Individual psychological characteristics of university students and working young people with different types of value-semantic attitude to bribery

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Abstract
The results of a study of the psychological characteristics of university students and working young people, demonstrating different types of attitude to bribery as a form of corruption, are presented in this article. The attitude to bribery is seen as a kind of value-semantic or purpose-means psychological attitude, in which bribery (bribe) is presented in the mind of the subject as taking place of purpose or means in the fulfillment of certain needs and values. The types of the attitude are established as follows: instrumental value: business commercial transaction; the content of their cognitive, conative, emotional-value components is revealed. Students and working subjects express the attitude towards bribery as an instrumental value due to the values of socialization, personal traits and social frustration of needs in a certain sphere of life. The intensity of the attitude to bribery as a business transaction among students and working subjects is determined by their personal traits.

Keywords: corruption, bribery, bribe, value-semantic attitude, types and components of attitude, psychological characteristics, university students, working subjects.

1 Introduction.
The tendency towards combating corruption in Russian society is reflected in scientific publications that reveal the historical, ethno-cultural, economic, political, legal prerequisites, mechanisms for the emergence and reproduction, types, forms, general, specific and individual consequences of corruption [1-4]. The research interest concentrates on the study of grassroots corruption or corrupt practices committed by officials who are at the lowest and middle level of the service ladder [5]. The obvious ineffectiveness of anti-corruption measures, tolerance of the population towards grassroots corruption stimulates the appeal of experts from various branches of science to the possibilities and categorical apparatus of modern psychology aimed at studying the psychological mechanisms of corrupt behavior of citizens and building anti-corruption education programs [4–7]. In our opinion, the potential of the category "attitude" corresponds to the tasks of the psychological analysis of corruption and anti-corruption education. In the context of the problem of corruption, the object of attitude is the most common form of grassroots corruption - bribery. It presupposes a voluntary offer, a promise, giving, receiving, an agreement to take certain material values (objects, money, services, other property benefits) or a bribe for an act or omission in the interests of the bribe-giver, which this person could or should have committed because of his official position [5-8]. We consider the attitude to bribery as a kind of value-semantic or purpose-means psychological attitude, in which bribery (bribe) is presented in the consciousness of the subject as taking place of the purpose or means in the realization of certain needs and values [8]. Its content is revealed in the unity of the contents of each of its components: cognitive (definition and functions of bribe), conative (the reasons for giving and receiving bribes), emotional - value (feelings about bribery and assessing its influence on the state, social groups, subject: prevention). The characteristics of the attitude to bribery given in the literature are often of a determining nature: a sign, modality and readiness of subjects for bribery are described contradictorily, that justifies the relevance of a special study of variations in the attitude to bribery and, especially, in young people. Young people are among the most unprotected social groups that have difficulties in different spheres of life [8]. The attitudes to the practice of bribery, formed in them, are generated in the spheres of activity that they have mastered, determining, ultimately, the future of the whole country. The attitudes to bribery of schoolchildren, students of colleges, university students are discussed in the psychological researches [8-14]. To develop, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of the system of anti-corruption measures, the study of the content of the attitude towards bribery, taking into account the psychological characteristics of working young people, is considered to be an independent
scientific problem. **The purpose and the object of the study.** The research was aimed at studying individual psychological characteristics of university students and working young people demonstrating various types of attitude to bribery. **The subject of the study** is different types of attitude of university students and working subjects to bribery. **The object of the study** is the attitude of 120 university students (19-22 years old) and 102 working young people (22-37 years old) toward bribery.

2 Methods

The following methods have been used in the article: the survey (the author’s questionnaire making it possible to evaluate the content of each component of the attitude to bribery), the content analysis of the open questions of the questionnaire, testing (“The level of correlation between the “value” and the “accessibility” in various life spheres” (E.B. Fantalova); the scale "moral normativeness" of the Personality Questionnaire "Adaptivity" (A.G. Maklakov, S.V. Chemyanyin); a social frustration questionnaire (L.I. Wasserman, B.V. Ivlev, M.A. Berihin), the method of diagnostics of the social psychological adaptation (K. Rogers, R. Diamond); the scale of differential emotions (K. Izard); statistical methods (the factor analysis using the principal component method, the multiple linear regression (R, p < 0.01), criteria by Shapiro-Wilk, Wilcoxon, Friedman (p < 0.05)).

The psychological characteristics of the respondents included meaningful and accessible values, taking into account the type of value development of the individual [10]; personality traits: social frustration; fundamental emotions. The leading psychological characteristics of respondents as predictors of one or another type of attitude were determined by means of multiple linear regression analysis as a measure of their directed influence on the individual factor assessment of the subject. Respondents’ answers to the open questionnaire questions were analyzed using the content analysis procedure, including coding the answers using categories, establishing the consistency of expert assessments (5 expert psychologists) of the adequacy of the choice of categories and the relative frequency of their occurrence.

Content-meaning interpretation of bribes included: a business commercial transaction ("issuance of funds for the provision of any services", etc.); instrumental value as a universal means of satisfying everyday needs: illegal behavior.

The functions of bribery include elimination that is the elimination of the possibility of administrative and criminal liability, the resource function that is ensuring the saving of time and personal resources: totally instrumental function in solving everyday problems: instrumental function of a bribe in solving career issues: destructive function.

The respondents associated aspirations for material enrichment and demonstration of power with the factors of receiving bribes, and behavioral strategies aimed at organizing time and saving personal resources were associated with factors of giving bribes.

The respondents attributed the general, special and individual effects of bribes to the state (economy, government activity, ideology), social groups (reduction of professionalism, destruction of social relations), human (negative dynamics of personality traits, subjectively significant positive results).

The respondents classified criminal punishment, administrative control, increased salary, personal position ("do not give or take bribes"), anti-corruption education as measures of preventive nature.

3 Results and discussion.

As a result of a factor analysis of the indicators denoting bribery definitions, the 2-factor solution was obtained, which explained 99.9% of the variance (Table 1). The analysis of the leading bribe definitions according to the estimation of the respondents, which received high scales in each factor (> 0.9), made it possible to identify types of respondents’ attitude to bribes: type 1 was Instrumental value (63.3% of students, 67.5% of working respondents); type 2 was Business commercial transaction (36.7% of students, 32.5% of working respondents).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interpretations of bribery</th>
<th>Factor 1</th>
<th>Factor 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business commercial transaction</td>
<td>0.96724</td>
<td>-0.25385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlawful act</td>
<td>-0.90146</td>
<td>-0.43285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental value</td>
<td>-0.14624</td>
<td>0.98925</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1. Content and meanings of factor weights of interpretations of a bribe by the respondents**

Regardless of the type of attitude to bribery, it is endowed by the respondents with a total instrumental function, generates interest and disgust in general: the bribe-giving factor is, first of all, the strategy of the bribe-giver. Measures of a preventive nature include toughening of criminal punishment and administrative control.

In the case of the attitude of the first type, the respondents interpret the factors of giving and receiving bribes, effects and emotional estimations of bribery. Students, unlike the working respondents, are less unanimous in identifying the effects of bribery on the state, fewer factors are mentioned in giving and taking bribes (Table 3). Bribery in the sphere of career causes contempt among students, and anger among working subjects.

Older students maximize the total instrumental function of bribery; working respondents older in age maximize the role of personal traits (as reasons for giving bribes and the negative effect of such practices) and anti-corruption education.

The intensity of attitude of the first type among students is positively influenced by the indicators of the difference between the significance and the accessibility of the value of “friends” (R = 0.689, beta = 0.603), acceptance of others (R = 0.706, beta = 0.449); high frustration with housing and living conditions (R = 0.496, beta = 0.312). The intensity of attitude of the first type among working subjects is positively influenced by the indicators of the value of socialization “friends” (R = 0.692, beta = 0.641), high
dissatisfaction with physical health \((R = 0.496, \beta = 0.312)\). Very low and low rates of moral normativity among the students have been revealed, in contrast to the individually variable values of these indicators in the working subjects.

In the case of attitude of the second type, the interpretations of factors of giving bribes by the respondents are different (Table 2), as well as effects and emotional estimations of bribery. The students are unanimous in identifying the negative effects of the influence of bribery practices on a person, and the working respondents identify its negative influence on the state (Table 3). Bribery in the sphere of education makes the students feel ashamed, and among the working subjects it causes anger; bribery in the sphere of careers is experienced by students variably, and in the working subjects it causes fear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of attitude</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Functions of a bribe</th>
<th>Factors of giving a bribe</th>
<th>Factors of taking a bribe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1* Students</td>
<td>Totally instrumental Resource</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Material enrichment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Totally instrumental Resource</td>
<td>Strategy Forcedness</td>
<td>Material enrichment Power</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2* Students</td>
<td>Totally instrumental Resource</td>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Variability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Totally instrumental Resource</td>
<td>Strategy Forcedness</td>
<td>Variability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Notes: type 1* – Unlawful act; type 2* – Business commercial transaction

Table 2. Functions and factors of bribery in the minds of the respondents

Older students maximize the role of power as the reason for getting a bribe; older working respondents maximize eliminating function of bribery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of attitude</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Effects of bribery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Social groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1* Students</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Destruction of social relations. Decreased professionalism. Negative personal traits. Positive results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2* Students</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Notes: 1* – instrumental value; 2* – business commercial transaction; «-» - dominance of the variable has not been established.

Table 3. The effects of bribery.

The leading predictors of the attitude of the second type have not been established among the working respondents. Indicators of moral normativity are placed in the interval of very high or very low values, in the working subjects – in very high or moderate values.

4 Results

The attitude towards bribery as an instrumental value is the leading one among the students and the working respondents.

The age and social status of the respondents affect the characteristics of the content of each of the components of the attitude type. Having attitude to bribery as an instrumental value, senior students maximize the totally instrumental function of bribery, and older working respondents maximize the role of personality traits (both the cause and the negative effect of such practices) and anti-corruption education of citizens. If there is an attitude to bribery as a business transaction, senior students maximize the role of abuse of power as a reason for receiving a bribe; older working respondents maximize the elimination function of bribes.

The intensity of attitude to bribery as an instrumental value among the students and the working subjects is conditioned by the values of socialization, personal traits and social frustration of needs in particular sphere of life. The intensity of attitude to bribery as a business commercial transaction among the students and the working subjects is conditioned by their personal traits. The need to take into account the identified psychological characteristics of university students and working young people in the practice of organizing and implementing anti-corruption measures is obvious.

5 Conclusion

The types of value-semantic attitude to bribery have been empirically established: the psychological characteristics of the students and the working young people have been revealed, which determine the implementation of this or that type of attitude to bribery as a form of grassroots corruption.
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Conflict of interests
The authors confirm that the submitted data do not contain conflict of interests.

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