Family, material and worldview values and the process of intergenerational transmission

Wartości rodzinne, materialne i światopogląd a proces transmisji międzypokoleniowej[1]

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Abstract: The aim of the research was to analyse the relationships between family and material values and the worldview of parents and their adult children. 68 parents (34 women and 34 men) and their 51 adult children (33 women and 18 men) participated in the study. The parents were in middle and late adulthood (41-67 years), while their children were in early adulthood (18-30 years). The following psychological questionnaires were used: the Material Values Scale (MVS_PL) in the Polish adaptation of Górnik-Durose (2016), the World Assumptions Scale in the Polish adaptation of Załuski and Gajdosz (2012), the Familism Scale in the Polish study by Walęcka-Matyja (2020) and a questionnaire. The obtained research results indicate a significant stabilization in the parental transmission of family values and beliefs about the world. Intergenerational differentiation was observed in terms of materialistic values.
Keywords: familism, family, materialism, intergenerational transmission, worldview

Abstrakt: Celem badań była analiza związków między wartościami rodzinnymi, materialnymi i światopoglądem rodziców i ich dorosłych dzieci. W badaniu uczestniczyło 68 rodziców (34 kobiet i 34 mężczyzn) oraz ich 51 dorosłych dzieci (33 kobiet oraz 18 mężczyzn). Rodzice znajdowali się w okresie średniej i późnej dorosłości (41-67 lat), natomiast ich dzieci były w okresie wczesnej dorosłości (18-30 lat). Wykorzystano następujące kwestionariusze psychologiczne Skalę Wartości Materialnych (MVS_PL) w polskiej adaptacji Górnik-Durose (2016), Skalę Założeń Wobec Świata w polskiej adaptacji Załuskiego i Gajdosza (2012), Skalę Familizmu w polskim opracowaniu Walęckiej-Matyja (2020) oraz ankietę. Uzyskane rezultaty badań wskazują na znaczną stabilizację w rodzicielskim przekazie wartości rodzinnych i przekonań na temat świata. Zróżnicowanie międzypokoleniowe zaobserwowano w zakresie wartości materialistycznych.
Słowa kluczowe: familizm, materializm, rodzina, światopogląd, transmisja międzypokoleniowa

Introduction

The intergenerational transmission process is defined as continuity (similarity) in transmitting, beliefs and behaviour patterns existing in the family environment. It also refers to values and norms as well as personality traits or even a physical similarity between parents and children (Farnicka, Liberska, 2014). Within the intergenerational transmission process broadly defined experiences and support are passed on between family generations. That enables realization of tasks considered as valuable even if the previous generations did not take them up at all or performed them in a way different from the previously accepted one (Farnicka, 2016). Family specialists agree that the intergenerational transmission process is a complex phenomenon and count it among the psychological phenomena classified as ambiguous (Elżanowska, 2012; Farnicka, Liberska, 2014; Rostowska, 1995). It is worth adding that the subject matter of family transmission was first taken up by Bowen (1978), who paid attention to family determinants of takeover of structures, treated as the foundations of identity and affecting the way of perception and reaction in response to the changing reality.

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[1]   Artykuł w języku polskim: https://www.stowarzyszeniefidesetratio.pl/fer/2022-1Matyja.pdf

In the related literature there is a prevailing view that it is the socialization process that is of a key significance for the course of the intergenerational transmission (Godawa, 2020; Rozenbajgier, 2016; Rostowska, 1995). Defined as a complex, non-spontaneous process of learning, it causes a human person to turn from a biological being into a social one, belonging to a specific cultural circle and a community. During this learning process a human person acquires, among other things, the skills which are the basis for shaping and demonstrating proper social interactions, learning social roles, understanding a language and the symbols existing in a given society (Szlendak, 2015). In addition, a person learns the norms, behaviours and values present in the culture, which definitely affect the development of their system of values, the level of aspiration and their life goals. As Rostowska indicates (1995), the long-term effects of the intergenerational transmission process show up in the choices we take and the behaviours demonstrated in the future by the next generation.

It is assumed that within the intergenerational transmission process parents transmit the values which they consider to be the most important to their children through a specific (having axiological features) contact with them. It is also assumed that in the family environment interpersonal relationships and situations are marked with axiological features and values are transmitted continuously in every moment of everyday life. The members of a family system are connected by strong, mutual relationships of a positive nature, have a specific position and play many roles (Elżanowska, 2012). The quality of family atmosphere is considered an exceptionally important factor facilitating or reducing the adoption of values transmitted in the family. The manifestations of the beneficial family atmosphere include the parents' proper attitudes, both ideological and educational, as well as a positive interpersonal relationship between them (Pokrzywnicka, 2011). To a great extent, it is its quality that is responsible whether or not the values important for the parents shall influence the behaviour of the child, regardless of their age, due to the fact that the family is the primary reference group for them (Walęcka-Matyja, 2013).

From the psychological perspective, an especially important factor is the course of the intergenerational transmission occurring in the area of values since the system of values of a human being is a specific cognitive filter used to describe and evaluate the world. Moreover, values perform a regulatory function for taking conscious and deliberate actions. Therefore, it is important to adopt the interpretation of the concept of value. In this study, it is assumed that a *value* shall mean beliefs concerning desired target states or behaviours beyond standard situations. They affect choices that are being made as well as valuation (of events, behaviours). They are systematized according to the hierarchy of importance (Wojciszke, 2014, p. 546).

The subject matter taken up in the study includes reflections on the intergenerational transmission process covering family and material values and the worldview.

Familism is defined as a cultural value describing the way in which the family members express their attachment to the family and appreciate its value. It is stressed that although close family relationships are considered as important and hard to be replaced in all societies, families are different in terms of the expression, strength and range how their values are being expressed, depending on embedding in a given culture (Campos, Ullman, Augilera, Schetter, 2014). Familism is considered as a value emphasizing warm, kind, supportive family relationships and putting the needs of the family as a whole over one's individual needs (Campos et al., 2008). The researchers think that it can be described as more universal than specific for a given group (Hardway, Fugini, 2006; Campos et al., 2014) as it includes social norms, attitudes and behaviours (Sabogal, Marin, Otero-Sabogal, Vanoss Marin, Perez-Stable, 1987). A high level of familism in family members means that they feel responsible for the family, treat it as the main source of emotional and instrumental support, appreciate the importance of mutual interpersonal relationships, and while making important decisions, take the other family members' opinions under consideration. Family members also try to behave in such a way as not to bring shame to the family and agree to subordinate their individual preferences to the needs of the family (Sabogal et al., 1987). The research on Latin families indicates that there are differences in the intergener-

ational transmission of familism. It has been found out that mother's familism affected daughters to a greater extent. On the other hand, father's familism in a greater degree influenced sons. It is believed that this is related to the socialization process, in which fathers tend to give more freedom to sons and allow them to develop their individualism, whereas mothers form a belief in their daughters that they should play the role of a domestic goddess and sacrifice their time and individual development for the benefit of the family (Flook, 2011). It has been observed that in respect of the strength and quality of demonstrated family values there are differences between genders. Women are more often than men oriented towards family relationships, which is connected with taking many actions important for maintaining family ties (Updegraff, McHale, Whiteman, Thayer, Delgado, 2005). The research done by Farnicka (2016) confirms the differences between men and women in their approach to acknowledging values passed down by older generations. It has been noticed that women would rather pass down traditional values, i.e., those which, in their opinion, were present in their family house, whereas men are more inclined to introduce changes to their approach to parenthood. In women, there was consistency in the continuity of three generations and in man such consistency and cohesion never occurred. This fact indicates a much weaker transmission in case of men.

Another psychological variable analysed in the aspect of intergenerational transmission is materialism. Defined as a belief in the excessive significance of material possessions and strongly related to a consumerist attitude. A person can be called a materialist if they accumulate goods in an excessive way, consume services and products, mainly taking care of their material well-being. As research results show, materialism is strongly and negatively correlated with happiness, well-being, satisfaction with life and values from intra- and interpersonal levels (Kasser, 2002; Kasser, Ryan, 1996). It is assumed that materialism in terms of a value which guides people's choices and behaviours in different circumstances is mainly acquired in the family environment, in the process of consumerist socialization (Dykalska-Bieck, Lipowska, Zawadzka, 2019; Górnik-Durose, 2007).

Psychologists think that decisions made by parents in the sphere of economy have a significant influence on their children's decisions in the future. Watching the parents' patterns of economic behaviour, their children develop knowledge how to save money, manage their finances or look for products of good quality and in reasonable prices (Dybowska, 2019). The previous results of the research on the subject matter of intergenerational transmission in respect of materialism mainly concerned the correlations between parenting styles and materialism (Carlson, Gossbart, 1988; Poraj-Weder, 2018) or between parental attitudes and materialism (Dykalska-Bieck et al., 2017; Górnik-Durose, Dziedzic, 2013).

The last of the discussed psychological variables subject to intergenerational transmission is the worldview. It is defined as a collection of beliefs and opinions which an individual has in respect of the surrounding world, which they perceive as relatively stable. The opinion source is a broadly defined environment, i.e., other people, views coming from different fields of culture, philosophy, religion or science. The worldview contributes to the quality and course of the cognitive adaptation of a human being in respect of experienced situations and events. To interpret the concept of *worldview* adopted in the study after Załuski and Gajdosz (2012), the following dimensions were distinguished: justice, benevolence of the people, randomness, benevolence of the impersonal world, self-worth, luck, controllability and self-controllability (Gajdosz, Załuski, 2012). In the period of early ontogenesis, the world view is shaped by behaviours demonstrated by the parents. They not only affect the children's behaviours but also shape their systems of beliefs, e.g., the world is safe and people are kind (Schaffer, 2021).

1. The aim of the study

The aim of the study was to determine if transmission occurs between parents and their adult children in respect of family and material values and the worldview. In connection with the aims set in the study, the following research questions were formulated:

1. Do the family values, materialism and the world-view of the parents condition the values of their adult children and to what extent?
2. Do the family values, materialism and the world-view of the mothers condition the values of their adult children and to what extent?
3. Do the family values, materialism and the world-view of the fathers condition the values of their adult children and to what extent?

In relation to the presented research questions, the following research hypotheses were formulated:

- H1. There is intergenerational transmission of family values between parents and their adult children.
- H1.1. There is intergenerational transmission of family values between mothers and their adult children.
- H1.2. There is intergenerational transmission of family values between fathers and their adult children.
- H2. There is intergenerational transmission of the worldview between parents and their adult children.
- H2.1. There is intergenerational transmission of the worldview between mothers and their adult children.
- H2.2. There is intergenerational transmission of the worldview between fathers and their adult children.
- H3. There is intergenerational transmission of material values between parents and their adult children.
- H3.1. There is intergenerational transmission of material values between mothers and their adult children.
- H3.2. There is intergenerational transmission of material values between fathers and their adult children.

2. Method

2.1. Surveyed group

119 adult people participated in the study. This group included 68 parents (34 women and 34 men) and 51 adult children (33 women and 18 men). The parents were in middle and late adulthood (41-67 years), while their children were in early adulthood (18-30 years). The majority of the respondents, i.e., 76% (n=90) of the people declared that they lived in the city, whereas 24% (n=29) of the surveyed people answered that they lived in the country. As far as education is concerned, 57.2% (n=68) of the respondents declared having higher education, 30.3% of the people (n=36) had secondary education, and 12.5% (n=15) secondary vocational education. Considering the work situation of the surveyed people, it was found that 71.4% (n=85) of them were professionally active, whereas 28.6 % (n=34) were students. The analysis of the material situation showed that 46.3% (n=55) of the respondents assessed it as good, 32.7% (n=39) as average, and 21% (n=25) as very good.

2.2. Procedure and materials

The research was done in years 2020-2021, using the CAWI method. The respondents were given specially generated Family Codes[2], which enabled grouping the families participating in the scientific project. Information about anonymity and voluntariness of the survey, its scientific purposes as well as guarantee that it was conducted in accordance with the ethical rules of the psychologist profession were placed on the site where the codes were generated and on the title page of the questionnaire, where the respondents could agree to take part in the survey, being aware that they could withdraw from it at any moment without any consequences.

Three psychological questionnaires with good psychometric properties as well as a general questionnaire were used.

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2   The surveys were conducted by the participant of the M.A. Seminar.

Material Values Scale (MVS_PL) by Richins, Dawson (1992) in the Polish adaptation of Górnik-Durose (2016) allowed us to examine materialism. MVS_PL consists (depending of the version) of 6, 9 or 15 statements. They make up three subscales – Centrality, Success, Happiness. Centrality refers to placing material possessions in the centre of your life activity. Success depicts perceiving material possessions as a life success. The last of the mentioned subscales – Happiness defines possessing material goods as a guarantee of happiness and life satisfaction. In this study the 9-item version of the tool was applied. Reliability of MVS_PL, measured by the Cronbach alpha coefficient is satisfactory, especially with regard to the full scale in all the tested versions (0.74 – 0.84) (Górnik-Durose, 2016).

World Assumptions Scale (Janoff-Bulman, 1989) in the Polish adaptation of Załuski and Gajdosz (2012) was used to assess the influence of an important life event on the cognitive structures of a human being and on the applied adaptational processes. This tool consists of 32 statements and measures eight beliefs, i.e., Justice, Benevolence of the People, Randomness, Benevolence of the surrounding world, Self-worth, Luck, Control of negative events and Self-controllability. The respondent gives an answer on a 6-item scale. The Cronbach alpha coefficient for the whole scale is 0.861 (Załuski, Gajdosz, 2012).

Familism Scale (Knight, Gonzalez et al., 1987) in the Polish study by Walęcka-Matyja (2020) allows us to measure six dimensions of family values, which include: Respect, Religion, Family support (values from the traditional trend) as well as Material Success and achievements and Individualism (values from the individualistic trend). This tool consists of 44 items referring to what people can think and believe. The Cronbach alpha coefficients reach high levels for the dimensions of Respect (0.91), Material success and achievements (0.87) and Religion (0.95). The reliability of the Individualism scale is 0.63, and for the Family support scale 0.70 (Walęcka-Matyja, 2020).

The general questionnaire allowed us to collect the following data: the role in the family of origin (parent, child), gender, age, place of residence, education level, employment, assessment of importance of close family relationships, assessment of satisfaction with material situation.

The analysis of the intergenerational transmission of values was carried out in two stages. In the first of them the intraclass correlation coefficient values were calculated. The intraclass correlation coefficient values not only refer to a linear relationship between the analysed variables but also verify the existence of systematic differences in respect of the level of the compared results. Therefore, a statistically significant value of the intraclass correlation coefficient between the results obtained by the parents and the ones obtained by their adult children shall not only mean the occurrence of a linear relationship between these results but also a similar level of the results in both groups. The intraclass correlation coefficient value was analysed as an indicator of intergenerational transmission. For the variables for which no statistically significant values of the intraclass correlation coefficient were obtained, in the second stage of the analysis, the following analyses were carried out: the correlation analysis based on the Pearson's correlation coefficients or the Spearman's correlation coefficients (depending whether the assumption of a normal distribution of analysed variables was fulfilled) and the analysis of differences in the level of the analysed variables based on the Student's t-test for dependent samples or the Wilcox's test value (also depending whether the assumption of a normal distribution was fulfilled). The analyses were carried out separately for the pairs: parents – adult children, mothers – adult children and fathers – adult children. In the analysis the computer software IBM SPSS 27 licensed by University of Łódź was used.

3. Results

3.1. Verification of the assumption of a normal distribution of analysed variables

Table 1 presents the values of the Shapiro-Wilk test, which allowed us to verify the assumption of a normal distribution of the analysed values. The analyses were conducted for the whole surveyed group,

Table 1. Verification of the assumption of a normal distribution of analysed variable

Question-naire		Parents		Children		Mothers		Children		Fathers		Children	
		S-W	p	S-W	p	S-W	p	S-W	p	S-W	p	S-W	p
SF	Respect	0,97	0,502	0,98	0,745	0,96	0,178	0,98	0,721	0,97	0,370	0,98	0,772
	Material success and achievements	0,92	0,018	0,96	0,217	0,94	0,067	0,96	0,309	0,96	0,239	0,97	0,551
	Individualism	0,87	0,001	0,78	0,001	0,95	0,081	0,79	0,001	0,88	0,001	0,77	0,001
	Religion	0,97	0,537	0,89	0,002	0,97	0,361	0,88	0,001	0,94	0,082	0,86	0,001
	Family support	0,95	0,137	0,96	0,161	0,96	0,232	0,96	0,231	0,96	0,179	0,96	0,191
MVS-9	Success	0,93	0,023	0,96	0,203	0,92	0,017	0,96	0,210	0,91	0,011	0,96	0,205
	Happiness	0,96	0,276	0,92	0,016	0,95	0,136	0,91	0,010	0,96	0,328	0,92	0,014
	Centrality	0,99	0,909	0,95	0,108	0,94	0,060	0,95	0,081	0,95	0,129	0,95	0,142
WAS	Benevolence of the People	0,97	0,569	0,97	0,430	0,96	0,290	0,97	0,543	0,97	0,608	0,97	0,603
	Self-controllability	0,96	0,184	0,95	0,132	0,97	0,458	0,95	0,130	0,97	0,460	0,96	0,303
	Happiness	0,97	0,315	0,94	0,045	0,97	0,455	0,94	0,052	0,93	0,037	0,93	0,043
	Control of negative events	0,97	0,432	0,96	0,166	0,98	0,743	0,96	0,190	0,96	0,217	0,97	0,433
	Randomness	0,98	0,840	0,97	0,384	0,96	0,179	0,97	0,374	0,96	0,221	0,97	0,373
	Justice	0,98	0,698	0,83	0,001	0,97	0,420	0,83	0,001	0,98	0,797	0,86	0,001
	Self-worth	0,91	0,009	0,95	0,078	0,86	0,001	0,94	0,068	0,89	0,002	0,94	0,055

i.e., pairs of parents-children, mothers-children and fathers-children. Statistically significant deviations from a normal distribution were marked.

3.2. Correlations between parents' values and children's values

Table 2 presents the intraclass correlation coefficient values for the pairs of parents and their adult children.

Considering the obtained results (table 2), it was found that there were statistically significant positive values of intraclass correlation coefficients for all the dimensions of family values, measured with the use of FS, and for the majority of world belief categories, as measured by the WAS questionnaire, except for the results on the scale of Justice and Self-worth. Therefore, the obtained results were consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission in respect of the abovementioned variables.

We did not obtain statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients in case of all the variables measured by the MVS-9 questionnaire,

assessing materialistic values. Table 3 presents the correlation coefficients between the values obtained by the parents and the ones obtained by the children, where no statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found. The variables whose distribution deviated from normal were analysed based on the Spearman correlation coefficient values. The other variables were analysed using the Pearson r correlation coefficients.

Considering the results included in table 3, no statistically significant correlations were found.

Table 4 shows the mean values obtained by the parents and by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of the intraclass correlations coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found. The table was supplemented by the Student's t-test values for dependent samples in case of the variables whose distribution did not deviate

Table 2. The results of the analysis concerning the correlation of the parents' values and the children's values

Question-naire	Variables	r	p
SF	Respect	0,41	0,006
	Material success and achievements	0,33	0,022
	Individualism	0,61	0,001
	Religion	0,56	0,001
	Family support	0,56	0,001
MVS-9	Success	0,08	0,310
	Happiness	0,06	0,369
	Centrality	0,14	0,200
WAS	Benevolence of the People	0,36	0,015
	Self-controllability	0,28	0,050
	Happiness	0,37	0,013
	Control of negative events	0,44	0,003
	Randomness	0,43	0,004
	Justice	-0,09	0,691
	Self-worth	-0,24	0,920

r – value of intraclass correlation coefficient;
p – statistical significance

Table 3. Correlation coefficients between the values obtained by the parents and the ones obtained by the children for the variables for which no intergenerational transmission was found

Questionnaire	Variables	r/ρ	p
MVS-9	Success	0,09	0,621
	Happiness	0,08	0,661
	Centrality	0,14	0,401
WAS	Justice	-0,08	0,660
	Self-worth	-0,24	0,165

r – Pearson r correlation coefficient value;
ρ – Spearman correlation coefficient value;
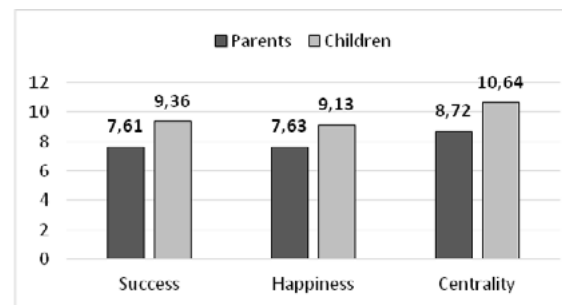*p* – statistical significance

Figure 1. Mean values of the results on the scales of Success, Happiness and Centrality in the groups of parents and their adult children.

Table 4. The mean values obtained by the parents and by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of intraclass correlations coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found

		Parents		Children			
Questionnaire	Variables	M	SD	M	SD	t/Z	p
MVS-9	Success	7,61	2,98	9,36	3,51	-2,38	0,023
	Happiness	7,63	2,43	9,13	2,47	-2,44	0,015
	Centrality	8,72	2,60	10,64	3,04	-3,11	0,004
WAS	Justice	13,18	3,74	13,40	3,46	-0,24	0,807
	Self-worth	11,49	2,72	12,21	2,70	-1,02	0,316

M – mean value; *SD* – standard deviation; *t* – Student's t-test value for dependent samples;
Z – Wilcoxon's test value; *p* – statistical significance

Table 5. The results of the analysis concerning the correlation between the mothers' values and the children's values

Ques-tionnaire	Variables	*r*	*p*
SF	Respect	0,36	0,015
	Material success and achievements	0,22	0,099
	Individualism	0,37	0,013
	Religion	0,53	0,001
	Family support	0,46	0,002
MVS-9	Success	0,02	0,462
	Happiness	-0,15	0,803
	Centrality	0,16	0,174
WAS	Benevolence of the People	0,23	0,085
	Self-controllability	0,23	0,092
	Happiness	0,39	0,010
	Control of negative events	0,35	0,018
	Randomness	0,40	0,008
	Justice	-0,27	0,946
	Self-worth	-0,04	0,595

r – value of intraclass correlation coefficient;
p – statistical significance

Table 6. Coefficients of correlations between the values obtained by the mothers and the ones obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no intergenerational transmission was found

Question-naire	Variables	**r**/ρ	*p*
SF	Material success and achievements	0,22	0,205
MVS-9	Success	0,02	0,925
	Happiness	-0,10	0,551
	Centrality	0,16	0,350
WAS	Benevolence of the People	0,23	0,175
	Self-controllability	0,23	0,188
	Justice	-0,30	0,080
	Self-worth	-0,04	0,805

r – Pearson r correlation coefficient value;
ρ – Spearman correlation coefficient value;
p – statistical significance

from normal and by the Wilcoxon's test values in case of the variables whose distributions deviated from normal.

It was found that the adult children had obtained statistically significant higher mean results on the scales of Success, Happiness and Centrality than their parents (comp. fig. 1).

3.3. Correlations of mothers' values and children's values

Table 5 presents the intraclass correlation coefficient values for the pairs of mothers – their adult children.

We obtained statistically significant positive values of intraclass correlation coefficients for the majority of variables measured by FS, except for the results on the scale of Material success and achievements, as well as for the results on the scales of Luck, Control of negative events and Randomness from the WAS questionnaire. Therefore, the obtained results were consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission in respect of the discussed variables.

We did not obtain statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients in case of all the variables measured by the MVS-9 questionnaire. Table 6 depicts coefficients of correlations between the values obtained by the mothers and the ones obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of intr-aclass correlation coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found. The variables whose distributions deviated from normal were analysed based on the Spearman
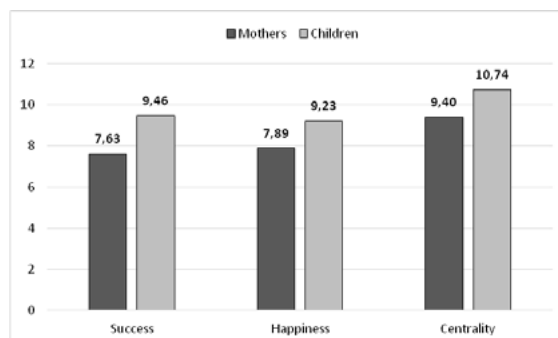

Figure 2. Mean values of the results on the scales of Success, Happiness and Centrality in the groups of mothers and their adult children.

Table 7. Mean values obtained by the mothers and mean values obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found

Questionnaire	Variables	Matki		Dzieci			
		M	*SD*	*M*	*SD*	*t/Z*	*p*
SF	Material success and achievements	30,71	8,89	30,81	8,58	-0,05	0,957
MVS-9	Success	7,63	3,28	9,46	3,52	-2,27	0,030
	Happiness	7,89	2,69	9,23	2,42	-2,05	0,040
	Centrality	9,40	2,58	10,74	3,02	-2,18	0,036
WAS	Benevolence of the People	29,34	5,88	28,53	6,27	0,64	0,526
	Self-controllability	16,03	4,22	15,76	3,71	0,32	0,747
	Justice	12,69	3,57	13,39	3,50	-0,35	0,729
	Self-worth	11,94	3,59	12,14	2,69	-0,26	0,798

M – mean value; *SD* – standard deviation; *t* – Student's t-test value for dependent samples;
Z – Wilcoxon's test value; *p* – statistical significance

correlation coefficient values. The other variables were analysed by means of the Pearson's r correlation coefficients. No statistically significant correlations were found.

Table 7 depicts mean values obtained by the mothers and mean values obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found. The table was supplemented by the Student's t-test values for dependent samples in case of the variables whose distribution did not deviate from normal and by the Wilcoxon's test values in case of the variables whose distributions deviated from normal.

It was found that the adult children had obtained statistically significant higher results on the scales of Success, Happiness and Centrality than their mothers (comp. fig. 2).

3.4. Correlations of fathers' values and children's values

Table 8 presents the intraclass correlation coefficient values for the pairs of fathers – their adult children.

We obtained statistically significant positive values of intraclass correlation coefficients for the all variables measured by FS and for the results on the scales

of Benevolence of the people and the surrounding world, Luck, Control of negative events and Randomness of the WAS questionnaire. Therefore, the obtained results were consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission in respect of the abovementioned variables.

We did not obtain statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients in case of all the variables measured by the MVS-9 questionnaire. Table 9 depicts coefficients of correlations between the values obtained by the fathers and the ones obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found. The variables whose distributions deviated from normal were analysed based on the Spearman correlation coefficient values. The other variables were analysed by means of the Pearson's r correlation coefficients. No statistically significant correlations were found.

Table 10 depicts mean values obtained by the fathers and mean values obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found. The table was supplemented by the Student's t-test values for dependent samples

Table 8. The results of the analysis concerning the correlation between the fathers' values and the children's value

Question-naire	Variables	r	p
SF	Respect	0,39	0,011
	Material success and achievements	0,28	0,050
	Individualism	0,68	0,001
	Religion	0,49	0,002
	Family support	0,60	0,001
MVS-9	Success	0,13	0,230
	Happiness	0,19	0,144
	Centrality	0,09	0,305
WAS	Benevolence of the People	0,36	0,017
	Self-controllability	0,27	0,060
	Happiness	0,33	0,025
	Control of negative events	0,40	0,009
	Randomness	0,42	0,006
	Justice	0,10	0,292
	Self-worth	-0,16	0,819

r – value of intraclass correlation coefficient;
p – statistical significance

Table 9. Coefficients of correlations between the values obtained by the fathers and the ones obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no intergenerational transmission was found

Questionnaire	Variables	*r*/ρ	*p*
MVS-9	Success	0,13	0,466
	Happiness	0,16	0,358
	Centrality	0,09	0,613
WAS	Self-controllability	0,27	0,125
	Justice	0,17	0,345
	Self-worth	-0,16	0,370

r – Pearson r correlation coefficient value;
ρ – Spearman correlation coefficient value;
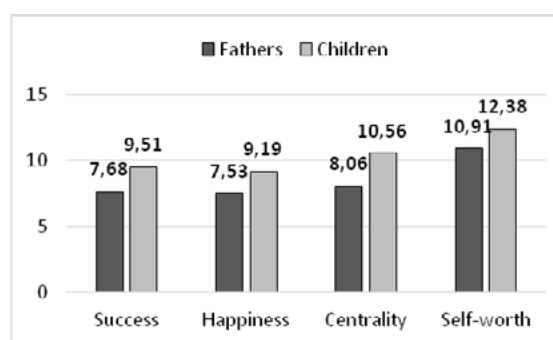*p* – statistical significance

Figure 3. Mean values of the results on the scales of Success, Happiness and Centrality in the groups of fathers and their adult children.

Table 10. Mean values obtained by the fathers and mean values obtained by the children for the variables in case of which no statistically significant values of intraclass correlation coefficients consistent with the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission were found

		Fathers		Children			
Questionnaire	Variables	M	SD	M	SD	t/Z	p
MVS-9	Success	7,68	3,34	9,51	3,52	-2,37	0,024
	Happiness	7,53	2,57	9,19	2,55	-2.513	0,012
	Centrality	8,06	3,44	10,56	3,08	-3,31	0,002
WAS	Self-controllability	16,09	3,98	15,54	3,68	0,68	0,499
	Justice	13,82	5,01	13,65	3,52	-.234	0,815
	Self-worth	10,91	2,80	12,38	2,68	-2,05	0,048

M – mean value; *SD* – standard deviation; *t* – Student's t-test value for dependent samples;
Z – Wilcoxon's test value; *p* – statistical significance

in case of the variables whose distribution did not deviate from normal and by the Wilcoxon's test values in case of the variables whose distributions deviated from normal.

It was found that the adult children had obtained statistically significant higher results on the scales of Success, Happiness, Centrality and Self-worth than their fathers (comp. fig. 3).

Discussion

The subject matter of the presented research refers to the fact whether and to what extent family and material values and the worldview are subject to intergenerational transmission. The raised issues were considered interesting since, on the one hand, basing on the findings from psychological research included in the related literature (Elżanowska, 2012; Farnicka, Liberska, 2014; Mudyń, 2013; Rostowska, 1995) it was assumed that the examined psychological variables were transmitted and adopted by next generations. But, on the other hand, awareness that parents and their adult children represent different generations, for whom it is characteristic to have a different view of the rapidly changing world and the related phenomena does not allow us to accept this sort of assumption without any doubt. Baby Boomers and X Generation, represented by the parents in the age range 41-67 years, are among the oldest generations in the Polish society. On the other hand, their adult children belong to Z generation (18-30 years). Differentiation between generations demonstrated in the so-called generational effect lies in different key life experiences. Sadowski (2018) says that they refer to a few most important issues, which include using the media and new technologies, preference of specific types of media, attitude towards the employer as well as changes in social awareness and preferences related to the processes of sociocultural transformation. Contemporary changes covering the social, political, cultural and technological space are modifying and sometimes even redefining the needs of a modern person, their dreams and their perception of the world of values. Contemporary times described in the categories of

disappearing continuity of tradition, temporariness, relativism may encourage the occurrence of differentiation or chaos in the world of values (Komorowska, Śniadkowski, 2016).

Coming to the synthetic presentation of the obtained research results in respect of correlations between the values of the parents and the ones of their adult children, it shall be noticed that intergenerational transmission concerned all familism dimensions, i.e., Respect, Family support, Religion, Material success and achievements and Individualism as well as most categories of the worldview, such as Benevolence of the people, Randomness, Benevolence of the surrounding world, Luck, Control of negative events and Self-Controllability. Thus, the obtained results confirm the assumption about intergenerational transmission in respect of the abovementioned variables. A significant stability in family values transmission can be noticed. The strength of the family environment's influences may result from committed and positive emotional relationships with the family members. The data from the survey indicate that nearly 97% of the respondents believe that close relationships between the family members are essential. Only 3% of the surveyed people were of a different opinion. It is assumed that the contemporary family, despite numerous potentially destabilizing factors, demonstrates significant stability in respect of transmission of values, especially within two closest generations.

The results of the research on intergenerational transmission of the worldview reveal potentially properly running processes of adaptation of the surveyed young adults to the challenges occurring in the surrounding world. Cognitive patterns, which are shaped and strengthened in the family environment, refer to beliefs about the benevolence of the surrounding world, using an optimistic style of explaining life events and a belief about the good nature of other people (Benevolence of the people, Benevolence of the surrounding world). They also concern beliefs about the worthiness of a human person (Luck, Self-Controllability) and beliefs about the meaningfulness and explainability of life events (Control of negative events, Randomness). However, we did not confirm the hypothesis on

the occurrence of intergenerational transmission in respect of the worldviews expressed on the scales of Justice and Self-worth as well as all the materialism dimensions, i.e., Centrality, Happiness, Success. It was noticed that the adult children had obtained statistically significant higher results in materialistic values than their parents. This means that they focus in a greater degree on material possessions and believe that these can guarantee happiness and satisfaction with life. They also more often perceive owning material goods as a life success in comparison to their parents. The obtained result is considered significant. It is believed that Z generation, which includes the surveyed young adults in the age range of 18-30 years, responds in this way to the surrounding well-developed consumerist culture. Zawadzka indicates that the materialistic attitudes of young people are not only shaped by their parents' influences but also created by the media, which show the image of a perfect world. The message from advertisements is clear and it says that only a person who is beautiful, healthy and dressed according to the most recent fashion trends is happy. Therefore, in young people a belief is created that it is enough to buy something to be happy. It is believed that excessive using of the media separates a person from close interpersonal relationships, shows them a distorted image of reality and reduces their well-being (Zawadzka, 2013). This may pose a real threat to development of the value system since young people, who receive a lot of content of different quality, are not always able to evaluate it correctly. They are sometimes unaware or do not want to know how media content affects their way of perceiving the real world and their decisions (Komorowska, Śniadkowski, 2016).

In the light of the obtained results, the question about the functions of the materialistic values of young adults seems really interesting. The materialistic attitude can be viewed in two aspects, positive and negative (Csikszentmihalyi, Rochberg-Halton, 1981 after: Górnik-Durose, 2007). In the first case, materialism is perceived as a tool to achieve a goal. Thus, acquiring material goods by young adults leads to the fulfilment of the needs of a non-material nature, such as self-realization, ensuring financial security for them and their families. On the other hand, in

the second aspect – materialism leads to a situation, where acquiring and owning material possessions become a goal in itself, for example, allow a person to raise their status or arouse admiration in other people. Therefore, the issue mentioned here can be a stimulant for carrying out further psychological research to broaden psychological knowledge of this subject.

Analysing the correlations between the examined values of the mothers and their adult children, it was noticed that intergenerational transmission had occurred for all the dimensions of familism, except for the scale of material success and achievements, and in the area of the worldview, except for the scales of Luck, Control of negative events and Randomness. The obtained results confirm the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission in respect of the abovementioned variables. It was noticed that the adult children had obtained statistically significant higher mean results than their mothers on the scales describing materialistic values, i.e., Success, Happiness and Centrality.

An interesting result was obtained in the dimension of Material success and achievements, which had not been significantly affected by transmission. It refers to values emphasizing the importance of material achievements, success reflected in prioritization of earning money, and striving for achievements through competition. It is likely that this category of family values of an individualistic nature has a relatively small significance for the women who function in family roles in a way similar to the pattern present in collectivistic cultures. It is worth adding that the compared groups of mothers and their adult children obtained similar results in this respect.

Discussing the correlations between the examined values of the fathers and their adult children, it was found that they referred to all the dimensions of familism and to the following categories of world beliefs: Benevolence of the people and the surrounding world, Luck, Control of negative events and Randomness. Therefore, the obtained results confirm the hypothesis on intergenerational transmission in respect of the abovementioned variables. On the other hand, no transmission occurred in case of materialistic values. In the own study, the adult children

obtained statistically significant higher mean results on the scales of Success, Happiness, Centrality and Self-worth than their fathers. While the problem of differences in the importance of materialistic values for older (Baby Boomers, X) and younger (Z) generations was referred to in the previous part of the discussion, some focus should be given to the occurrence of a significant differentiation in Self-worth. The young adults obtained higher mean results on the scale of Self-worth than their fathers. Interpreting the obtained result, it can be stated that the young people more often demonstrated positive thinking about themselves, believing that they were basically good, competent, moral, effective and happy. It is possible that the obtained result meaning a different self-assessment in the abovementioned areas is the effect of life experience, especially in respect of critical life events, such as divorce, chronic disease, death of parents or loss of job. Moreover, the fathers, who were in the age range between 41 to 67 years, had different future perspectives than their adult children. Numerous pathologies affecting people in middle and late adulthood may contribute to lowered levels of self-esteem in the men, who previously realized themselves mainly in professional work, were physically fit and then over time retired, frequently experiencing aches and pains. It can be assumed that in their opinion nothing is worth the effort any more as it will not restore what has been lost.

As the final reflection on the research findings, it is worth adding that although the presented results broaden the scope of psychological knowledge with new issues, they are not free from limitations. The data used in the study directly came from the parents and their adult children and were analysed by means of self-descriptive tools. Such tools are commonly considered acceptable and are frequently applied in research on the issues of intergenerational transmission (Plopa, 2008), family values (Knight, Gonzales, Saenz, Bonds, German, Deardorff, 2010), the worldview (Gajdosz, Załuski, 2012), and materialism (Flouri, 2004). It is emphasized that although all of them have good psychometric properties, they are sensitive to situational factors. It is emphasized that the presented research results concern full families. It might be interesting from the cognitive point of view to take up scientific discussion on transmission of familism in families with differentiated structure, not only nuclear but also multigenerational ones. Another issue worth exploring may be an attempt to determine which values, and to what extent, are passed on by the family environment between generations and which ones indirectly by the media.

Summing up, in a family centric society, such as the Polish one, the family is one of the most important values and family values are passed on in the intergenerational transmission process (Walęcka-Matyja, Janicka, 2021). The observed areas of similarities between parents and their adult children in respect of family values and the worldview result from the processes occurring in the family, among which psychologists count imitation, modelling and identification (Majewska, 2017). The acquisition of parents' values by their children is also affected by the theory of social learning proposed by Bandura as well as the sociobiological approach to intergenerational transmission assuming that children are the parents' "natural heirs" in respect of attitudes (Farnicka, Liberska, 2014).

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