealed attributes show that the content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is determined primarily by the comprehension of the experiencing of crisis situations, and communicative problems. These are the essential aspects of parental deprivation that create difficulties of personal adaptation in various social conditions. It is not by chance that the structure of the meaning sphere includes as a relatively independent feature the comprehension of the social context of life and the experience of loss as the destruction of this context and crisis experience. Considering the correlation of the components of the meaning sphere with the identified specific integral traits, we can note that the significance of the negative affectivity component is strengthened by its connection not only with conflictness, and

communicative barriers, but also with the social context, and experiencing of loss. Unlike negative affectivity, positive affectivity is associated only with life satisfaction.

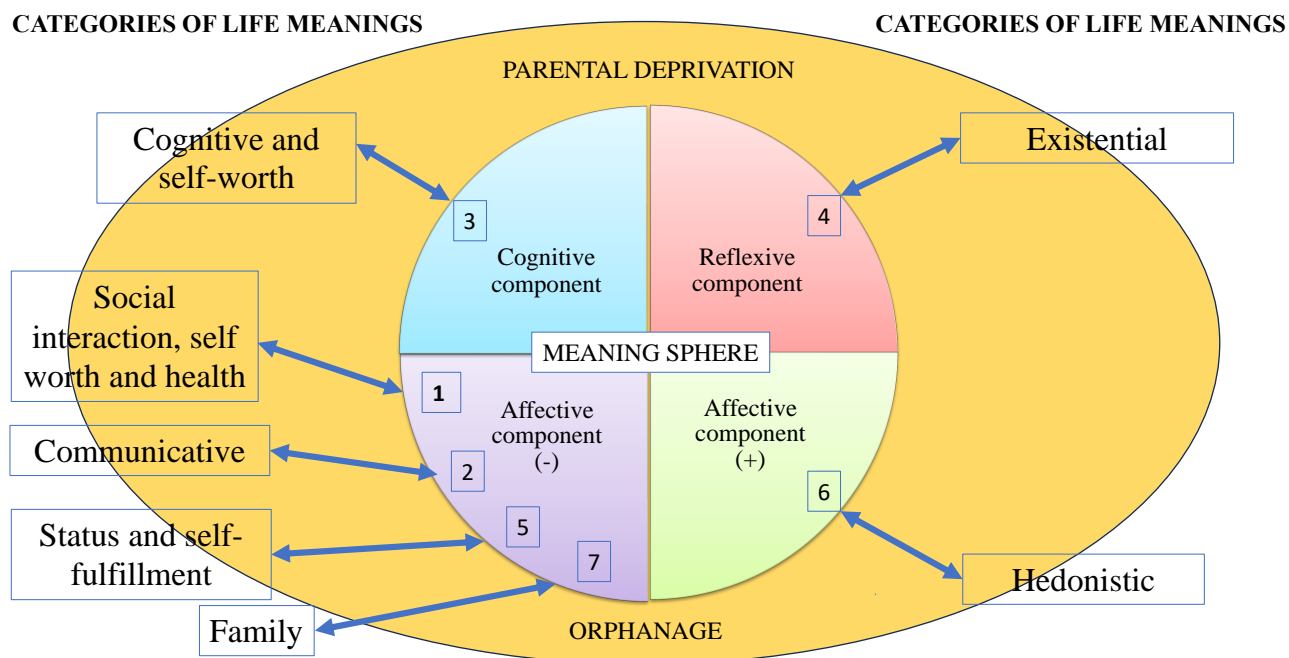


Figure 6 - Empirical model of correlation of components and structure of the meaning sphere with categories of life meanings

The meaningfulness of what is happening around is inseparable from the understanding of the state and role of one's own Self. This component is associated with the cognitive component. The meaningfulness of self-satisfaction, as well as the subjective quality of life, is significant for adolescent orphans. We emphasize that parental deprivation retains the need to comprehend the search for the meaning of life, as indicated by the statistically identified independent factor of the meaningfulness of experiencing the search for the meaning of life.

Summarizing the results of the interpretation of the revealed structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans, and theoretical analysis of the issues under study, we give a definition: meaningfulness is a type of cognitive-reflexive activity, a mental process expressed in a person's ability to combine in his/her personality the

qualities and characteristics that ensure that he/she experiences the ontological significance of subjectively perceived connections of various aspects of reality.

### **3.1.3. Results of the study of the correlation between life meaningfulness and existential fulfillment in the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans**

The practice of interaction with adolescent orphans shows that when describing meaning characteristics they tend to refer to specific manifestations of their lives. At the same time, theoretical analysis and empirical studies of the meaning sphere of normatively developing adolescents are characterized by the use of such generalized attributes as general meaningfulness of life and existential fulfillment. This creates a problem of prognostic psychodiagnostics in correctional work with adolescent orphans, and providing them with reasonable systemic psychological assistance.

In order to overcome this contradiction, we investigated the influence of the attributes that make up the structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans on the general meaningfulness of life and existential fulfillment. To analyze the structures obtained earlier, we conducted a correlation analysis using the Spearman's  $\rho$  method before conducting a regression analysis. A reliable correlation at a high level is observed between the general indicator of the meaningfulness of life and the integral attribute "the meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life"  $p = 0.951$  (Table 8, Appendix B). The results obtained show that the more expressed the meaningfulness of the experience of searching for the meaning of life in adolescent orphans, the higher the overall indicator of the meaningfulness of life. The opposite is also possible: the high general meaningfulness of life is combined with the same meaningfulness of its particular components, for example, the meaningfulness of the process of searching for life meaning.

Then regression analysis was used. As dependent variables, the following components were selected from the initial matrix: the general indicator of the

meaningfulness of life and existential fulfillment [92]. As independent variables, we used the 7 integral attributes identified by us, obtained using factor analysis.

A regression model was constructed using the step-by-step selection method. The results of the regression analysis indicate that the greatest significance in this model, in which the integral independent attribute – "the meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life"- provides 92.4% of the variance of the value of the dependent variable – the general meaningfulness of life. The influence of other integral semantic attributes is not significant (Table 9, Appendix B).

The reliability of the influence of the integral attribute is confirmed by the high level of significance obtained using the analysis of variance (Table 10, Appendix B). The maximum influence on the overall meaningfulness of life is provided by the integral attribute "the meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life". The reliability of the result obtained during the analysis of variance is also confirmed by the values of beta coefficients. Collinearity diagnostics (last column) does not fall below 1, which indicates the reliability of the regression model (Table 11, Appendix B). Quadratic and linear regression practically coincide, which indicates a uniform increase in one variable with an increase in the other (Table 4).

Table 4 - Results of regression analysis of life meaningfulness traits in the group of adolescent orphans

Dependent variable: general indicator of life meaningfulness

Equation	Pivot for the model					Parameters estimates		
	R-squared	F	Stat. prop.1	Stat. prop. 2	Relevance	Constant	b1	b2
Linear	,925	1209,800	1	98	,000	98,340	17,061	
Quadratic	,925	599,250	2	97	,000	98,244	17,073	,097

Independent variable: meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for meaning in life

The data obtained are presented in Figure 7:



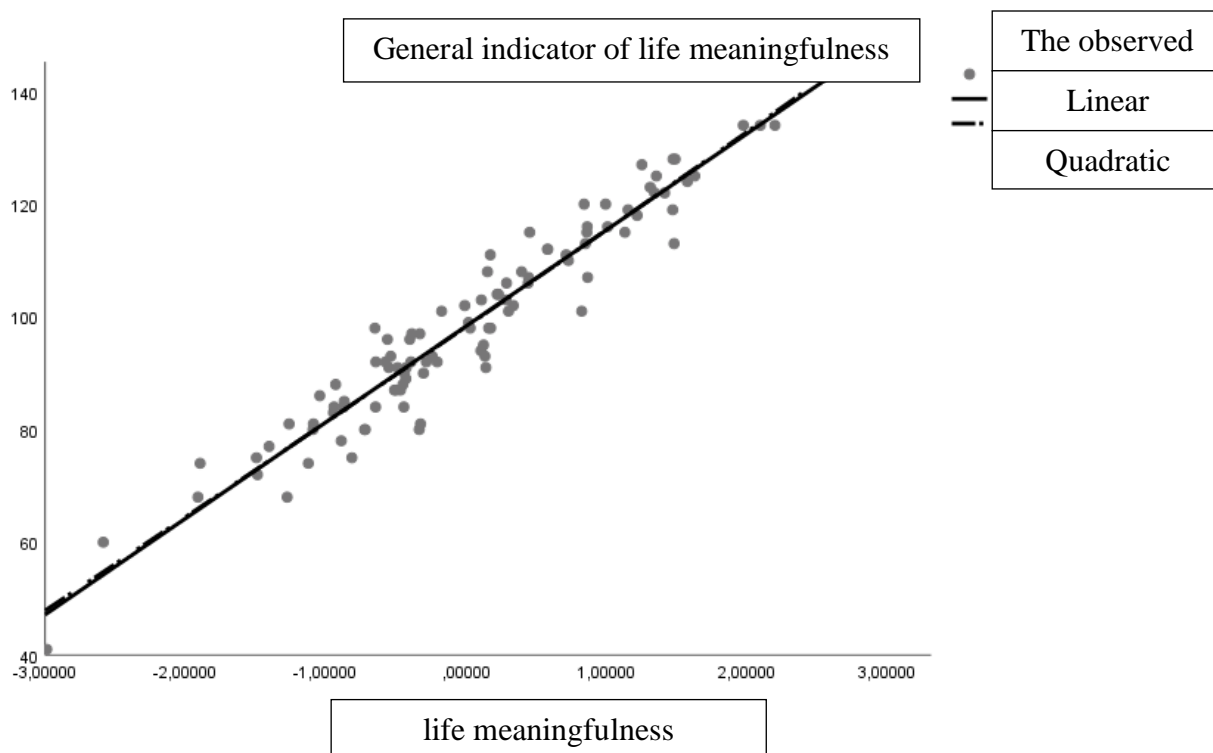


Figure 7 - Regression model of the relationship between the general meaningfulness of life and the integral attribute of the meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life in a group of adolescent orphans

Of all the integral attributes taken for consideration, the most significant influence on the general meaningfulness of life is exerted by the integral attribute "meaningfulness of the experience of searching for the meaning of life". Probably, the obtained result is connected with the fact that the cognitive component of the meaning sphere of personality is formed precisely in adolescence, when adolescents face actual questions and experiences related to their entry into independent life. At this age, the search plays a great role, which will lead in the future to clearer boundaries of comprehension of different ways of social adaptation.

Similarly, we will consider the results of the study of the influence of the traits of the meaning sphere on the existential fulfillment of adolescent orphans. In order to analyze the structures obtained before the regression analysis, we performed correlation analysis using the Spearman's  $\rho$  method. A reliable correlation at a high level is observed between existential fulfillment and the integral attribute "meaningfulness of subjective feeling of quality of life"  $p=1.0$  (Table 12, Appendix B). The obtained results

show that the more meaningfulness of the subjective sense of quality of life is expressed in orphaned adolescents, the higher existential fulfillment is. The opposite should also be taken into account: the level of meaningfulness of the subjective sense of quality of life is associated with the level of existential fulfillment.

The regression model was built by the method of stepwise selection. The results of regression analysis indicate that the greatest significance in the considered model, in which the integral independent attribute "meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life", provides 96.1% of the variance of the indicator of the dependent variable existential fulfillment. The influence of the other four integral attributes is not significant (Table 13, Appendix B). The reliability of the influence of the integral attribute is confirmed by a high level of significance obtained using analysis of variance (Table 14, Appendix B). The maximum influence on existential fulfillment is exerted by the integral attribute "meaningfulness of subjective feeling of quality of life". The reliability of the result obtained during the dispersion analysis is also confirmed by the values of beta coefficients. The collinearity diagnostic (the last column) does not fall below 1, which indicates the reliability of the regression model (Table 15, Appendix B).

The quadratic and linear regression are almost identical, indicating a uniform increase in one variable with an increase in the other (Table 5).

Table 5 - Results of regression analysis of existential fulfillment attributes in the group of adolescent orphans

Dependent variable: existential fulfillment

Equation	Pivot for the model					Parameters estimates		
	R-squared	F	Stat. prop.1	Stat. prop.2	Relevance	Constant	b1	b2
Linear	,962	2471,991	1	98	,000	174,850	34,230	
Quadratic	,963	1250,481	2	97	,000	175,780	34,205	-,939

Independent variable: meaningfulness of subjective sense of quality of life

The data obtained are presented in Figure 8:

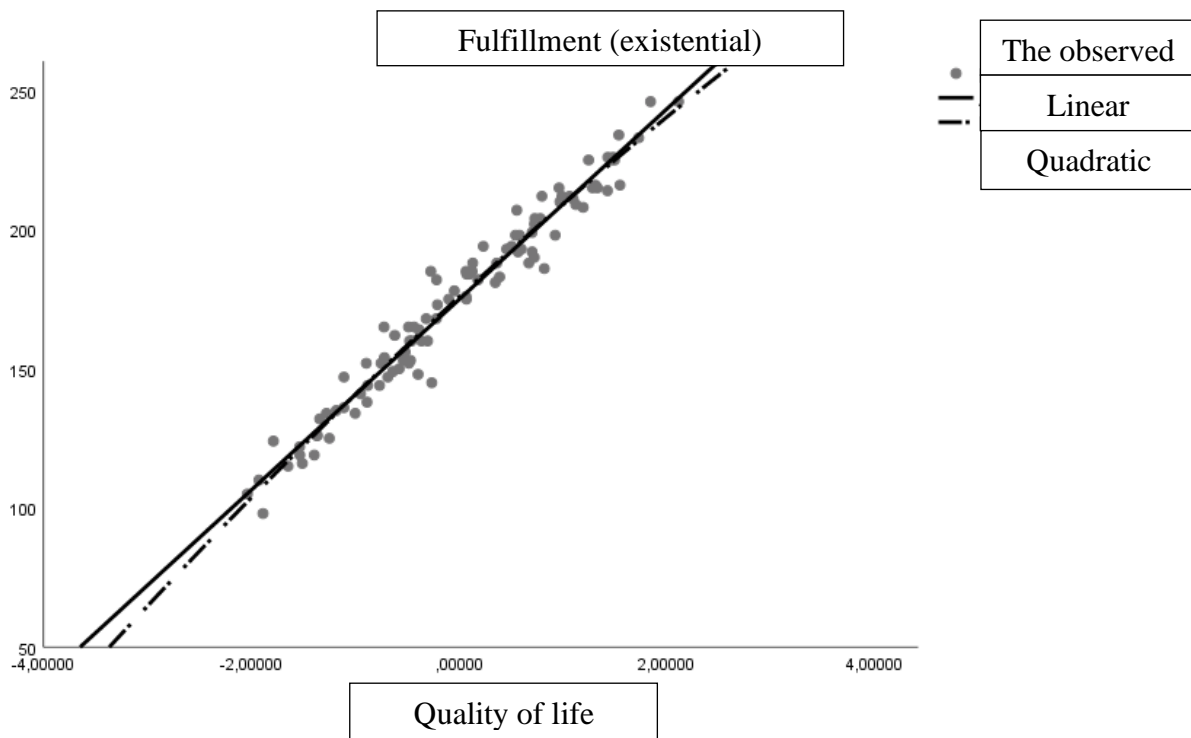


Figure 8 - Regression model of the relationship between existential fulfillment and the integral attribute of meaningfulness of subjective sense of quality of life in the group of adolescent orphans

Thus, of all the integral attributes taken into consideration, the most significant influence on existential fulfillment is exerted by the meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life. Probably, the obtained result revealed a significant specificity of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of the personality of adolescent orphans living in conditions of family deprivation.

The empirical material presented in section 3.1 aimed to prove the assumption that in conditions of parental deprivation adolescents have the ability to make sense of various manifestations of the surrounding reality and events in their lives. It was also assumed that the content and structure of the meaning sphere reflect the comprehension of the most significant aspects of life for orphaned adolescents. Thus, the task of determining the role of parental deprivation in the formation of cognitive, reflexive and emotional components of the meaning sphere in adolescence was solved.

The task was solved by comparing the expression of cognitive, reflexive and emotional components of the meaning environment in adolescent orphans with

metadata, as well as by building a factor model of the meaning sphere. The obtained results allow us to draw several conclusions.

1. The content of the cognitive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans shows that parental deprivation preserves the ability to realize important components of life and life orientations, in particular, life goals and life effectiveness, the process of life itself and different ways of its control. The peculiarities of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans include the ability to reflect on their existence, the fulfillment of their lives in the form of self-distance, self-transcendence, freedom and responsibility. Orphaned adolescents are characterized by positive affectivity as one of the components of the meaning sphere. In the context of parental deprivation, adolescents recognize satisfaction with many aspects of life, including life itself, health, academic performance, financial status, sports, hobbies, and belief in a higher power and God. Negative affectivity of the meaning sphere is contained in the orphaned adolescents' comprehension of the experience of crisis situations, the spectrum of which covers crises of social interaction, self-worth and vital values, future life prospects, and suppression of dignity.
2. When comparing the components of the meaning sphere of orphaned adolescents and the average group of adolescents, no significant differences were found in the expressivity of the cognitive component, positive and negative affectivity. The reflexive component tends to be less expressed in orphaned adolescents.
3. The structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is represented by integral attributes characterizing the comprehension of different aspects of reality and one's own Self: the comprehension of personal experience of crisis situations, experience of communicative problems, experience of the search for the meaning of life, subjective sense of the quality of life, social context, self-satisfaction and the experience of loss.
4. The organization of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is determined primarily by such a component of it as negative affectivity, i.e. the comprehension of the experience of crisis situations. The experience of crises has

the greatest weight in the structure of the meaning sphere and the most complex internal organization, combining the comprehension of conflicts, traumatic situations, illnesses, learning problems, as well as the comprehension of situations that cause a sense of guilt and a decrease in self-worth.

5. The cognitive and reflexive components of the meaning sphere of orphaned adolescents are determined by individual features of the meaning sphere. The general meaningfulness of the life of adolescent orphans is determined by the meaningfulness of the experience of searching for the meaning of life, existential fulfillment - by the meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life.

To test the hypothesis about the role of mental retardation in the organization of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans, it is necessary to compare the results of the study of a group of adolescent orphans with mental retardation and a group of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development.

### **3.2. Results of the study of the content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development**

At the second stage of the study, the content of the identified components of the meaning sphere in groups of adolescents with different intellectual development was compared. As it turned out, the cognitive component most clearly differentiates the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intellectual development. There are no cognitive attributes in the groups, the expression of which would be the same. Statistically reliable differences ( $t$  - criterion at  $p \leq 0.01$ ) between the groups of orphaned adolescents on all attributes of the cognitive component of the meaning sphere of personality are visually presented in Figure 9.

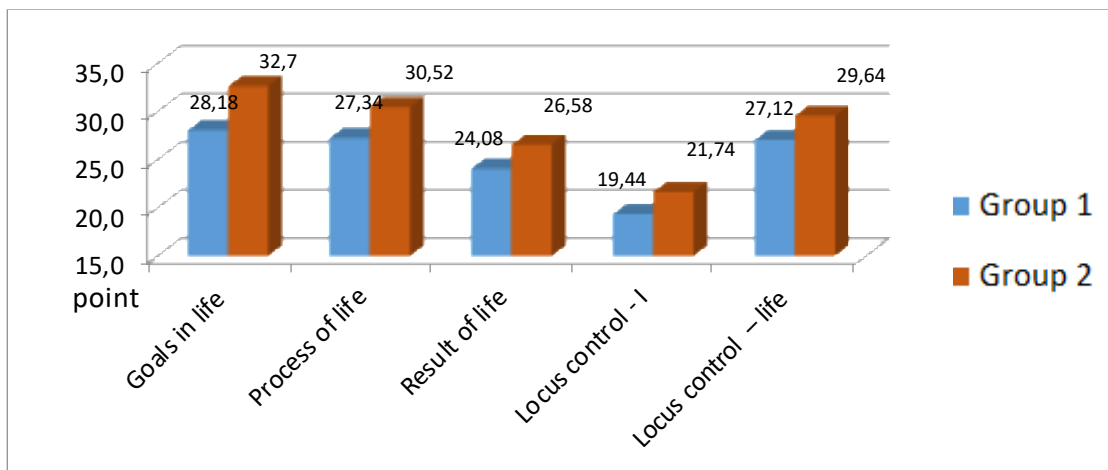


Figure 9 – Correlation of indicators of the cognitive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Designation. Here and further in the figures 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16:

Group 1 (blue) – adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

Group 2 (red) - adolescent orphans with normative development of intelligence

As can be seen from Figure 9, all indicators of the cognitive component are expressed to a lesser extent in the group of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, which is confirmed statistically. The most pronounced difference is in the comprehension of goals in life - 4.52 points ( $t$  - criterion at  $p \leq 0.01$ ). Low meaningfulness of goals in life characterizes orphaned adolescents as having fewer goals that give their life meaningfulness, direction and time perspective. They are more inclined to live for today or yesterday. Adolescent orphans with normal intelligence are characterized by greater purposefulness. However, their plans do not always have a real support and are not always supported by personal responsibility, which can be proved when comparing with other manifestations of meaning-in-life orientations.

Differences between the groups of adolescent orphans in the comprehension of the life process are also significant and reach 3.2 points ( $t$  - criterion at  $p \leq 0.01$ ). The low index of life process meaningfulness indicates that adolescent orphans with intellectual disabilities are less likely to perceive the process of their lives as meaningful, interesting and emotionally rich. According to D.A. Leontiev, such features are a sign of dissatisfaction with their life in the present [143].

Meaningfulness of life effectiveness is also less represented in the group of adolescent orphans with intellectual disabilities. The difference between the groups reaches 2.5 points (t-test at  $p \leq 0.01$ ). The low indicator of meaningfulness of life performance reflects that adolescent orphans in this group are less aware of the productivity of the lived part of their life. It is more difficult for them to evaluate their past than for ordinary adolescent orphans.

A significant difference was found between the compared groups of adolescent orphans in the comprehension of the locus control-I. The intensity of differences reaches 2.3 points (t - criterion at  $p \leq 0.01$ ). As in the previous cases, adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation are inferior to normal adolescents in the meaningfulness of locus control-I. This means a lower faith in their power to control the events of their own lives, in the fundamental possibility to make life choices independently.

A similar difference was revealed when comparing the meaningfulness of the locus control-life – the difference reaches 2.5 points (t – criterion at  $p \leq 0.05$ ). A low indicator of the meaningfulness of the locus control-life means that adolescent orphans from the first group are subject to fatalism, the conviction that their lives are beyond conscious control.

The noted differences are more clearly revealed in the overall indicator of meaningfulness of life, which is presented in Figure 10.

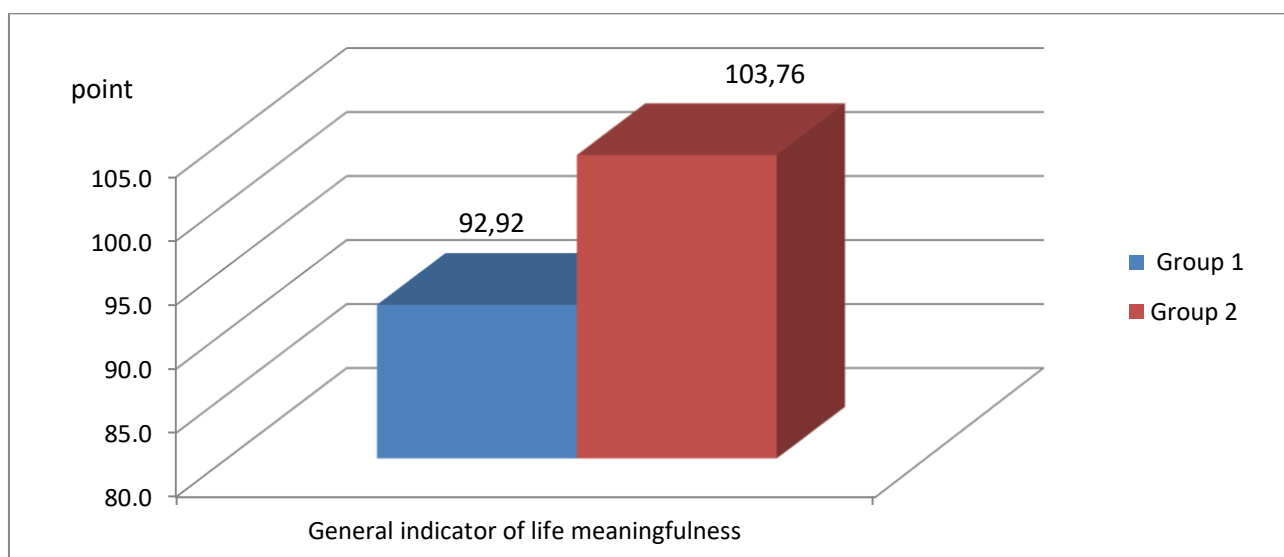


Figure 10 - The Correlation of the general indicator of the meaningfulness of the life in adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

The results presented in the figure - a low overall indicator of the meaningfulness of life - confirm that in orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, awareness of the possibility of choosing activities in their lives is less expressed.

The correlation of the next component of the meaning sphere in adolescent orphans - reflexive - is shown in Figure 11.

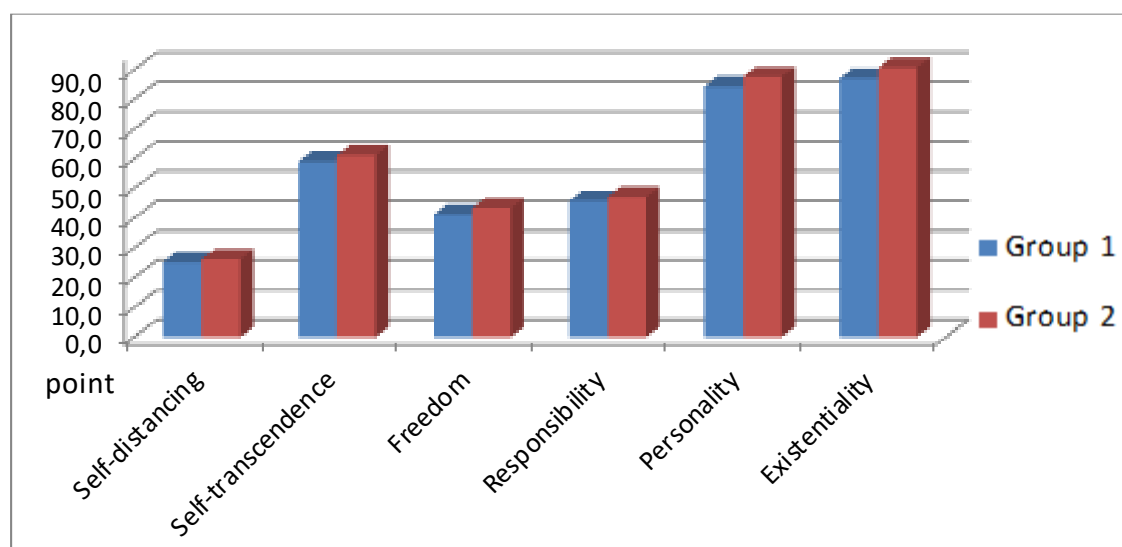


Figure 11 - Correlation of indicators of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

As can be seen from the figure, no significant differences in the reflexive component were found between the groups, and the average group values are almost identical (Table 1, Appendix A). It should be emphasized that in both groups the



meaningfulness of self-distancing was close to a low level (within 26 points). This means that adolescent orphans with different intellectual development do not deeply feel distance in relation to themselves. This may be due either to their immaturity or to some forms of inner confusion caused by excessive situational stresses or conflicts and post-traumatic conditions. Such experiences narrow the adolescents' realistic perception of themselves and make it difficult to navigate what is happening to them. As a result, their dependence on random stimuli increases.

In both groups, the same, but reduced level of meaningfulness of self-transcendence (within 58 points) was found. This result of our study confirms that the life of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development is poor in feelings and mostly functional. They are characterized by emotional flatness and scarcity of emotional relations with the world and people. They have a flat amplitude of feelings [177] and flat affect. This lack of emotionality makes orphans insecure. They feel helpless, it is difficult for them to feel the importance and value of the contents of their experiences, the existential significance of what is happening.

In both groups the level of meaningfulness of freedom turned out to be the same, but below average (within 49 points). The obtained result reveals another spectrum of the meaningful sphere of personality. Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intellectual development experience uncertainty in their decisions and abilities to make a free choice. They are highly susceptible to anxious (depressive, hysterical) forms of reaction: feelings of weakness due to indecision, fear of making a mistake, confusion. In addition, they are noticeably susceptible to passive, fatalistic life attitude, various addictions (alcohol, games, etc.) which can fulfill a compensatory role due to the lack of a sense of freedom.

In both groups the level of meaningfulness of responsibility turned out to be the same, though below average (within 57.5 points). This result of the study shows that adolescent orphans, regardless of their intellectual development, have a weak sense of their personal involvement in life and their ability to plan it. They are also prone to emotionally negative forms of reactions: depressive, when they experience fear of effort

and challenge, or hysterical, when they experience fear of constraint due to commitment, which often leads them to be frivolous and careless in their behavior.

In both groups, the level of meaningfulness of personhood turned out to be the same, but reduced (within 86 points). In adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation - 84.4 points, in adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development - 87.56 points. It can be considered that adolescent orphans of this category are largely closed in relation to themselves and the world. Their basic personal cognitive and emotional abilities are blocked by a variety of barriers and psychological defenses and are not fully utilized. Observations in the orphanage confirm that adolescent orphans with both mild mental retardation and normal intelligence are prone to personality disorders and have difficulty establishing contact with themselves (with their "inner world").

In both groups the level of meaningfulness of existentiality turned out to be the same, but below average (within 107 points). This result shows that adolescent orphans have a weak sense of their ability to navigate and act constructively in the world around them. It is difficult for them to withstand the stresses. The reason for this may be high sensitivity to interference and a tendency to start acting on the basis of external stimuli only, without correlating it with their inner state.

The correlation of the total indicator of fulfillment (existential) of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is presented in Figure 12.

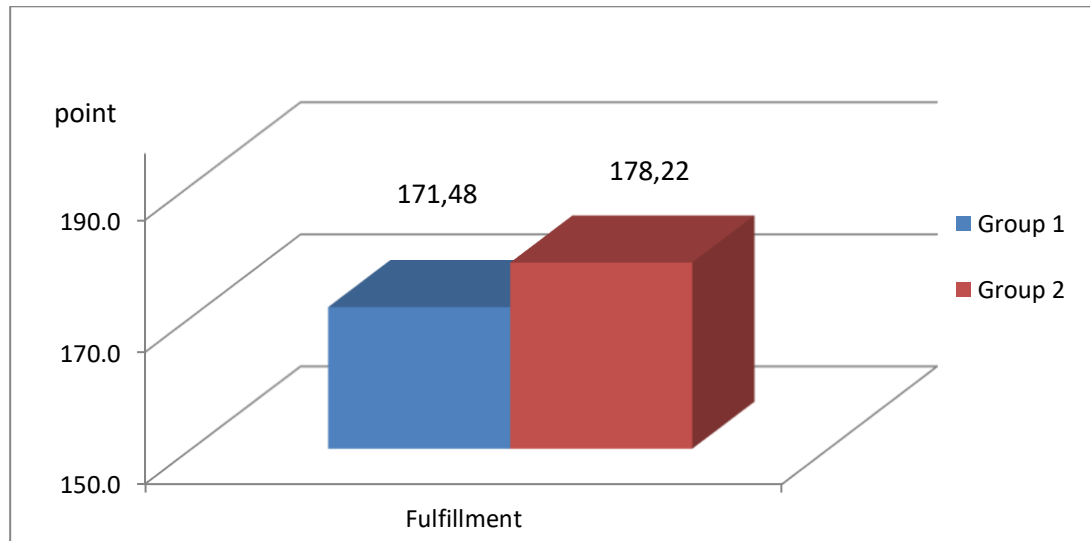


Figure 12 - Correlation of the total indicator of fulfillment (existential) of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

As can be seen from the figure, in both groups the level of meaningfulness of fulfillment was similar, but below average (within 216 points). This result of the study indicates unfulfilled existence, that adolescent orphans are more focused on themselves and feel less responsible involvement in life, they feel that their life is determined from the outside.

Let us consider the results of the study of the positive affectivity component of the meaning sphere of orphaned adolescents with different intellectual development. The average group indicators of positive affectivity of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild degree of mental retardation and with normal intelligence are presented in Figure 13.

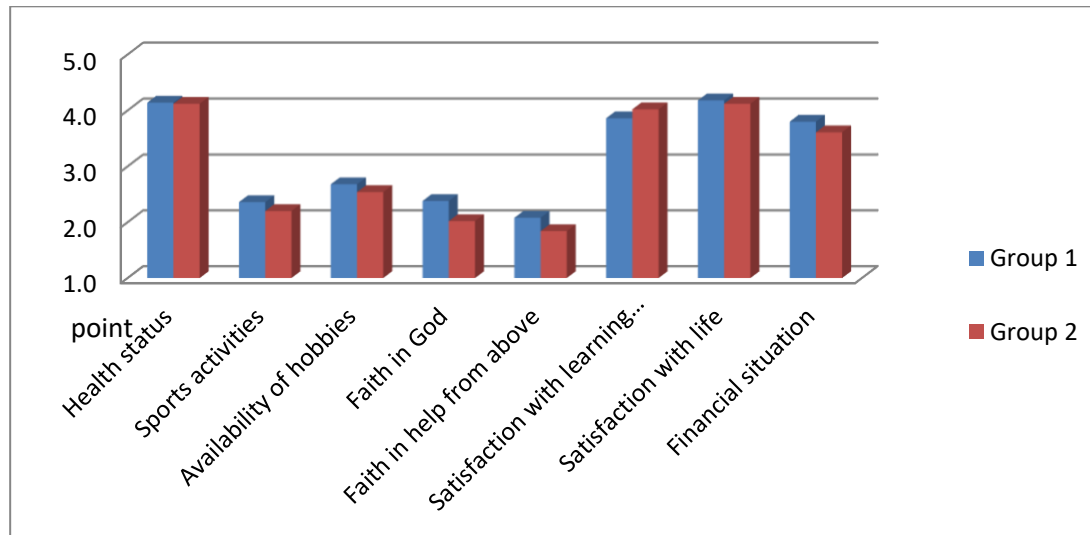


Figure 13 - Correlation of indicators of positive affectivity of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

As a result of analyzing the average group values, it was found that no differences were found for most indicators of positive affectivity (Table 1, Appendix A). Adolescent orphans from both groups are equally satisfied with their life and financial situation, and are satisfied with their academic performance. Adolescent orphans from the compared groups have almost the same high assessment of their health status.

Statistically reliable differences between groups were found only in faith in God and faith in help from above (Figure 13). Adolescent orphans with mild degree of mental retardation rely more on faith in God and some abstract help from above than adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development. The first may be due to the fact that in orphanages pastoral and pedagogical classes are held with adolescents of this category by missionary clergymen of the Russian Orthodox Church who are actively involved in the social protection of orphans and children without parental care. The second is explained by the specific conditions of living in an orphanage on full state support, due to which orphaned adolescents have a dependent attitude, when they expect outside help. The influence of family and emotional deprivation, which distorts the meaning sphere, is also possible. Children in orphanages do not feel supported in life in close people, they have a poorly formed worldview and a system of views, an important and organizing personality system image of the family that would support them is distorted. In this regard, any help from the outside is abstract to them.

Let us consider one more component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans. As the study has shown, in both groups the level of meaningfulness of the majority of indicators of negative affectivity of the meaning sphere turned out to be the same (Table 2, Appendix A). Although there are no statistically reliable differences, but we consider it appropriate to show some tendencies to differences. The correlation of the indicators of negative affectivity of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development is presented in Figure 14.

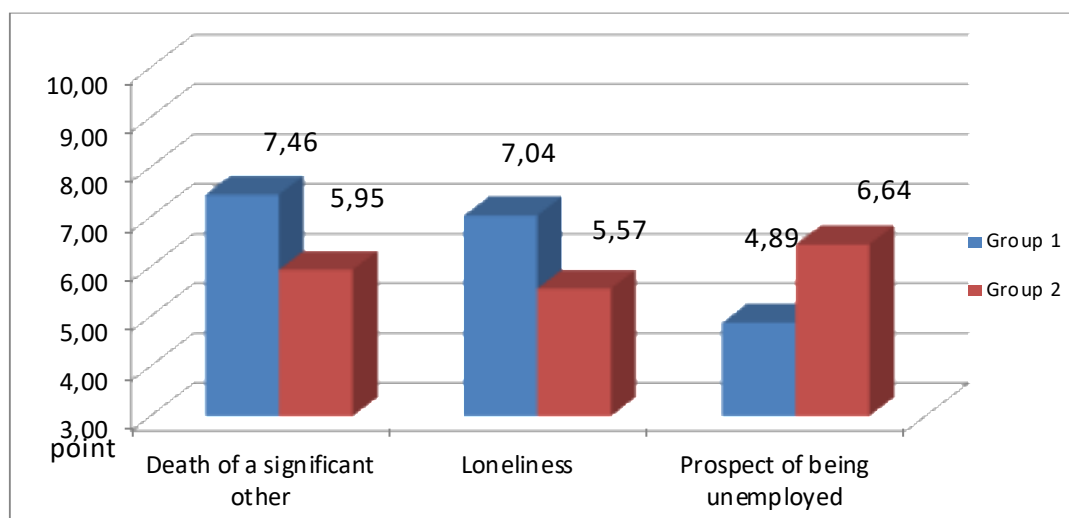


Figure 14 - Correlation of indicators of negative affectivity of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Trends have been found that adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation are distinguished by a slightly greater meaningfulness of the experience of the death of loved ones. They are also characterized to a greater extent by the meaningfulness of breaking the connection with others - the feeling of loneliness. The occurrence of such a feeling can be explained by the observed trend in the difference between groups in the meaningfulness of experiencing awkwardness (at  $p = 0.065$ ) [92].

The opposite tendency is found in the ability to comprehend the experience of the possibility of being unemployed. Adolescents with intellectual disabilities comprehend this fact to a lesser extent. This may be due to the fact that their professional fulfillment self-realization is provided by society.

Thus, the study of the content of the components of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development allows us to draw the following conclusions:

1. The cognitive component most clearly differentiates the content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development. Orphaned adolescents aged 15-17 with a mild degree of mental retardation, compared to orphaned adolescents with normal intellectual development, have a lower degree of meaningfulness of certain life goals and readiness to follow their achievement. Adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation to a lesser extent comprehend their ability to successfully influence their own life events and their ability to achieve their goals.
2. No significant differences were found in the content of the other three components of the meaning sphere: reflexive, positive and negative affectivity. The results obtained correspond to the fact that the level of intellectual development is reflected primarily in cognitive processes. The obtained fact confirms the classical ideas about cognitive disorders in conditions of such a type of dysontogenesis as mental retardation.
3. Reflexive and affective processes in adolescent orphans with different intellectual development are homogeneous in content. The specificity of the content of the reflexive and affective components of the meaning sphere of adolescents with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intelligence is smoothed out due to long-term living in conditions of parental deprivation of both, as well as living in homogeneous conditions of the orphanage, and professional education. The commonality of their experience of overcoming crisis situations brings adolescents together.

The results of the study of the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development are presented below.

### 3.3. Results of the study of the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

#### 3.3.1. Results of the study of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Before determining the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior, let us consider its peculiarities in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development. We excluded involvement in informal groups and sexual problems from the signs of maladaptation. These signs were not noted by the educators who observed the behavior of adolescent orphans, which was probably due to administrative attitudes in PVE institutions. The correlation of maladaptation indicators is presented in Figure 15.

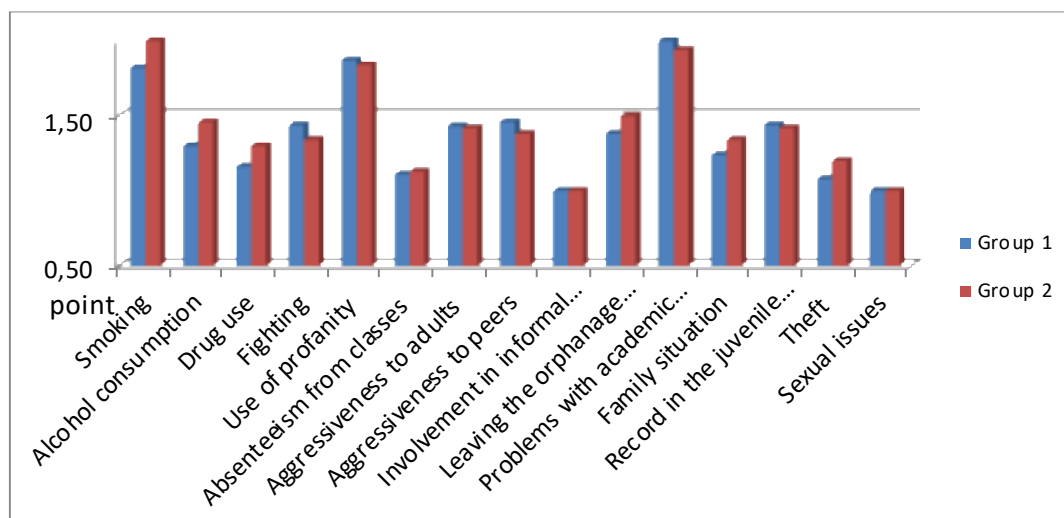


Figure 15 - Correlation of maladaptation indicators of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

The analysis of the average group values revealed general and specific signs of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development. At the same time, the first signs are more than the second ones. This indicates the presence of common patterns of maladaptive behavior for adolescent orphans. We consider it necessary to note that the most pronounced manifestations of maladaptation for

orphaned adolescents are smoking, the use of profanity and problems with academic performance. Although the statistical indicators of academic performance in the groups are the same, but there are more problems in this area among adolescent orphans with mild degree of mental retardation, as indicated by the results of observations.

The absence of statistically reliable differences in the groups prompted us to consider the ratio of different manifestations of maladaptation within each trait. The obtained results are presented in the figures reflecting the internal structure of maladaptation traits. First of all, we will pay attention to the internal structure of the manifestation of profanity in each of the groups, since it is in this form of maladaptation, in our opinion, that the formation or non-formation of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is manifested. The correlation of the indicator of maladaptation "use of profanity" in the group of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation and the group of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development is presented in Figure 16.

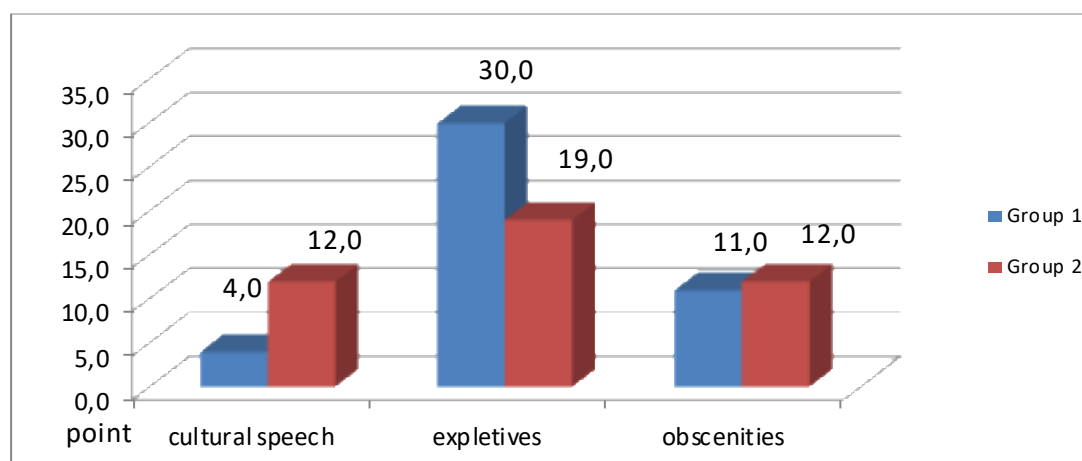


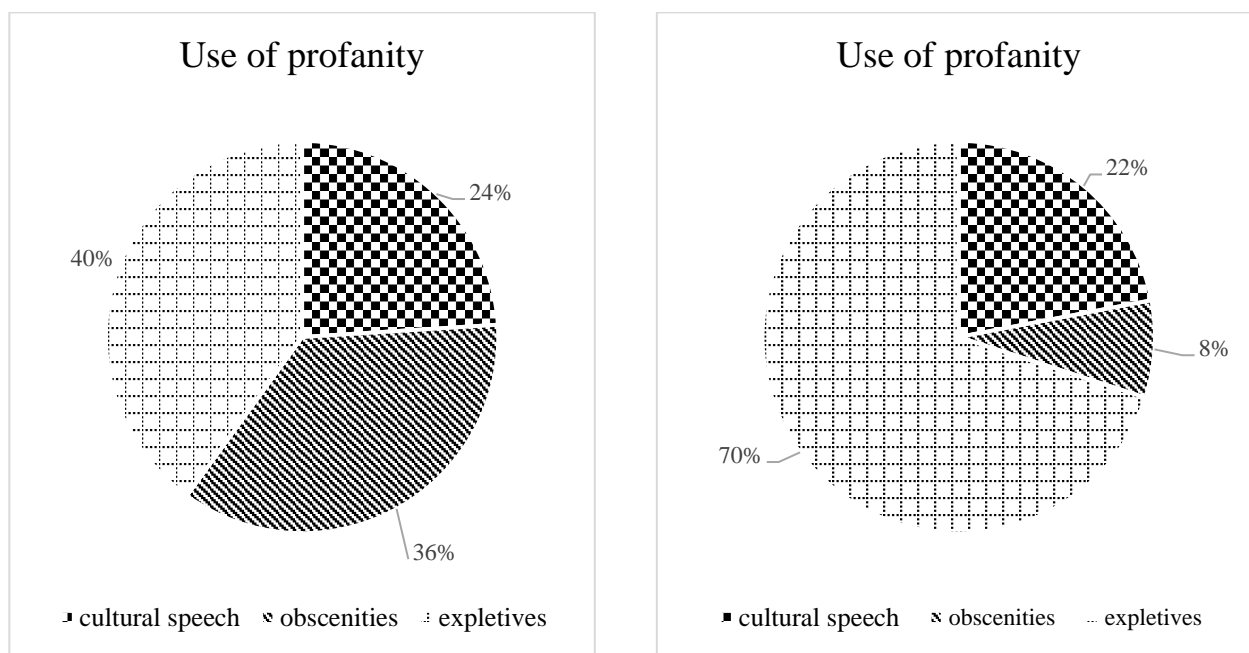
Figure 16 - Correlation of the use of profanity by adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Analysis of the distribution of the use of profanity showed that, although there are no statistically reliable differences, it can be considered that adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation use cultural speech less frequently, they use expletives more often, compared to adolescent orphans with normal intellectual



development. This ratio reflects the lesser development of the meaning sphere of this category of adolescents.

The results obtained can be clarified if we consider the distribution of the study participants according to the different options of using profanity, which is presented in Figure 17.



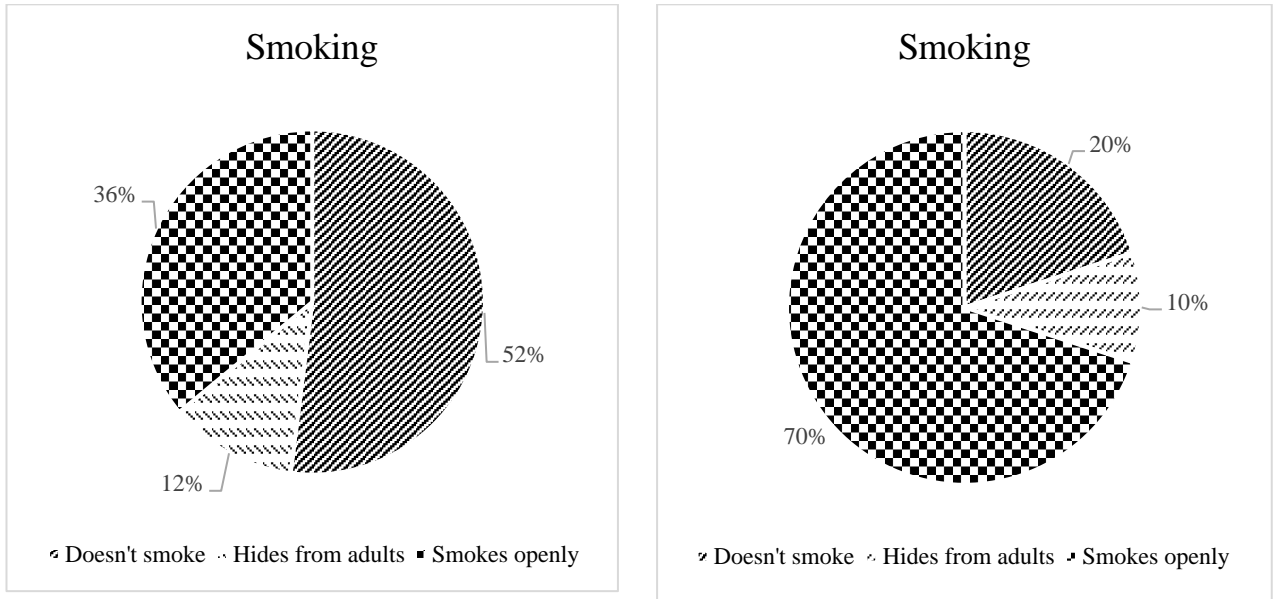
Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 17 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Use of profanity" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

As follows from the figure, among adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, the use of cultural vocabulary reaches about a third of the total. At the same time, cases of using profanity are observed in a quarter of adolescent orphans, and in 40% - the use of expletives. No statistically significant differences were found. In group 2, the regular use of profanity is quite rare (no more than 8%). The vast majority of orphans use expletives. The noted ratio of speech simplifications may be accompanied by a superficial comprehension of various events in their lives by adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation.

A similar analysis was carried out regarding the distribution of such signs of maladaptation as smoking, use of alcoholic drinks and narcotic substances, which usually form addictive behavior. The results are presented in Figures 18, 19 and 20.



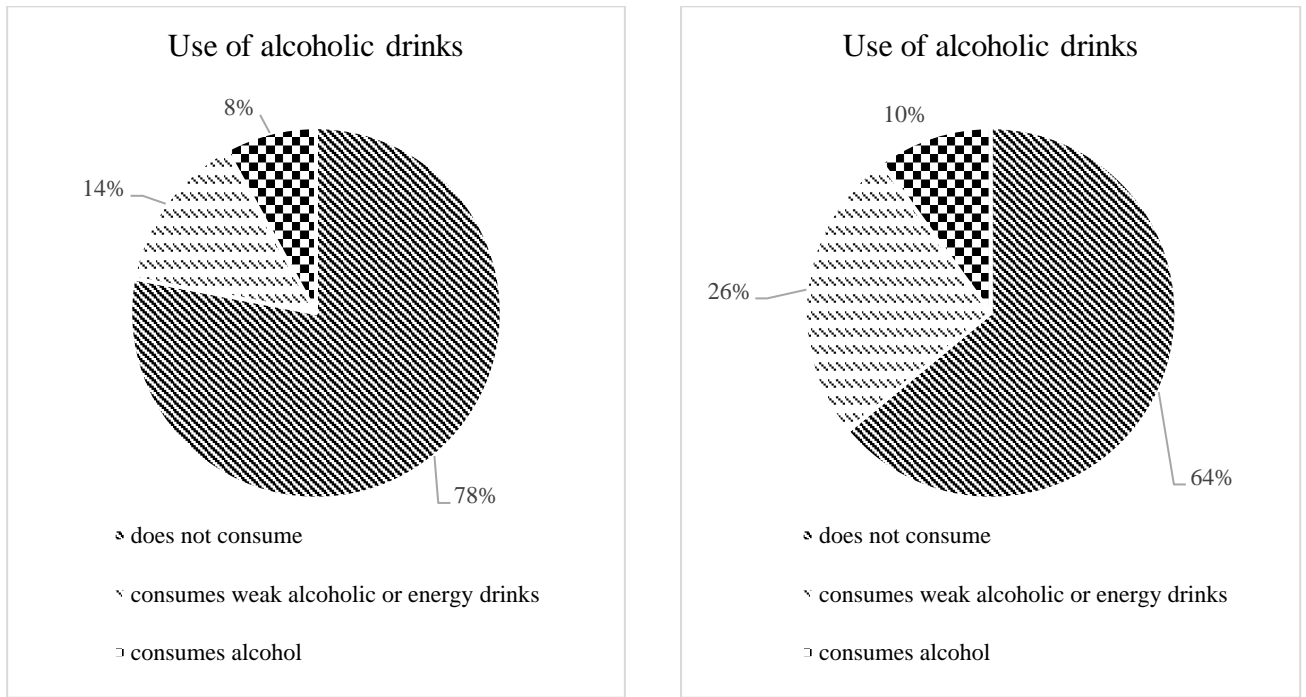
Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 18 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Smoking" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

As can be seen from Figure 18, almost half of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, more precisely, 48% resort to smoking in overt or covert forms. Adolescent orphans with normative development of intelligence, hiding from adults that they smoke, are a minority: no more than 10% of the total.

The distribution of options for alcohol use in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development reflects a similar trend (Figure 19).



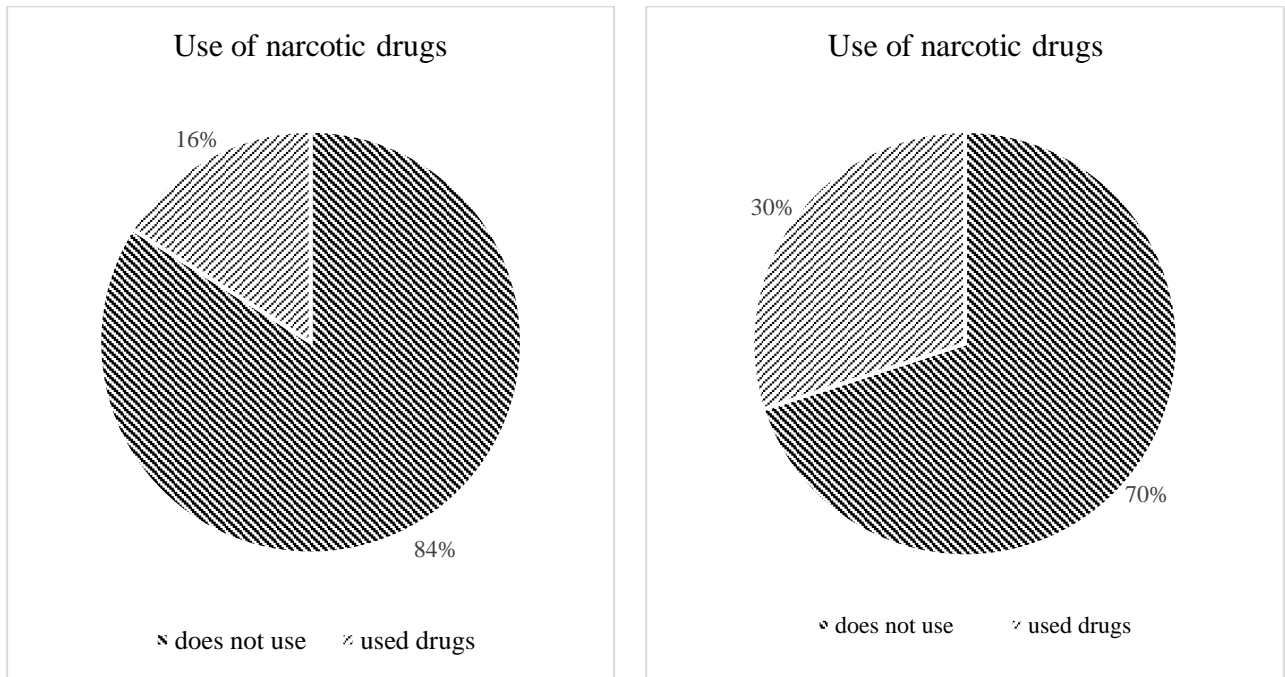
Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 19 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Use of alcoholic drinks" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation in most cases do not drink alcohol. A similar trend is observed in the comparison group. Adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development who use strong alcohol are a minority: no more than 10% of the total number. No statistically significant differences in the variants of this indicator of maladaptation were found for Group 1.

Based on the observations of caregivers, two variants of drug use by orphaned adolescents with different intellectual development can be distinguished: either they do not use drugs or they have used drugs in the past. The latter variant is much less common than the former, as Figure 20 shows.



Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

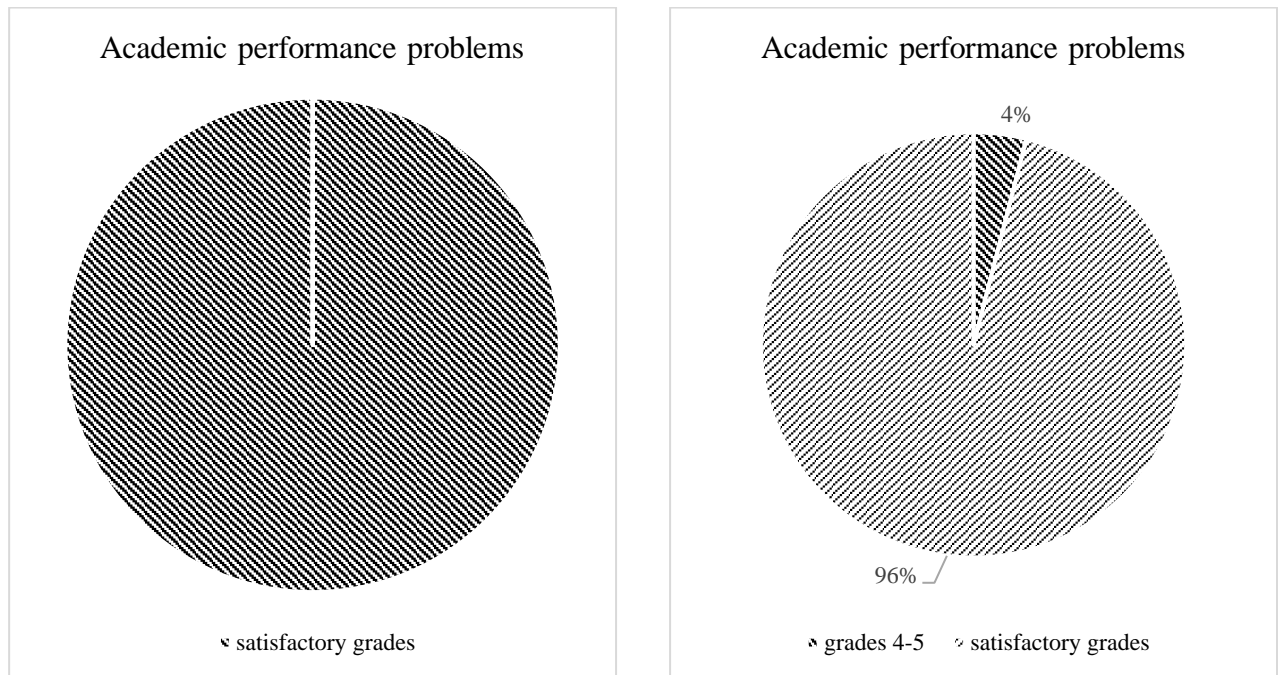
Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 20 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Use of narcotic substances" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

In the studied samples of adolescent orphans, there are no regular drug users. At the same time, there are more adolescent orphans who do not use drugs compared to those who have used in the past. The same can be said for the adolescent orphans in the comparison group. However, the differences between the group of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation and the group with normal intelligence are not statistically significant.

Academic performance problems is another of the signs of maladjustment that usually distinguishes adolescents with mild mental retardation. However, in this sample, all adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation have the same satisfactory grades (Figure 21). This may be the attitude of teachers in a professional educational institution for adolescent orphans to get a profession. It is impossible to conduct a differentiated analysis. Nevertheless, we note that the predominant part of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development studies satisfactorily. There were no adolescent orphans receiving the highest and lowest points in this sample. Due to the peculiarity of the data distribution, it is impossible to detect dependencies. Although the statistical academic performance indicators and their distribution in the comparison groups are the

same. However, adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation have more subjective and objective problems in this area, as indicated by the results of observations.

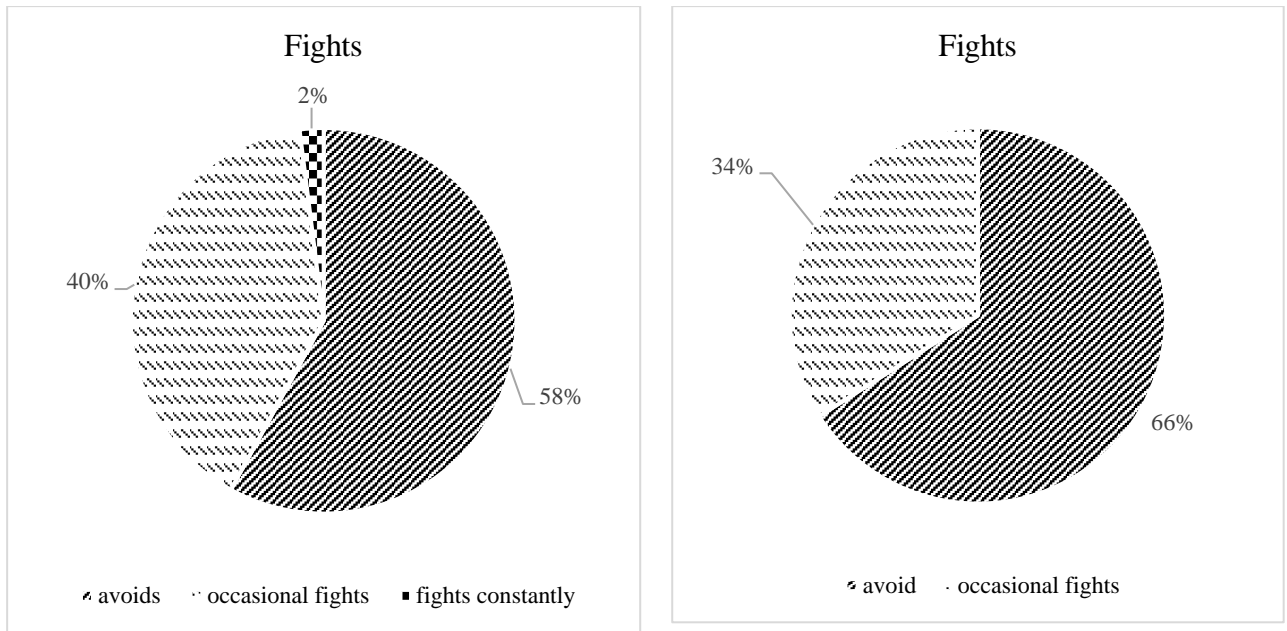


Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation      Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 21 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Academic performance problems" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Among the indicators of maladjustment, a special position is occupied by aggressive tendencies that destroy the system of interpersonal interaction necessary for a full and comfortable life support and personal development. Fights as an expression of aggression are recognized as one of the characteristic indicators of maladaptation in adolescent environment. Through these fights, adolescents explicitly or implicitly demonstrate not only the desire to harm their rivals, but also their own helplessness and the narrowness of their adequate repertoire for overcoming difficulties in interpersonal interaction. As it turned out, the group of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation is divided approximately equally into those who participate in fights and those who avoid fights. No statistically significant differences were found. The number of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development who occasionally participate in fights reaches one third. No regular participation of adolescent orphans in fights was observed in this sample. No significant differences were found between the

number of adolescent orphans involved in fights. There are also no differences between the groups compared.



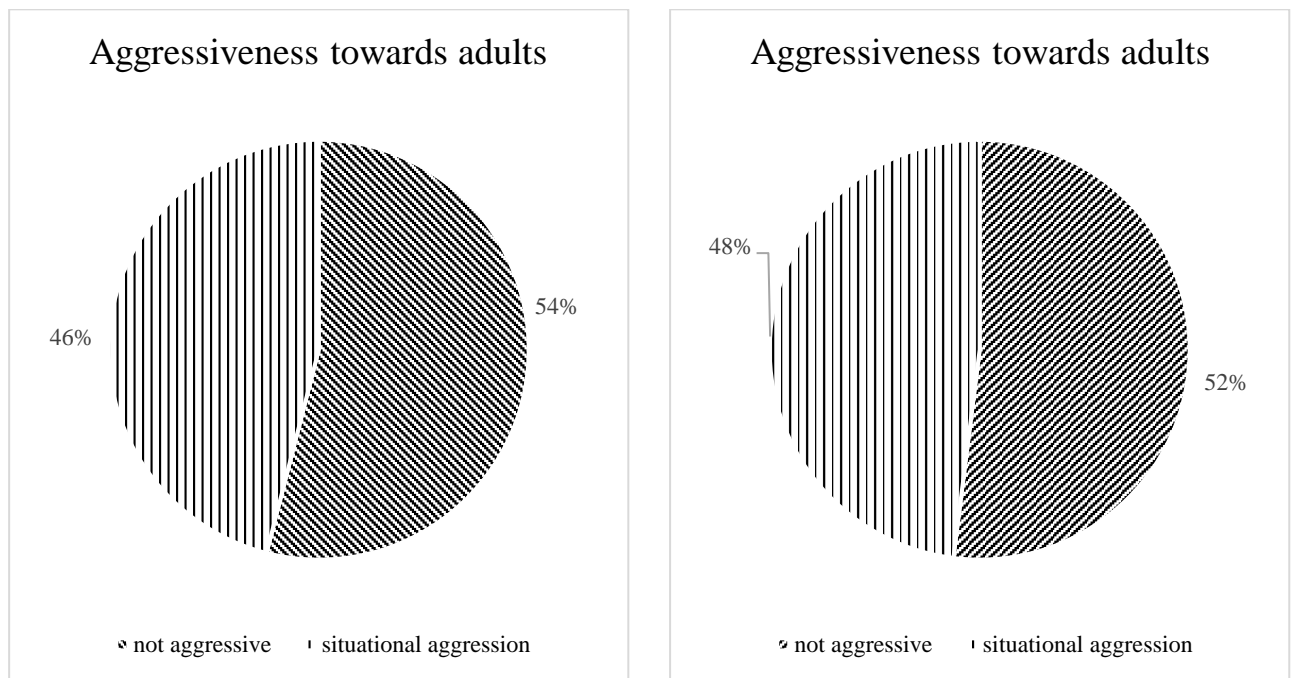
Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 22 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Fights" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

The narrowness of adaptation programs of behavior in adolescence leads to the fact that relations with surrounding people are accompanied by conflicts and aggression. In PVEs, caregivers observe aggression of adolescent orphans both towards adults and peers, which is reflected in Figures 23 and 24.

As follows from the results presented in Figure 23, half of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation are prone to situational aggression directed at adults. At the same time, cases of constant aggression are extremely rare.

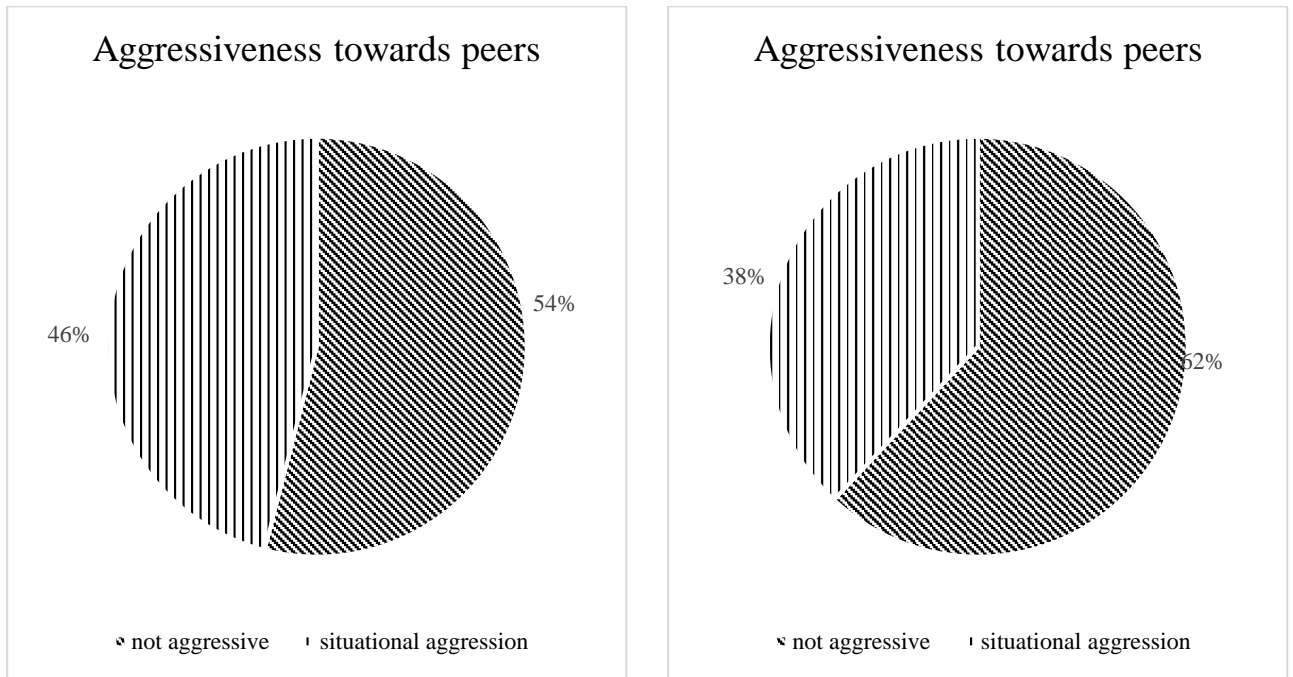


Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation      Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 23 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Aggressiveness towards adults" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

There were no statistically significant differences in the manifestations of aggression. In the studied group of orphan adolescents with normative intelligence, situational aggression towards adults is common (at least in half of orphan adolescents). However, there were no cases of persistent aggression towards adults. No significant differences were found. Comparison of the distributions of aggressive manifestations in relation to adults in the group of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and in the group with normative intellectual development showed no statistically significant differences.

In adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, situational aggression towards peers is the same as in relation to adults. Almost only half of them show aggression towards their peers. Cases of persistent aggression are extremely rare. It is possible that adolescent orphans of this category do not differentiate the objects of their aggression. No statistically significant differences were found either. In the comparison group, situational aggression directed at peers occurs only in 38% of adolescents. Constant aggression towards peers was not observed in this sample. No significant differences were found between the groups either.

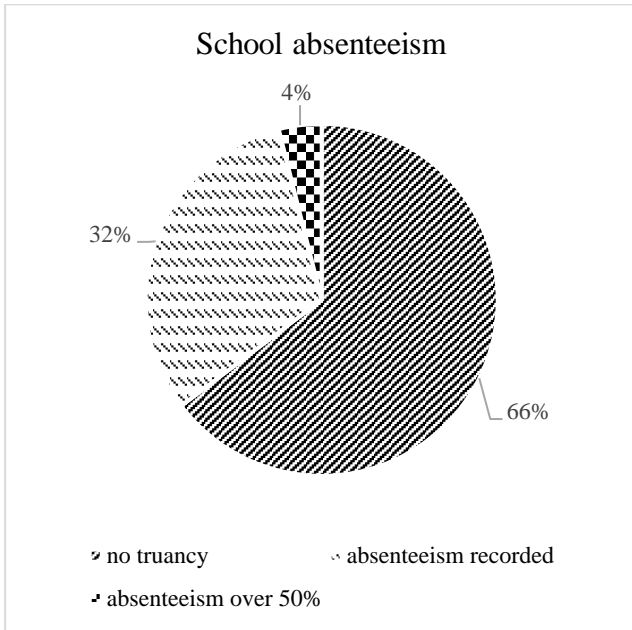


Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation      Adolescent orphans with normative development

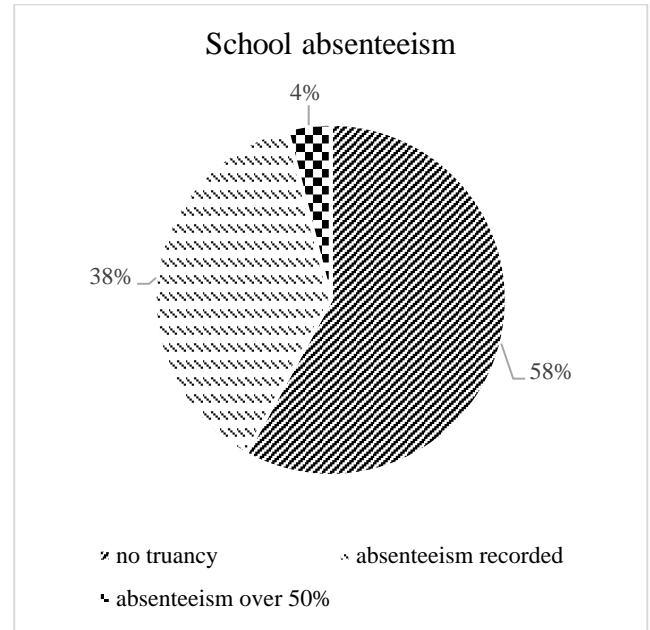
Figure 24 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Aggressiveness towards peers" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Problems related to compliance with school discipline and requirements in the residential and educational institution are a significant sign of adolescents' adaptive abilities. It was found (Figure 25) that among adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, about one-third of the total number have unjustified absences from school. At the same time, cases of permanent absence from classes are extremely rare. No statistically significant differences were found. In the group of adolescent orphans with normal intelligence, regular absenteeism is also quite rare (no more than 4% of adolescent orphans). At the same time, episodic absenteeism is more typical for them (40% of orphaned adolescents). Intragroup differences with regard to absenteeism are not significant. No statistically significant differences were found between the groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development.





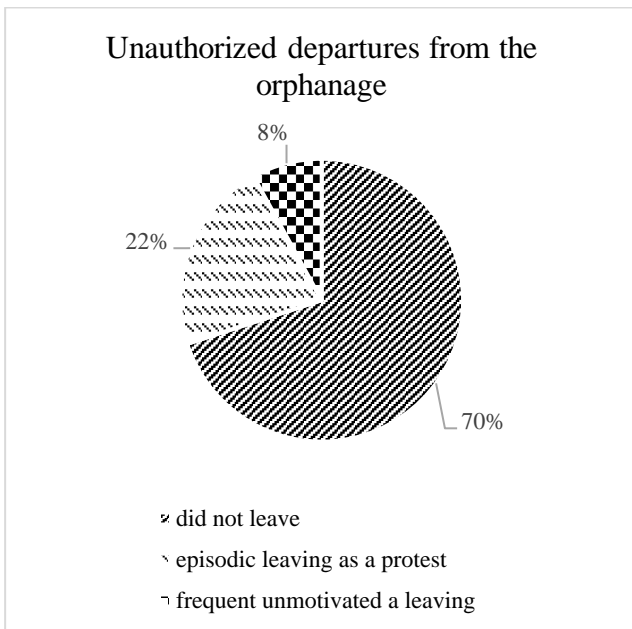
Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation



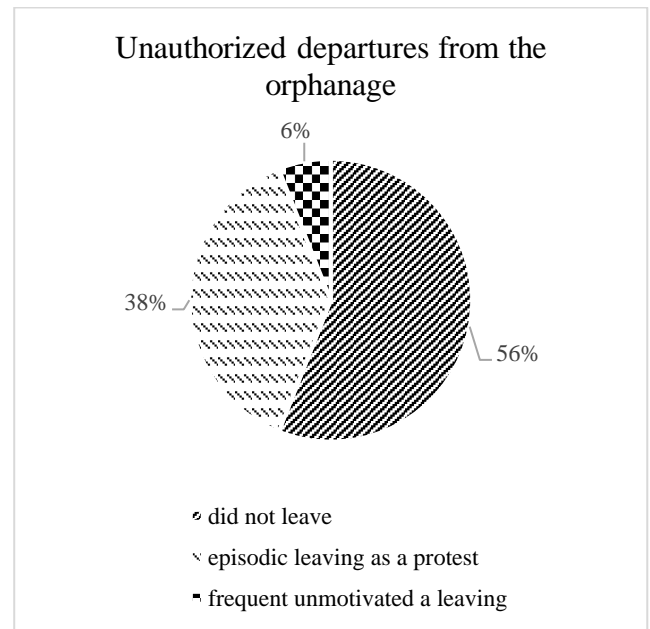
Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 25 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "School absenteeism" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

In many respects, a similar picture is observed when analyzing the ratio of unauthorized departures from the territory of the orphanage (Figure 26).



Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

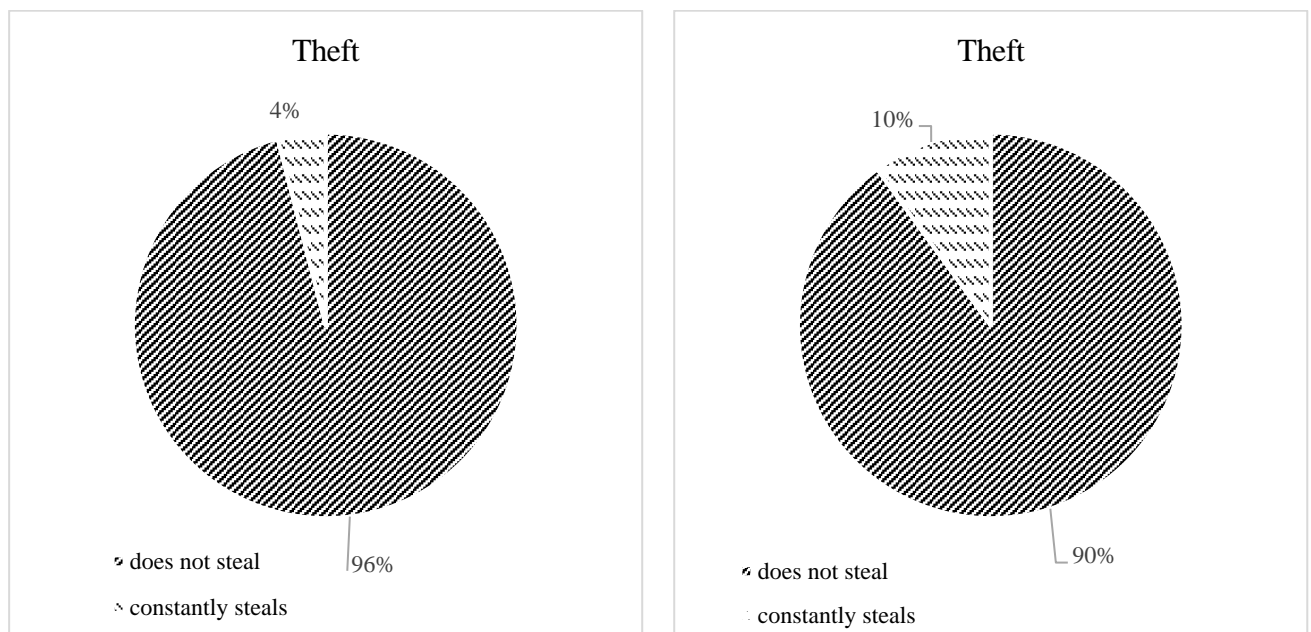


Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 26 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Unauthorized departures from the orphanage" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Among adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, episodic unauthorized departures from the orphanage are observed in about 22% of adolescents. Cases of permanent departures reach only 8%. No statistically significant differences were found. The group of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence is also characterized by episodic violation of discipline in the form of unauthorized departures from the institution, permanent departures are rare (no more than 6%). There are no statistically significant intra-group differences. Differences between the compared groups of adolescents were also not revealed.

Theft as a deliberate and unregulated appropriation of things belonging to other people occurs in the adolescent environment, and cohabitation is not always able to stop this process (Shipitsyna, 2012). Nevertheless, adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, judging by the observations of caregivers, in the vast majority do not engage in theft. Only 4% of these adolescents were observed stealing (Figure 27).



Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

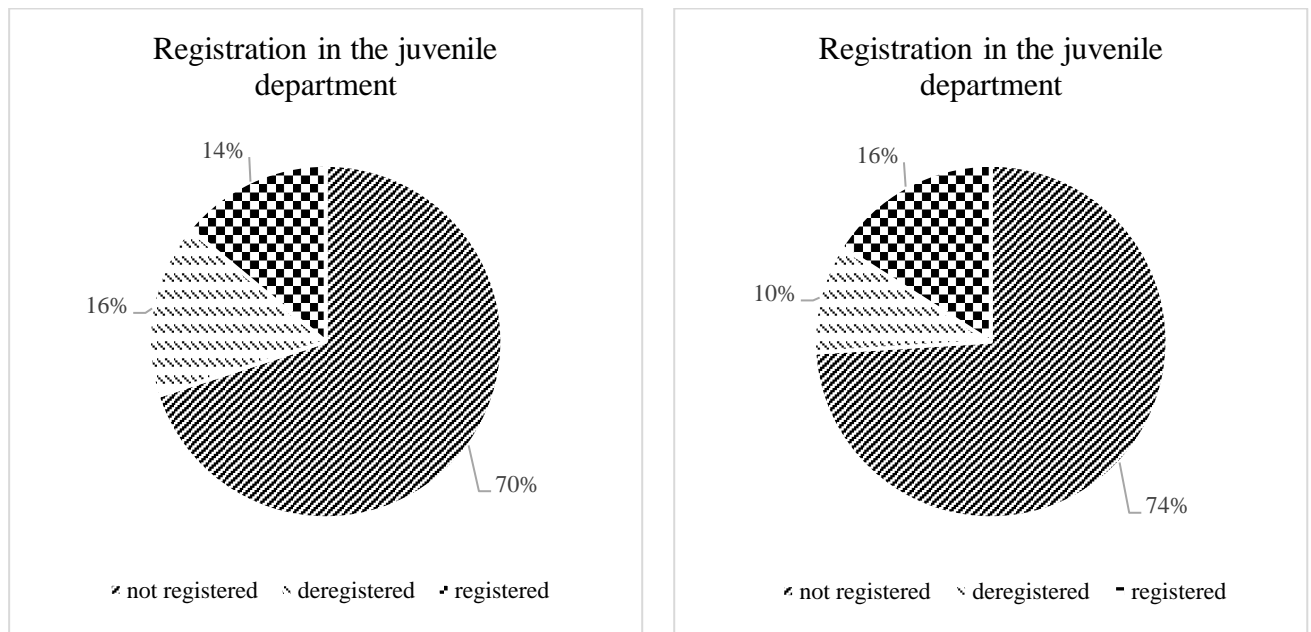
Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 27 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Theft" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Due to the peculiarities of the distribution of the obtained data, it is not possible to make reliable intra-group comparisons. Among adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development, cases of constant stealing are found in 10%. Cases of episodic stealing are

not observed. Due to the peculiarities of data distribution, intra-group comparison is also not possible. Intergroup comparison did not show statistically significant differences.

The integral indicator of maladaptation are such forms of behavior that are accompanied by a violation of social norms and social requirements. For adolescents, such violations are recorded by the relevant law enforcement agencies. As shown in Figure 28, approximately one third of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation were or are registered in Juvenile Affairs Department. At the same time, the number of drives to the juvenile affairs department (both removed from the register and registered) is observed in about a quarter.



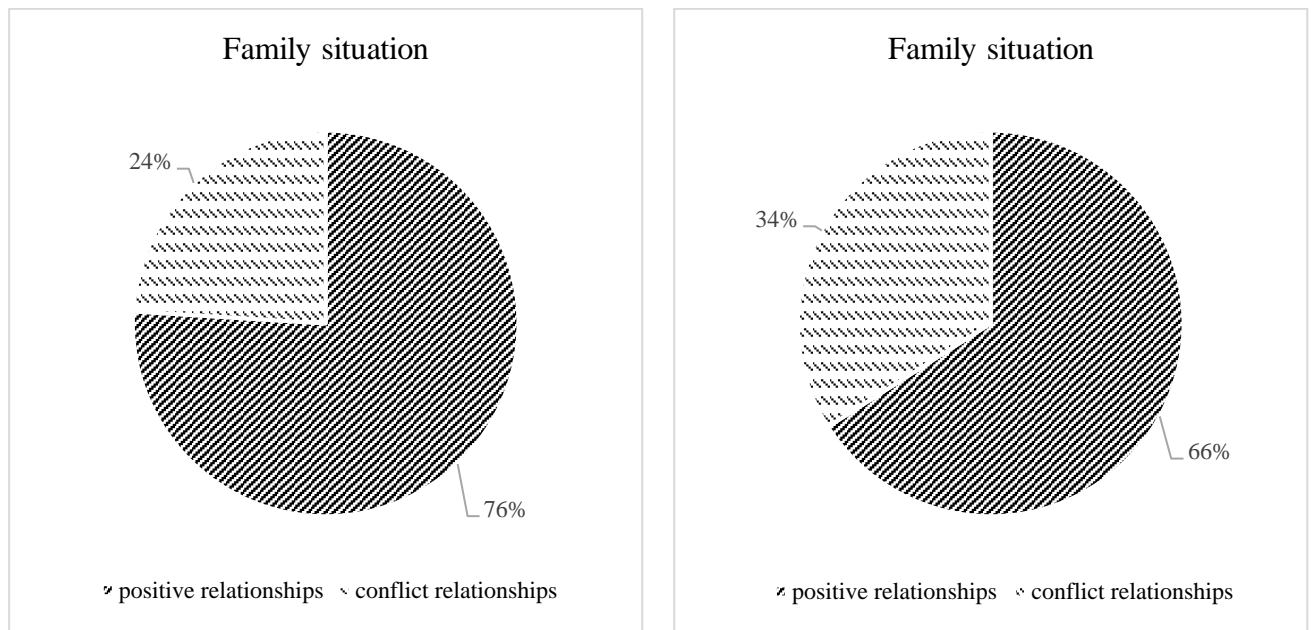
Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 28 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Registration in the juvenile department" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

No statistically significant differences were found within the group. In the group of adolescent orphans with normal intelligence, almost a quarter of adolescents have been brought to the juvenile affairs department. There are no intragroup differences in the distribution of antisocial behavior. There are no differences in the distribution of this attribute of maladaptation between the groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development.

Intra-family relations are an undeniable factor in the maladaptation of children of any age, including adolescents. Among adolescent orphans living and brought up in the conditions of an orphanage there are social orphans who maintain certain relations with the family. In this connection, it is reasonable to consider some features of the family situation in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development, which is reflected in Figure 29.



Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

Adolescent orphans with normative development

Figure 29 - Distribution of indicators variants of maladaptation "Family situation" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

It turned out that among orphaned teenagers with a mild degree of mental retardation, conflict relationships in the family are observed in about a quarter. At the same time, reliable data on cases of domestic violence in this sample were not obtained. Intra-group statistically significant differences in the distribution of this indicator of maladaptation were not found. In the group of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development, cases of conflict family relationships were recorded in one third of the study participants. There was no reliable information about cases of violence in the families of these adolescents. When comparing the groups, no statistically significant differences were found for the indicator "family situation".

Thus, against the background of parental deprivation, adolescents living in PVE institutions show all the above-mentioned signs of maladaptation. At the same time, there is no dependence of their expression on the peculiarities of intellectual development of adolescents. Maladaptation affects the attitude to social norms and surrounding people of different ages, behavior in the orphanage and in the school environment, attitude to the means that provoke addictive behavior. The similar distribution of maladaptation traits within the groups with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intelligence indicates maladaptation homogeneity of orphaned adolescents. Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation differ from normative adolescent orphans by the lower expression of only some maladaptive indicators.

### **3.3.2. Results of the study of the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladaptation of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation and normal intellectual development**

The section analyzes the correlation between the indicators of the meaning sphere and maladaptation within the groups of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and with normal intellectual development. As shown by the results of the factor study described in Section 3.1.2, the structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is generally represented by seven integral attributes: meaningfulness of personal experience of crisis situations, meaningfulness of experience of communicative problems, meaningfulness of social context, meaningfulness of personal experience of searching for the meaning of life, meaningfulness of subjective sense of quality of life, meaningfulness of self-satisfaction, and meaningfulness of the experience of loss. In accordance with the peculiarities of data distribution, the Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney criteria were applied as statistical methods to establish the correlation between manifestations of the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior.

Let us consider separately the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladaptation in the group of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation. In the process of analyzing the results, it was found that out of all 7 attributes, only one, meaningfulness of personal experience of crisis situations, was associated with such a manifestation of maladaptation as alcohol consumption (Table 1 and 2, Appendix B). The obtained result generally confirmed our hypothesis about the structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans and its connection with maladaptation, which is visually represented in Figure 30.

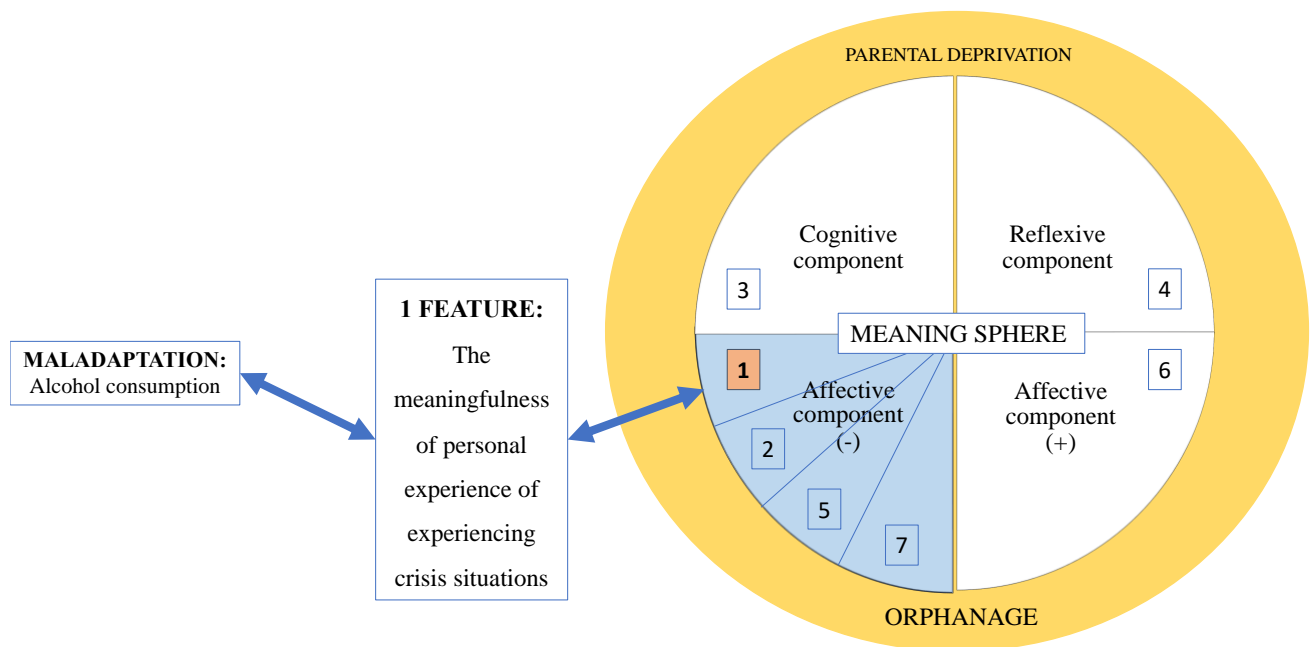


Figure 30 - Empirical model of the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladaptation of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation

The obtained results can be interpreted in such a way that reduced intelligence in adolescent orphans, on the one hand, reflects a selective connection between meaning processes and emotional processes - negative affectivity, and on the other hand, blocks, apparently, less significant for adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, certain components of negative affectivity of the meaning sphere. Reduced intelligence contributes to focusing the attention of the adolescent orphans of this category on the meaningfulness of their personal experience of crisis situations. This is

quite consistent with this type of dysonogenesis in terms of the correlation between thinking and emotions [50; 51].

In adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, the correlation between the expression of the meaningfulness of personal experience of crisis situations and alcohol consumption was established. Based on the presented figure, it can be considered that adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation who do not use alcohol are more prone to conflicts and low self-esteem, as well as more often exposed to traumas and diseases compared to adolescent orphans who use low-alcohol and energy drinks. The result obtained can by no means be interpreted as a benefit for adolescent orphans from alcohol use. Perhaps this attitude towards alcohol is the main marker of their maladaptation. For the work of correctional psychologists in PVE institutions, the results obtained may help to identify targets for psychological correction.

It should be noted that in adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation no differences were found in the correlation of the meaning sphere and the expression of manifestations of maladaptive behavior at different attitudes to:

- smoking;
- fighting;
- aggression toward adults and peers;
- drug use;
- use of profanity and stealing;
- academic performance, truancy;
- family situation;
- the presence or absence of a record in the juvenile affairs department;
- leaving the orphanage unauthorized [92].

Such a ratio can be explained by the great dependence of orphaned adolescents' behavior patterns on the context in which they live. The conditions of the orphanage at PVE institutions mainly fulfill an adaptive role.

Let us consider the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladaptation in the group of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development. The obtained result also confirmed our hypothesis about the structure of the meaning sphere of

adolescent orphans and its correlation with maladaptation, which is presented in Figure 31.

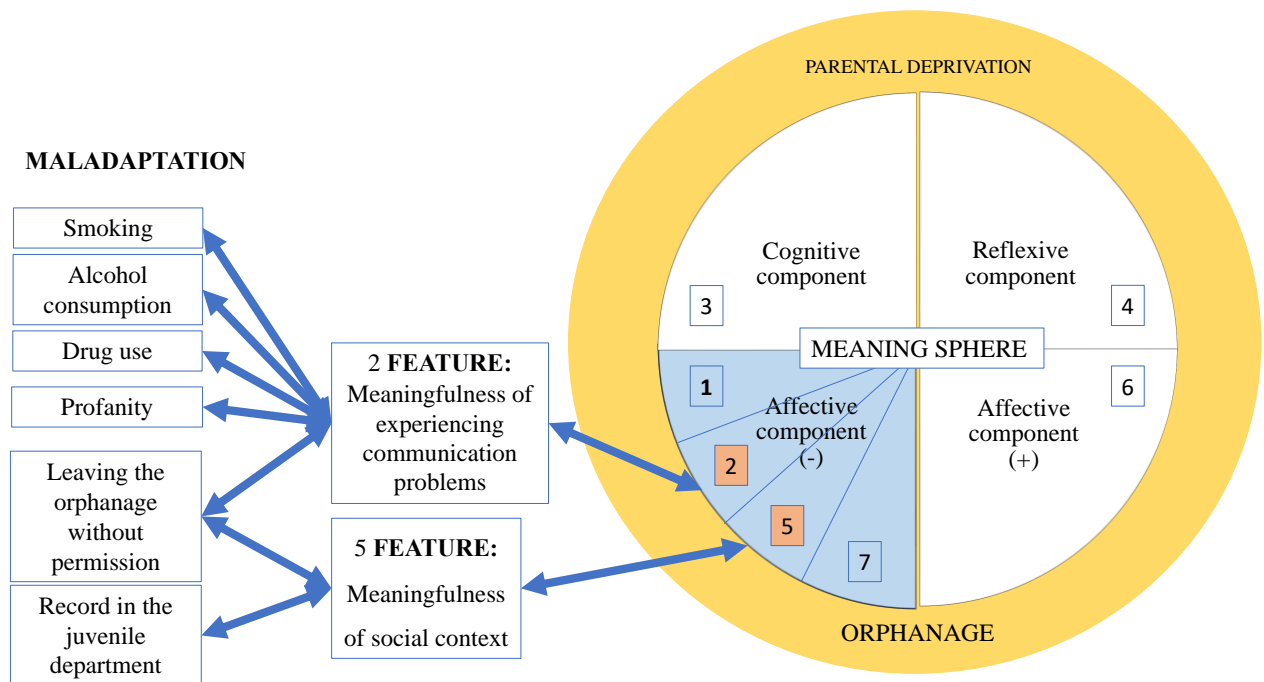


Figure 31 - Empirical model of the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladjustment of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development

The obtained result indicates a more complex internal organization of the negative affectivity component of the meaning sphere, which is determined by the number and nature of correlations between the meaning sphere of personality and maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development. Two integral features of the meaning sphere: meaningfulness of the experience of communicative problems and social context are interrelated with different specific signs of maladaptive behavior. At the same time, the correlation between the expression of the meaningfulness of the experience of communicative problems and smoking was established in adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development. A high level of reliability of differences was achieved for the second attribute (Table 3, Appendix B). Adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development who are nonsmokers are less aware, compared to open smokers, of experiencing problems in communication, feelings of inferiority, and fear of death or surgery.



In the group of adolescent orphans with normative intellectual development, a correlation was established between the severity of the meaningfulness of the experience of communicative problems and the use of alcohol. A high level of significance of differences for this trait was achieved (Table 4 Appendix B). Adolescent orphans with normative intelligence who do not drink alcohol, to a lesser extent, compared to those who consume low-alcohol drinks, experience communication problems, feelings of inferiority, fear of death or surgery.

A similar correlation is observed when considering the connection between the meaningfulness of the experience of communication problems and the use of narcotic drugs. (Table 5 Appendix B). Orphans with normative intelligence who have not tried drugs, to a lesser extent, compared to those who have used drugs, experience problems in communication, feelings of inferiority, fear of death or surgery.

Let us pay attention to another correlation between the meaning sphere and manifestations of maladaptation. It turned out that in adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development there is a connection between the meaningfulness of the experience of communicative problems and the use of profanity. A high level of reliability of differences for the analyzed feature was achieved (Table 6, Appendix B). Adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development who use cultural speech in communication are less aware of difficulties in communication, feelings of inferiority, and fear of death or surgery compared to those who use expletives.

We would like to emphasize that two integral attributes of the meaning sphere: meaningfulness of the experience of communicative problems and meaningfulness of the social context correlate with unauthorized leaving the children's home. Significant differences were found for the second and fifth attribute (Table 7, Appendix B). Adolescent orphans who did not commit unauthorized departures experience difficulties in communication, feelings of inferiority, and fear of death or surgery to a lesser extent than those who had episodic departures, but at the same time they experience the danger of disrupting the social ecology (fear of theft or loss of property) to a greater extent.

Also in the group of adolescent orphans with normal intelligence, the correlation between the meaningfulness of the social context and priors and registration in the

juvenile affairs department was established. Significant differences were found for this attribute (Table 8 Appendix B). Adolescent orphans registered with the juvenile affairs department (JAD) were less concerned about disrupting the social ecology (theft or loss of property) compared to adolescent orphans with no priors.

The role of normative intelligence, based on the results obtained, can be interpreted as one of the significant abilities of adolescent orphans to comprehend the social context and experience of communicative problems.

It should be noted that in adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development the correlation between the meaning sphere and the expression of characteristics of maladaptive behavior has not been established with different attitudes to:

- participation in fights;
- engaging in theft;
- attendance of training sessions, as not affecting the effectiveness of training;
- level of academic performance;
- the degree of their aggression towards adults and peers;
- conflicts in the family.

### **3.3.3. General and specific features of the correlation between the meaning sphere and maladaptation of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development**

Generalization of the results of the study made it possible to identify general and specific features of the correlation between the structure of the meaning sphere and the maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development. The results are presented in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6 - Common signs of maladaptation in the group of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Common maladaptation signs	
Adolescent orphans with mild degree of mental retardation	Adolescent orphans with normative intellectual development
Fighting	
Aggressiveness to adults	
Aggressiveness to peers	
Problems with academic performance	
Absenteeism from classes	
Family situation	
Theft	

The identified common signs of maladaptation, which are characteristic of both the group of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, and the group with normative intelligence, are not associated with any sign of the meaning sphere. Corresponding correlations were found on our sample. Probably, this result is due to the peculiarities of age development which neutralize the influence of intelligence. A number of studies of normative adolescents also reveal similar manifestations of maladaptation [7; 13; 77; 79; 134; 140; 181; 193; 215; 225; 228]. The data obtained cannot be interpreted as the absence of harm from missing classes by orphans.

The study revealed the correlation of the meaning sphere and specific signs of maladaptation of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development. All specific signs of maladaptation were associated with the "experiencing crises" affective component of the meaning sphere. Visually, this ratio is presented in Figures 30 and 31, and in Table 7.

Table 7 – Correlation of the meaning sphere and maladaptation of orphaned adolescents with different intellectual development

Signs of the meaning sphere	Specific signs of maladaptation	
	Adolescent orphans with mild degree of mental retardation	Adolescent orphans with normative intellectual development
Meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations	Use of alcoholic drinks	
Meaningfulness of the experience of communication problems		Smoking, Use of alcoholic drinks, Use of narcotic drugs, Use of profanity, Leaving the orphanage without permission
Meaningfulness of social context		Leaving the orphanage without permission, Record in the juvenile department

The presented table summarizes the correlations of the meaning sphere and maladjustment, specific for each group of adolescent orphans, and the role of intellectual development. In fact, the generalization shows one of the significant roles of intelligence in the process of social adaptation of adolescents in conditions of parental deprivation.

## CONCLUSION

In modern correctional psychology and defectology, there is an expansion of the research space for all types of dysontogenesis, including mental retardation. Traditionally investigated cognitive processes, the state of which largely determined the public attitude to persons with mental retardation, the system of their education and upbringing, are supplemented by the study of emotional, motivational, communicative, and reflexive features. The diagnostic approach is organically combined with correctional programs based on modern achievements and the latest trends in the development of psychology, pedagogy, medicine, which facilitate the processes of adaptation and socialization.

One of the reasons for delving into the essence of psychological phenomena of mental retardation is the transformation of social and cultural processes. Recently, there has been an increasingly noticeable shift in the attitude of society and the state towards the integration of persons with disabilities, including persons with intellectual disabilities, into the broader society. With regard to persons with mental retardation, segregation is becoming a thing of the past, more and more attention is paid to the identification of psychological potentials and resources that can be realized in the process of learning, mastering a profession, and social interaction. It is recognized that the resource function in human life activity is performed by the meaning sphere [37; 144].

The meaning sphere is a component of the psyche of persons with mental retardation, the possibilities of which are very limitedly disclosed in Russian correctional psychology and defectology. The reasons lie in the high dynamism of meaning formations of personality, their dependence on social transformations (L.S. Vygotsky, D.A. Leontiev, A.I. Izvekov). Our society is experiencing times of increasing turbulence of socio-cultural changes, the growth of violence and aggression on a global scale, which leads people to meaningful reorientation, up to the loss of reference points and meanings of life [96; 221; 251; 266]. At the same time, the meaningfulness of life is

not just a basic human need, but also the most important stage of personality formation, determining the essential characteristic of interaction with others, oneself and the world as a whole [279]. It is no coincidence that the variety of phenomena of the meaning sphere of personality has long been studied by specialists from many fields of scientific knowledge. In particular, the meaning sphere is an object of philosophy, psychology, pedagogy, sociology, religious studies, medicine. This fact is also associated with many approaches to the study, and understanding of its essence and transformations [274]. As a result, another reason for the refusal of specialists in the field of correctional psychology and defectology to study the meaning sphere of persons with mental retardation arises. Recognizing the significance of these reasons, we believed that a significant obstacle also lies in the lack of a methodological apparatus for measuring the meaning sphere of persons with intellectual disabilities.

The idea of the empirical study of the meaning sphere of adolescents with mild mental retardation implied the search for answers to the following questions:

1. What are the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescents with mild mental retardation?
2. What role in the formation of the meaning sphere of adolescents belongs to parental deprivation?
3. What changes in the manifestations of the meaning sphere does intellectual development disorder make?
4. How do the peculiarities of the meaning sphere affect the social behavior of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation?

To answer the questions posed, a special study aimed at identifying specific features of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation living in the conditions of an orphanage at institutions of primary vocational education was given. When starting the study, we assumed that the content and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation have their own peculiarities and differ from the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development who are also brought up in an orphanage. The study involved orphaned adolescents, both with the diagnosis of "mental retardation"

according to ICD-10, and without the diagnosis. The study was conducted in orphanages at institutions of primary vocational education.

Theoretical analysis of the problem and our own experience of interaction with adolescents with mild mental retardation in an orphanage allowed us to consider that the meaning sphere in adolescence is a complex multidimensional phenomenon, the formation of which depends on a number of social and psychological factors. On this basis, a hypothetical model of the meaning sphere was constructed, covering four components: cognitive, reflexive, positive-affective and negative-affective. The specific content of the holistic hypothetical construct was determined by the features of meaning-in-life orientations, existential fulfillment, experiences of crisis situations and subjective satisfaction with one's life.

The study conducted with the participation of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development filled the hypothetical model with specific features and their correlations. This allows us to confirm some recognized features of the meaning sphere, such as dynamism, multidimensionality, and participation in the regulation of adaptive behavior [12; 37; 51; 84; 144; 165]. At the same time, it becomes possible to make a number of clarifications in understanding the content and functions of the meaning sphere as a socio-psychological and personal phenomenon. First of all, the study proves that the peculiarities of the meaning sphere in adolescence are conditioned by parental deprivation, and the state of intellectual development.

The four-component structure of the meaning sphere revealed in adolescent orphans living in orphanages of primary vocational education institutions confirms one of the hypotheses of the study. The meaning sphere of adolescent orphans is based on the same components as those of their peers living in families: cognitive, reflexive, positive affectivity, and negative affectivity. Adolescent orphans and adolescents brought up in families have the ability to comprehend the same manifestations of life, experienced crisis situations, the ability to comprehend their personal experience of social interaction, and existents. Thus, the idea that the meaning sphere in adolescence is formed as a new formation in the structure of personality is confirmed. Such a natural age process does not depend significantly on the conditions of upbringing and living.

Presumably, the factor of parental, family influence is more noticeable on the content of specific meanings of life and their hierarchy. At the same time, in our view point, the revealed integral signs of the structure of the meaning sphere are directed to certain categories of life meanings: the first sign (meaningfulness of personal experience of crisis situations) is directed to the category of life meanings of social interaction, self-worth, and health; the second (meaningfulness of experience of communicative problems) - to communicative; the third (meaningfulness of experience of searching for the meaning of life) - to cognitive and self-actualization; the fourth (meaningfulness of subjective feeling of quality of life) - to existential ones; the fifth (meaningfulness of the social context) - to status and self-realization; the sixth (meaningfulness of self-satisfaction) - to hedonistic; the seventh (meaningfulness of the experience of loss) - to family.

In accordance with the conducted research it can be stated that the transforming influence of parental deprivation consists in the fact that the axis of the content of components and structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans runs along the negative affectivity. Negative affectivity has the greatest weight and the most complex organization compared to other components of the meaning sphere. It contains the meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations, communicative problems and social context of life, and the meaningfulness of experiencing loss. Each of the remaining three components of the meaning sphere contains one attribute each: positive affectivity is based only on the meaningfulness of adolescent orphans' satisfaction with themselves, the reflexive component - on the ability to conceptualize the quality of their own life, and the cognitive component - on the meaningfulness of the search for the meaning of life.

The priority position and complexity of the structure of negative affectivity is explained by the fact that adolescent orphans living in an orphanage deeply experience not only the situation of parental (family) deprivation, but also other situations that are perceived by them as psychotraumatic. Observational experience shows that living in an orphanage is often preceded and accompanied by a number of other negative and dramatic events.



The study shows that the state of intellectual development is among the psychological factors of dynamism of the meaning sphere of adolescents left without parental care and brought up in an orphanage. At the same time, the cognitive component is the most significant for differentiating the content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intellectual development. Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation are inferior to peers with normal intelligence in the degree of comprehension of life goals and readiness to achieve them, in the comprehension of their own abilities to successfully influence the events of their lives. This result is quite expected. The level of intellectual development is primarily reflected in cognitive processes, without which acts of comprehension are impossible.

Differences in the intellectual development of adolescent orphans did not significantly affect the content of the reflexive component, negative and positive affectivity. The results obtained correspond to the fact that the level of intellectual development is reflected primarily in cognitive processes. The homogeneity of the content of the affective component, especially negative affectivity, is probably due to the fact that parental deprivation was significant for the experience of crisis situations of the study participants.

The absence of noticeable differences in the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development may be related to age. Researchers recognize that in adolescence the reflexive activity that forms the picture of the world, the Self-concept, system of interpersonal communication, and social behavior increases significantly. At the same time, there is a substantial similarity of a number of reflexive processes in adolescents, for example, in adolescents with different levels of maladaptation [65; 227]. Perhaps, the concretization of life meanings, as well as the awareness of the fullness of the inner space of one's life, the ability to orient oneself in the values of specific experiences, actions and goals is more related to the level of intellectual development than the fact of actualization of reflexion of one's own life and Self. In this case, age-related patterns of reflexion development may prevail over cognitive abilities.

Along with age, the reason for the lack of differences in the content of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere can be considered to be the common living space of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development - the orphanage, common pedagogical and educational activities, as well as the similarity of family situations. All this creates limitations for reflexion of the content of what is happening and experiences. It is no coincidence that the overall fulfillment of life and its individual components are at a low level in the group of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intelligence.

Another assumption that arises regarding the commonality of the reflexive component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development is related to the common features of their maladaptive behavior. Behavior, as a form of active interaction of the individual with the surrounding reality and the evaluation of this activity by close people, cannot but be reflected in the formation of life meanings and their reflection. Adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intellectual development are united by the independence of a number of indicators of maladaptive behavior from none of the integral features of the meaning sphere. Such relatively meaning-independent behavioral manifestations of orphaned adolescents include aggression in the form of fights, verbal and nonverbal aggressive actions towards adults and peers, violation of social norms in the form of stealing, violation of school discipline in the form of unmotivated absenteeism, and family destructive situations.

This study is focused not only on determining the content and structure of the meaning sphere, but also on assessing its functions in the lives of orphaned adolescents. The key to understanding the functional capabilities, which are not revealed in the studies of correctional psychologists and defectologists, was the comparison of the components of the meaning sphere and violations of adaptive behavior of adolescents with different intellectual development. It has been preliminarily established that maladaptability, which is perpetuated by smoking and alcohol consumption, and the use of profanity, is less expressed in orphaned adolescents with a mild degree of mental retardation compared to normatively developing adolescents. The relationship between

a person's cultural level and his or her intellectual development is obvious to psychologists. However, the peculiarities of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation make some adjustments to the straightforward correlation of these phenomena. An assumption arises about the ability of a particularly organized impaired intellect to resist the norms of "inclusion" in adult life that are widespread in the adolescent environment. Behavior that adult representatives of society consider to be bad habits and a brutal way of self-expression, adolescents, in their views, are often referred to as important attributes of adulthood.

It has been determined that with mental retardation there is a high selectivity of the correlation of the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior of adolescents. Only one sign of negative affectivity is associated with one sign of maladaptation. The meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations turned out to be associated with alcohol use. We emphasize that negative affectivity is equally represented in the structure of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and normal intellectual development. However, depending on the peculiarities of intellectual development, the comprehension of negative experiences differently participates in the regulation of maladaptive behavior.

Intellectual impairment, usually combined with emotional flattening, focuses the consciousness of orphaned adolescents on experiencing only some crisis events, some of their actions and deeds most significant for their own Self. It should be added that the minimal number of correlations between negative affectivity and maladaptation may be due to the fact that living conditions in the orphanage largely restrain the actualization of many maladaptive manifestations, especially if we take into account the high social dependence and readiness to obey in case of intellectual impairment.

It turned out that adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation who do not drink alcohol are more prone to conflict and low self-esteem, and are more likely to suffer injuries and even illnesses than adolescent orphans with mental retardation who drink low-alcohol and energy drinks. It is possible that this ratio is due to the fact that alcohol consumption creates a false impression of expanding the limits of a person's

abilities. An adolescent with a mild degree of mental retardation who does not drink alcohol remains within the narrowed boundaries of his or her real capabilities.

In the group of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development, the influence of the meaning sphere on maladaptive behavior is more complexly organized. Although signs of negative affectivity also have an impact, they reflect the meaningfulness of the experience of crisis situations of the social order, in particular, the communicative experience and the general social context. The impact of their meaningfulness captures not only potentially addictive behavior (smoking, alcohol and drug use), but also violations of the rules of social behavior (use of profanity, unauthorized leaving the children's home), and signs of asocial behavior that lead, in particular, to registration in the juvenile affairs department.

Based on the conducted research, we can conclude that the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation is a multidimensional dynamic psychological phenomenon encompassing cognitive, reflexive, positive-affective and negative-affective components, the content, structural and regulatory features of which are associated with the conditions of parental deprivation and impaired intellectual development. Negative affectivity as a comprehension of the experience of crisis life situations occupies a key position among the components of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, having a high sensitivity to parental deprivation and selectivity in the regulation of maladaptive behavior. The role of the cognitive component is limited to the differentiation of comprehension of goals in life, the process and result of life, and loci of control of adolescent orphans depending on the level of their intellectual development. The reflexive component of the meaning sphere fulfills the function of bringing together orphaned adolescents with different intellectual development in the meaningfulness of unfulfilled existences. Positive affectivity in the structure of the meaning sphere also contributes to the mutual integration of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and with normal intelligence, uniting satisfaction with a number of specific life spheres, and preserving the differentiation of their attitude to higher powers.

The meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normative intellectual development, as well as in adolescents with mild mental retardation, is represented by cognitive and reflexive components, positive and negative affectivity. When living in an orphanage, due to their intelligence, they gain an advantage in the meaningfulness of life and awareness of key life orientations: goals, process and result of life, in the independent solution and control of emerging problems. However, this advantage does not affect the diagnosed manifestations of existence as a reflexive component of the meaning sphere and positive affectivity in the form of meaningfulness of the experience of satisfaction with various aspects of life. This confirms the influence of parental deprivation in combination with the age-related stage of development, smoothing out the differences in the manifestation of the reflexive and positive-affective components of the meaning sphere.

For adolescent orphans with normal development, as for adolescents with impaired intelligence, the negative-affective component proved to be the most important. However, with preserved intelligence, the negative-affective component regulates a fairly wide range of maladaptive behavior of adolescents in the orphanage and outside it.

The conducted research has not only answered the research questions, but also posed a number of new ones, which indicates the prospect of developing the idea of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation. Undoubtedly, the search for the factors of formation of the meaning sphere of such a category of adolescents, which should go beyond the limits of parental deprivation, continues to be relevant. It is also necessary to focus on the research of other social spheres, for example, professional sphere of environment. We believe that in this context it is necessary to investigate the hobbies of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation, the circle of their informal communication with peers in the PVE institution and beyond. Further research in this direction can answer the fundamental question about the dependence of the content of their meaning sphere on the influence of social interaction. New studies aimed at identifying the hierarchy of the content of personal meaning of adolescents, rejection or acceptance of what an orphaned adolescent

experiences in his or her life seem appropriate. It is necessary to continue research, which should include the development of issues not only of the social environment of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, but also of their personal assessments and preferences.

Correctional psychologists need a study that reveals the meaning of material values in the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation. In particular, it is necessary to develop correctional and developmental programs that form a careful and value-tinged attitude to money and things, developing an understanding that material values are a measure of labor and considerable efforts put on the way of their earnings. The established fact of distortion of the meaning sphere in the area of devaluation of material values demonstrates the ways of correction of the problematic category of adolescents. It seems appropriate to conduct special trainings based on the principle of accustoming adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation to work on the basis of self-sufficiency. Adolescent orphans' staying in conditions of independent earning and relying only on their own abilities, even for a short period of time, should, as we believe, have a corrective effect on their meaning sphere. This assumption should be verified by subsequent studies aimed at the influence of the principle of self-sufficiency in the process of labor activity on the meaning sphere of orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation.

The main methodological result of the study is the proof of the possibility to use the developed complex of methodical means to determine the specificity of the meaning sphere of adolescents with a mild degree of mental retardation.

## SUMMARY

The provisions submitted for defense have found their confirmation in the results of the study and therefore can be considered proven and justified. Based on the results of this study, the following general conclusions can be drawn:

1. The meaning sphere in adolescence is a multidimensional dynamic phenomenon, the content and structural features of which reflect the social and psychological factors of development. The hypothetical model of the meaning sphere of adolescents, which has received empirical confirmation, covers four components: cognitive, reflexive, positive-affective and negative-affective, revealing meaning-in-life orientations, existential fulfillment, experiences of crisis situations and subjective satisfaction with life.
2. The meaning sphere of adolescent orphans includes the same components as those of peers living in families: cognitive, reflexive, positive-affective and negative-affective. Adolescent orphans have the ability to conceptualize the same manifestations of life, experienced crisis situations, the ability to conceptualize their personal experience of social interaction, and existence as adolescents in families. Parental deprivation is most significant for the content and functions of negative affectivity, which has the greatest weight and the most complex organization in the structure of the meaning sphere, and is distinguished by greater activity in the regulation of maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation, and normal intellectual development.
3. The meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation is a four-component psychological phenomenon. The content, structure and possibilities of regulation of maladaptive behavior of the components are related to parental deprivation and impaired intellectual development.
4. Each component of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation has a special function. The function of the cognitive component is to differentiate the comprehension of life orientations depending on the level of intellectual development. The reflexive component performs the function of convergence of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development in the meaningfulness of unfulfilled existence. Positive affectivity unites adolescent orphans

with mild mental retardation and with normal intelligence in satisfaction with some life spheres while maintaining differentiated attitudes toward outside help.

5. The key position in the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation is occupied by negative affectivity, which expresses the meaningfulness of the experience of crisis situations, and has a high sensitivity to parental deprivation and selectivity in the regulation of maladaptive behavior.

6. The meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normal intellectual development is represented by cognitive, reflexive positive-affective and negative-affective components. The cognitive component reflects their advantage in the meaningfulness of basic life orientations. The reflexive component shows the same reduced level of fulfillment of life as in adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation. Positive affectivity provides a meaningful experience of satisfaction with most aspects of life, except for reliance on outside help, at the same level as adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation.

7. For adolescent orphans with normal development, as for adolescents with impaired intelligence, the negative-affective component proved to be the most important, regulating a wide range of maladaptive behavior of adolescents in the orphanage and outside it.

8. The interrelation of the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior combines features common to adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation and normal intellectual development, and specific to each group of adolescents. Regardless of the meaning sphere, adolescent orphans with different intellectual development demonstrate aggression, disruption of school discipline, difficulties in mastering educational programs, a propensity to steal, and experience of destructive family situations. The specificity of interrelations between the meaning sphere and maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development is determined by the peculiarities of the negative-affective component.

9. A set of methodological tools for determining the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with mild mental retardation includes: the Purpose in Life Test by J.



Crumbaugh and L. Maholick (adapted by D.A. Leontiev); the Existence Scale by A. Längle and C. Orgler (adapted by S.V. Krivtsova); The Life Satisfaction Questionnaire by A.V. Zhukov, and "Experiencing Crisis Situations" by A.V. Zhukov. The methodological complex is implemented in the format of individual examination with a focus on the results of the adolescent's comprehension of the experience of crisis situations.

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### Results of the study of the content of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans

Table 1 - Expressivity of indicators of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development (scores), N=100

Methods	Indicators	Average value, point	Standard deviation, point
D.A. Leontiev's Test of Meaning-in-life Orientations (MLO)  Component Cognitive meaning sphere	Goals in life	30,44	6,870
	Process of life	28,93	6,384
	The effectiveness of life	25,33	5,914
	Locus of control - I	20,59	5,049
	Locus of control - life	28,38	6,536
Existence Scale  Component Reflexive meaning sphere	Self-distancing	25,79	7,523
	Self-transcendence	60,19	11,907
	Freedom	42,35	9,688
	Responsibility	46,52	12,692
A.V. Zhukov's Life Satisfaction Questionnaire  Component "Positive affectivity" of the meaning sphere	Health condition	4,13	,825
	Sports activities	2,28	,805
	Availability of hobbies	2,61	,709
	Faith in God	2,20	,752
	Faith in help from above	1,96	,695
	Satisfaction with academic performance	3,94	,962
	Satisfaction with life	4,15	,833
Financial situation	3,60	,888	

Table 2 - Expressivity of the component "negative affectivity" of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans (N=100)

Methods	Indicators	Group averages, standard deviations (points)	
		Adolescent orphans	Metadata, A.V. Zhukov, 2010
The Experiencing crisis situations test by A.V. Zhukov	Death of a significant other	5,32±3,89	5,36±4,16
	Conflicts with classmates	4,5±3,73	2,5±2,63
	Death (loss) of a beloved pet	4,17±3,90	-
	Sicknesses	4,03±3,38	2,57±2,8
	Loneliness	3,97±3,44	-
	Breaking up a relationship with a friend	3,95±3,31	-
	Guilt over past misbehavior	3,84±3,25	1,09±2,18
	Physical injuries	3,47±3,30	1,88±2,94
	Fear of death	3,39±3,34	1,78±3,05
	Proneness to conflict	3,24±3,31	1,65±2,42
	Poor academic performance	2,96±3,28	3,15±3,46
	Chronic illnesses	2,89±3,37	1,1±2,46
	Self-worth reduction	2,81±02,89	1,88±2,79
	Communication barriers	2,72±3,17	2,16±3,03
	Parental divorce	2,47±2,74	1,65±3,11
	Living with an alcohol-dependent relative	2,36±2,82	1,57±2,85
	Possibility of being unemployed	2,32±2,50	1,18±2,74
	Experiencing uneasiness	2,3±2,27	1,32±2,24
	Social exclusion	2,22±2,79	1,96±3,40
	Violence	2,08±2,25	0,74±1,83
Fear of not meeting the expectations of others	2,02±2,49	1,09±1,91	
Robbery	1,95±2,13	1,68±2,55	
Disruption of the social ecology	1,65±2,09	-	

## Results of the study of the structure of the meaning sphere in adolescent orphans

### Rationale for the choice of statistical procedures

Table 1 - Determining the possibility of applying factor analysis

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure for sampling adequacy		,661
Bartlett's sphericity criterion	Estimated Chi-square	2863,468
	Degree of Freedom, df	820
	Significance	<b>,000</b>

Table 2 - Factor structure of components of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans.

Explained cumulative variance

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Extraction of sum of squares of loads			Rotation of the sum of squares of loads		
	Total	% of variance	Aggregate %	Total	% of variance	Aggregate %	Total	% of variance	Aggregate %
1	9,206	22,454	22,454	9,206	22,454	22,454	5,104	12,449	12,449
2	4,290	10,463	32,917	4,290	10,463	32,917	4,589	11,192	23,640
3	2,859	6,973	39,890	2,859	6,973	39,890	3,883	9,471	33,112
4	2,662	6,492	46,381	2,662	6,492	46,381	2,976	7,258	40,370
5	2,482	6,053	52,434	2,482	6,053	52,434	2,965	7,231	47,600
6	2,024	4,937	57,372	2,024	4,937	57,372	2,041	4,977	52,578
7	1,725	4,208	61,579	1,725	4,208	61,579	2,015	4,915	<b>57,493</b>

Method of factor extraction: principal components method

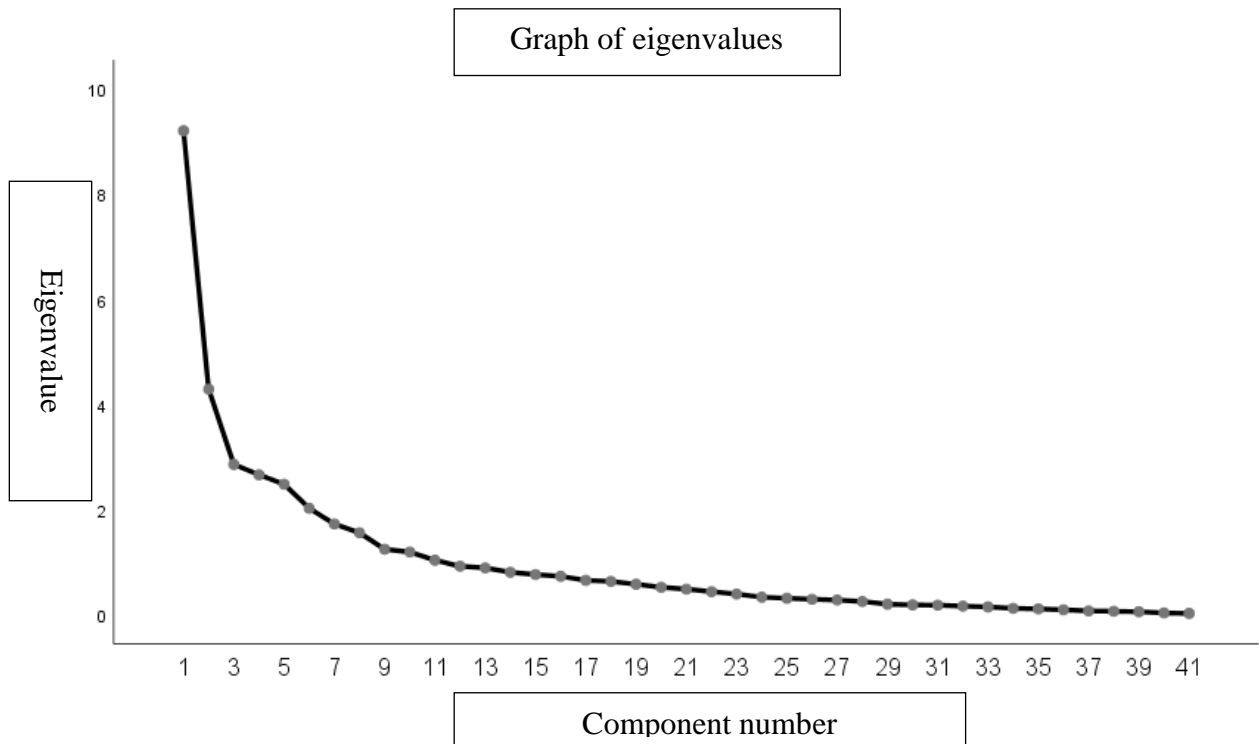


Figure 1 - "Rocky scree" graph

### Results of calculating the factor structure of the meaning sphere

Table 3 - Factor structure of components of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans (N=100).  
Rotated matrix of components<sup>a</sup>

Indicators	Component						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goals in life (the future)	-,114	-,005	<b>,840</b>	,123	,039	-,037	-,016
The process of life (the present)	-,109	-,006	<b>,755</b>	,106	,095	,086	-,087
The effectiveness of life (the past)	-,008	-,203	<b>,814</b>	,077	-,127	,087	-,107
Locus of control - I (I am the master of life)	-,030	-,058	<b>,845</b>	,035	-,073	,146	,176

Table 3 continued

Locus of control - life (controllability of life)	-,095	,110	<b>,830</b>	-,042	-,077	-,057	-,037
Self - distancing	-,038	,040	-,007	<b>,820</b>	,012	-,058	,234
Self-transcendence	,078	,128	,177	<b>,741</b>	,031	,061	-,198
Freedom	-,082	,036	,072	<b>,874</b>	,036	,126	-,040
Responsibility	-,063	-,093	,065	<b>,848</b>	,052	,042	,038
Sports activities	-,025	-,027	,295	,110	,003	<b>,756</b>	-,048
Satisfaction with their academic performance	-,036	,082	-,137	-,005	-,046	<b>,726</b>	,140
Robbery, loss of property	,038	,106	-,176	-,006	<b>,754</b>	,164	,247
Parents' divorce	,395	,205	-,074	-,054	,285	-,035	<b>,641</b>
Physical injuries	<b>,611</b>	,369	-,042	,095	-,244	-,116	,137
Relationship breakup	,253	<b>,740</b>	-,049	,048	,049	,036	,183
Death (loss) of a beloved pet	-,082	-,060	,000	,085	-,037	,090	<b>,747</b>
Communication barriers	,228	<b>,827</b>	-,058	-,060	,127	,088	-,067
Conflicts with classmates	<b>,653</b>	-,040	-,184	-,130	,127	,150	,024
Conflictness	<b>,805</b>	,098	-,127	-,163	,100	,056	,019
Fear of not meeting the expectations of others	,166	<b>,722</b>	,109	,054	,333	-,126	-,254
Sicknesses	<b>,703</b>	,136	-,114	,039	-,055	-,020	-,054
Possibility of being unemployed	,056	,231	-,012	,113	<b>,650</b>	-,234	,103
Poor academic performance, change of educational institution	<b>,670</b>	,549	-,009	-,008	,112	-,151	-,140
Feeling guilty about past actions	<b>,717</b>	,399	,030	,028	,115	-,094	,086

Table 3 continued

Disruption of social ecology (socializing with drug addicts, ethnic conflicts and political crises)	,318	,424	,045	,037	<b>,711</b>	-,032	-,174
Fear of death, surgery	,254	<b>,650</b>	-,056	,106	,194	,009	,432
Reduction of self-worth	<b>,711</b>	,225	-,132	-,017	,193	-,084	,323

Method of factor extraction: principal components method

Rotation method: varimax with Kaiser normalization

a. Rotation converged in 18 iterations

Table 4 - Factor structure of components of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans (N=100)  
One-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov criterion

Factors	N	Parameters of normal distribution <sup>a,b</sup>		Greatest extreme divergences			Criteria on statistics	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)
		Average	Standard deviation	Absolute	Positive	Negative		
1	100	,0000000	1,00000000	,154	,154	-,092	,154	,000 <sup>c</sup>
2	100	,0000000	1,00000000	,168	,168	-,075	,168	,000 <sup>c</sup>
3	100	,0000000	1,00000000	,071	,071	-,045	,071	,200 <sup>c,d</sup>
4	100	,0000000	1,00000000	,067	,062	-,067	,067	,200 <sup>c,d</sup>
5	100	,0000000	1,00000000	,208	,208	-,130	,208	,000 <sup>c</sup>
6	100	,0000000	1,00000000	,157	,064	-,157	,157	,000 <sup>c</sup>
7	100	,0000000	1,00000000	,102	,102	-,057	,102	,012 <sup>c</sup>

- a. The distribution being tested is normal  
b. Calculated from the data  
c. Lilliefors significance correction  
d. This is the lower bound of true significance

Table 5 - Factor structure of integral components of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans (N=100). Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup>

Factor	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)
1	1231,000	2506,000	-,131	,896
2	1167,000	2442,000	-,572	,567
3	835,000	2110,000	-2,861	<b>,004</b>
4	1141,000	2416,000	-,751	,452
5	1175,000	2450,000	-,517	,605
6	1187,000	2462,000	-,434	,664
7	1128,000	2403,000	-,841	,400

- a. Grouping variable: Group



Table 6 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the study of the scales of the factor "Meaningfulness of experiencing the search for the meaning of life" in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Indicator	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)
Goals in life (the future)	738,500	2013,500	-3,534	<b>,000</b>
The process of life (the present)	916,000	2191,000	-2,308	<b>,021</b>
The effectiveness of life (the past)	917,500	2192,500	-2,297	<b>,022</b>
Locus of control - I (I am the master of life)	842,000	2117,000	-2,825	<b>,005</b>
Locus of control - life (controllability of life)	995,000	2270,000	-1,763	,078

a. Grouping variable: Group

Table 7 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the study of scales of meaningfulness of life and existence in groups of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Indicator	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)
General indicator of the meaningfulness of life	793,500	2068,500	-3,148	<b>,002</b>
Personality	1098,000	2373,000	-1,048	,294
Existentiality	1128,000	2403,000	-,841	,400
Fulfillment (existential)	1090,500	2365,500	-1,100	,271

a. Grouping variable: Group

**The results of the study of the correlation of the meaningfulness of life and  
existential fulfillment in the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans**

Table 8 - Values of the rank correlation coefficient (Rho-Spearman) of signs of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans

Signs (integral factors)			Meaningfulness of life
Spearman's $\rho$	General indicator of the meaningfulness of life	Correlation coefficient	,951
		Significance (bilateral)	,000
		N	100
	1. Meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations	Correlation coefficient	,047
		Significance (bilateral)	,646
		N	100
	2. Meaningfulness of the experience of communication problems	Correlation coefficient	-,003
		Significance (bilateral)	,977
		N	100
	3. Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	Correlation coefficient	1,000
		Significance (bilateral)	-
		N	100
	4. Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	Correlation coefficient	-,004
		Significance (bilateral)	,969
		N	100
	5. Meaningfulness of social context	Correlation coefficient	,022
		Significance (bilateral)	,830
		N	100
	6. Meaningfulness of self-satisfaction	Correlation coefficient	,067
		Significance (bilateral)	,511
		N	100
7. Meaningfulness of experiencing loss	Correlation coefficient	,015	
	Significance (bilateral)	,882	
	N	100	

Table 9 – Summary results of the stepwise selection method for model f. (Dependent variable: General indicator of the meaningfulness of life)

Model	R	R-square	Corrected R- square	Standard error of estimation
1	,962 <sup>a</sup>	,925	,924	4,881
2	,968 <sup>b</sup>	,936	,935	4,524
3	,970 <sup>c</sup>	,940	,938	4,402
4	,972 <sup>d</sup>	,944	,942	4,279
5	,973 <sup>e</sup>	,946	,944	4,212

Table 10 – Results of ANOVA analysis of variance (a. Dependent variable: General indicator of meaningfulness of life)

Model		Sum of squares	Degree of freedom, df	Average square	F	Significance
1	Regression	28818,032	1	28818,032	1209,800	,000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	2334,408	98	23,820		
	Total	31152,440	99			
2	Regression	29167,299	2	14583,649	712,601	,000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	1985,141	97	20,465		
	Total	31152,440	99			
3	Regression	29292,567	3	9764,189	503,992	,000 <sup>d</sup>
	Residual	1859,873	96	19,374		
	Total	31152,440	99			
4	Regression	29412,631	4	7353,158	401,510	,000 <sup>e</sup>
	Residual	1739,809	95	18,314		
	Total	31152,440	99			
5	Regression	29484,578	5	5896,916	332,348	,000 <sup>f</sup>
	Residual	1667,862	94	17,743		
	Total	31152,440	99			

Table 11 – Coefficients<sup>a</sup> for the model of analysis of signs of the meaning sphere

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized coefficients	T	Significance	Collinearity statistics	
		B	Standard error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	98,340	,488		201,491	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	17,061	,491	,962	34,782	,000	1,000	1,000
2	(Constant)	98,340	,452		217,380	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	17,061	,455	,962	37,525	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	1,878	,455	,106	4,131	,000	1,000	1,000
3	(Constant)	98,340	,440		223,421	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	17,061	,442	,962	38,568	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	1,878	,442	,106	4,246	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations	-1,125	,442	-,063	-2,543	,013	1,000	1,000

Table 11 continued

4	(Constant)	98,340	,428		229,795	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	17,061	,430	,962	39,668	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	1,878	,430	,106	4,367	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations	-1,125	,430	-,063	-2,615	,010	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of self-satisfaction	1,101	,430	,062	2,560	,012	1,000	1,000
5	(Constant)	98,340	,421		233,461	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	17,061	,423	,962	40,301	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	1,878	,423	,106	4,437	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations	-1,125	,423	-,063	-2,657	,009	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of self-satisfaction	1,101	,423	,062	2,601	,011	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of loss experiencing	-,852	,423	-,048	-2,014	,047	1,000	1,000

a. Dependent variable: General indicator of the meaningfulness of life

Table 12 – Values of the rank correlation coefficient (Rho-Spearman) of the signs of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with different intellectual development

Signs (integral factors)			Fulfillment (existential)
Spearman's $\rho$	1. Meaningfulness of personal experience of experiencing crisis situations	Correlation coefficient	,110
		Significance (bilateral)	,275
		N	100
	2. Meaningfulness of the experience of communication problems	Correlation coefficient	,011
		Significance (bilateral)	,915
		N	100
	3. Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	Correlation coefficient	,077
		Significance (bilateral)	,449
		N	100
	4. Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	Correlation coefficient	,979
		Significance (bilateral)	,000
		N	100
	5. Meaningfulness of the social context	Correlation coefficient	,068
		Significance (bilateral)	,500
		N	100
	6. Meaningfulness of self-satisfaction	Correlation coefficient	,014
		Significance (bilateral)	,886
		N	100

Table 12 continued

	7. Meaningfulness of loss experiencing	Correlation coefficient	,020
		Significance (bilateral)	,840
		N	100
	Fulfillment (existential)	Correlation coefficient	1,000
		Significance (bilateral)	-
		N	100

Table 13 – Summary results of the stepwise selection method for model e. (Dependent variable: Fulfillment (existential))

Model	R	R-square	Corrected R-square	Standard estimation error
1	,981 <sup>a</sup>	,962	,961	6,850
2	,986 <sup>b</sup>	,972	,972	5,865
3	,988 <sup>c</sup>	,976	,975	5,516
4	,989 <sup>d</sup>	,978	,977	5,339

Table 14 – Results of ANOVA analysis of variance (a. Dependent variable: Fulfillment (existential))

Model		Sum of squares	Degree of freedom	Average square	F	Significance
1	Regression	115998,102	1	115998,102	2471,991	,000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	4598,648	98	46,925		
	Total	120596,750	99			
2	Regression	117260,525	2	58630,262	1704,662	,000 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	3336,225	97	34,394		
	Total	120596,750	99			
3	Regression	117675,959	3	39225,320	1289,250	,000 <sup>d</sup>
	Residual	2920,791	96	30,425		
	Total	120596,750	99			
4	Regression	117889,103	4	29472,276	1034,059	,000 <sup>e</sup>
	Residual	2707,647	95	28,502		
	Total	120596,750	99			

Table 15 – Coefficients<sup>a</sup> for the model of analysis of signs of the meaning sphere

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized coefficients	t	Significance	Collinearity statistics	
		B	Standard error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	174,850	,685		255,249	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	34,230	,688	,981	49,719	,000	1,000	1,000
2	(Constant)	174,850	,586		298,142	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	34,230	,589	,981	58,074	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	3,571	,589	,102	6,058	,000	1,000	1,000
3	(Constant)	174,850	,552		316,994	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	34,230	,554	,981	61,746	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	3,571	,554	,102	6,442	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of self-satisfaction	2,048	,554	,059	3,695	,000	1,000	1,000
4	(Constant)	174,850	,534		327,515	,000		
	Meaningfulness of the subjective feeling of the quality of life	34,230	,537	,981	63,796	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of the experience of experiencing the search for the meaning of life	3,571	,537	,102	6,655	,000	1,000	1,000
	Meaningfulness of self-satisfaction	2,048	,537	,059	3,818	,000	1,000	1,000



Table 15 continued

	Meaningfulness of social context	1,467	,537	,042	2,735	,007	1,000	1,000
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a. Dependent variable: Fulfillment (existential)

**Results of the study of the correlation between the meaning sphere and  
maladaptive behavior of adolescent orphans with different intellectual  
development**

**Group of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation**

Table 1 - Statistical criteria<sup>a,b</sup> of correlation of integral signs of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and maladaptation "Alcohol consumption"

Factors	H Kruskal-Wallis	Degree of freedom	Asymptotic significance
1	5,398	2	<b>,067</b>
2	,549	2	,760
3	4,021	2	,134
4	1,352	2	,509
5	,464	2	,793
6	3,832	2	,147
7	1,493	2	,474

a. Kruskal-Wallis criterion

b. Grouping variable: Alcohol consumption

Table 2 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> of correlation of integral signs of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with a mild degree of mental retardation and maladaptation "Alcohol consumption"

Factors	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)	Accurate significance [2*(unilateral)]	Accurate significance (bilateral)	Accurate significance (unilateral)	Discrete Probability
1	64,000	92,000	-2,217	,027	<b>,025</b>	,025	,013	,001
2	113,000	893,000	-,719	,472	,490 <sup>b</sup>	,490	,245	,009
3	122,000	902,000	-,443	,657	,675 <sup>b</sup>	,675	,338	,011
4	101,000	881,000	-1,086	,278	,291 <sup>b</sup>	,291	,146	,007
5	135,000	163,000	-,046	,963	,976 <sup>b</sup>	,976	,488	,012
6	112,000	892,000	-,749	,454	,471 <sup>b</sup>	,471	,236	,009
7	133,000	913,000	-,107	,915	,929 <sup>b</sup>	,929	,464	,012

a. Grouping variable: Alcohol consumption

b. Not adjusted for associations

## Group of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence development

Table 3 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the correlation of integral attributes of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence and maladjustment "Smoking"

Factors	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)	Accurate significance [2*(unilateral)]
1	132,000	187,000	-1,174	,240	,250 <sup>b</sup>
2	77,000	132,000	-2,675	,007	<b>,006</b>
3	165,000	220,000	-,273	,785	,799 <sup>b</sup>
4	151,000	781,000	-,655	,512	,527 <sup>b</sup>
5	153,000	208,000	-,601	,548	,563 <sup>b</sup>
6	170,000	800,000	-,137	,891	,904 <sup>b</sup>
7	151,000	781,000	-,655	,512	,527 <sup>b</sup>

a. Grouping variable: Smoking

b. Not adjusted for associations

Table 4 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the correlation of integral attributes of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence and maladjustment "Alcohol consumption"

Factors	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)
1	188,000	716,000	-,501	,616
2	110,000	638,000	-2,454	<b>,014</b>
3	167,000	695,000	-1,027	,305
4	195,000	286,000	-,326	,745
5	204,000	295,000	-,100	,920
6	146,000	674,000	-1,553	,121
7	200,000	728,000	-,200	,841

a. Grouping variable: Alcohol consumption

Table 5 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the correlation of integral attributes of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence and maladjustment "Use of narcotic drugs"

Factors	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)
1	247,000	877,000	-,328	,743
2	151,000	781,000	-2,360	<b>,018</b>
3	254,000	884,000	-,180	,857
4	254,000	884,000	-,180	,857
5	213,000	843,000	-1,048	,295
6	215,000	335,000	-1,006	,315
7	223,000	853,000	-,836	,403

a. Grouping variable: Use of narcotic drugs

Table 6 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the correlation of integral attributes of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence and maladjustment "Use of profanity"

Factors	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)	Accurate significance [2*(unilateral)]
1	142,000	772,000	-1,300	,193	,201 <sup>b</sup>
2	74,000	140,000	-3,052	,002	<b>,002</b>
3	154,000	220,000	-,991	,321	,333 <sup>b</sup>
4	140,000	770,000	-1,352	,176	,183 <sup>b</sup>
5	168,000	798,000	-,631	,528	,542 <sup>b</sup>
6	153,000	783,000	-1,017	,309	,320 <sup>b</sup>
7	149,000	215,000	-1,120	,263	,272 <sup>b</sup>

a. Grouping variable: Use of profanity

b. Not adjusted for associations

Table 7 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the correlation of integral attributes of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence and maladjustment "Unauthorized departures from the orphanage"

Factors	U Mann-Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)
1	240,000	430,000	-,564	,573
2	164,000	570,000	-2,211	<b>,027</b>
3	260,000	450,000	-,130	,897
4	210,000	616,000	-1,214	,225
5	158,000	348,000	-2,341	<b>,019</b>
6	256,000	446,000	-,217	,828
7	237,000	427,000	-,629	,530

a. Grouping variable: Unauthorized departures from the orphanage

Table 8 - Statistical criteria<sup>a</sup> for the correlation of integral attributes of the meaning sphere of adolescent orphans with normative intelligence and maladjustment “Record in the juvenile department”

Factors	U Mann- Whitney	W Wilcoxon	Z	Asymptotic significance (bilateral)	Accurate significance [2*( unilateral)]
1	146,000	182,000	-,059	,953	,965 <sup>b</sup>
2	114,000	817,000	-1,009	,313	,327 <sup>b</sup>
3	99,000	802,000	-1,455	,146	,153 <sup>b</sup>
4	148,000	184,000	,000	1,000	1,000 <sup>b</sup>
5	75,000	111,000	-2,167	,030	<b>,029</b>
6	126,000	829,000	-,653	,514	,530 <sup>b</sup>
7	145,000	181,000	-,089	,929	,942 <sup>b</sup>

a. Grouping variable: Record in the juvenile department

b. Not adjusted for associations