

PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF VALUE ORIENTATIONS OF THE CONVICTS



Ulyana Mykhaylyshyn

Doctor of Psychological Sciences, Associate Professor

Head of Psychology Department

State University «Uzhhorod National University»

Ukraine

UDk 159.922+17.022.1:343.261-052

Abstract. The article presents the results of studies of features of value orientations of the convicts. In this study a set of standardised methods of diagnostics of value orientations has been used: method of «Value Orientations» after M. Rokich, test on «Life-purpose orientations» after D. A. Leontiev, test «Diagnostics of real structure of value orientations of an individual» after S. S. Bubnov, method of «The level of correlation of «value» and «accessibility» in different spheres of life» after Ye. B. Fantalova. It

has been found out that the system of value orientations determines the content of aim component of an individual. It forms the basis of his/her relations with the environment, other people, oneself, the basis of motivation of vital activity. The gathered data suggest that such values as family, health, and love have been defined as the most important for the convicts during serving a sentence. Such concepts as creativity and beauty of nature do not have meaning for these individuals.

Keywords: *the convicts, instrumental values, resocialisation, methods, penitentiary institution, terminal values, value orientations.*

Introduction

Nowadays social transformations take place in Ukraine under the influence of socio-economic and cultural changes, which has led to changes in many areas. Successful self-realisation of a person is possible only within the personal value system, which is to be adequate to the changing conditions of the present. The study of value orientations becomes of particular importance in conditions of imprisonment. It is the study of value orientations of the convicts and the correct use of its results, which in the future can greatly simplify the task of a psychologist on providing help to the convicts in their re-socialisation.

The specificity of the issue of value orientation is in the fact that a person after the imprisonment starts rethinking life. Therefore, all value orientations, formed during the development of personality at freedom, somewhat change. This is the result of awareness of the unfulfilled life plans.

The **aim of the paper** is to research psychological features of value orientations of the convicts. The following theoretical **methods** have been used: the secondary analysis of sources on the study to determine the nature of basic concepts of the study, to identify the current state of the problem under consideration.

Analysis of recent researches and publications on the problem under consideration demonstrates that value orientations belong to phenomena that are actively studied in psychological science for quite a long time. Many domestic psychologists (N. Nepomnyascha, 1980; B. Bratus, 1988; K. Abulkhanova-Slavska,

1991; Yu. Plyusnin, 1995, 1996, 1999; Yu. Boboshkina, 1999; S. Bubnova, 1999; N. Zhuravleva, 2002, 2006; and others) devoted their studies to value orientations.

Issues of values and value orientations of offenders and convicts serving a sentences in the form of deprivation of liberty in penitentiary institutions have been researched

by A. Mikhlin, V. Pyrozhkov (1976), G. Khokhryakov, V. Golubev (1982), A. Ushatykov (1982), A. Ratinov (1994), V. Morogin (1996), A. Napris (1997), N. Yaroschuk (1997), V. Yakovlev (1998), M. Yanytskyi (2000), L. Shestopalova, T. Prevozna (2003) and others.

However, despite the significant number of studies devoted to value orientations of the convicts, the majority of them describe the features of terminal values and indicators of life cognition of the criminals of the Soviet (A. Mikhlin, V. Pyrozhkov, A. Ratynov) and the early Post-Soviet period (V. Morogin, V. Yakovlev, M. Yanytskyi). In the context of socio-political and economic transformations, that have taken place over the past decades in the Ukrainian society, value orientations of the convicts have not been comprehensively studied.

In modern scientific literature, there are practically no studies that reveal the peculiarities of deformation of value orientation of an individual at different stages of serving a sentence in the form of imprisonment. Attempts to analyse the dynamics of value orientation of the convicts have been made only in the works of V. Yakovleva (1998) and V. Morogina (1999).

In this regard, despite a rather significant list of works devoted to value orientations, attention should be paid to the lack of study of this phenomenon among the convicts serving a sentence in the form of deprivation of liberty.

Research Methods

Research organisation. Within the framework of this research we have studied the features of value sphere of persons serving a sentence in the institutions of execution of sentences. The experimental study of the system of value orientations of the convicts has become the purpose of our research.

Participants. The experiment involved 36 convicts of different age, with different number of convictions and different term of imprisonment.

Techniques. A set of standardised methods for diagnosing of value orientations has been used in the research: method of «Value Orientations» after M. Rokich [1, p. 182], test

on «Life-purpose orientations» after D. A. Leontiev [3, p. 2], test «Diagnostics of real structure of value orientations of an individual» after S. S. Bubnov [2, p. 360], method of «The level of correlation of «value» and «accessibility» in different spheres of life» after Ye. B. Fantalova [4, p. 4].

Research Results and their Discussion

Having used the method of «Value Orientations» after M. Rokich the following results have been obtained:

– the list of terminal values after the choice of convicts is the following:

1. Health (physical and mental);
2. Happy family life;
3. Love (spiritual and physical affinity with the beloved person);
4. Life-wisdom (maturity of judgments and common sense achieved by life experience);
5. Active life (fullness and emotional saturation of life);
6. Freedom (independence, independence in judgments and actions);
7. Materially secured life (absence of material difficulties);
8. Interesting job;
9. Having good and loyal friends;
10. Beauty of nature and art (experiencing the beauty in nature and in art);
11. Cognition (possibility of mastering of education, expanding of horizons, general culture, intellectual development);
12. Development (work on oneself, constant physical and spiritual perfection);
13. Public vocation (respect of others, team, colleagues at work);
14. Productive life (maximally full use of own capabilities, strengths and abilities);
15. Fun (pleasant, unburden leisure time, absence of duties);
16. Self-confidence (internal harmony, freedom from internal contradictions, doubts);
17. Happiness of others (welfare, development and improvement of other people, all people, humanity as a whole);
18. Creativity (possibility of creative activity).

The convicts prefer specific vital values, values of personal life and active values. Abstract and passive values are chosen by the convicts as the latest position (see Figure 1.).

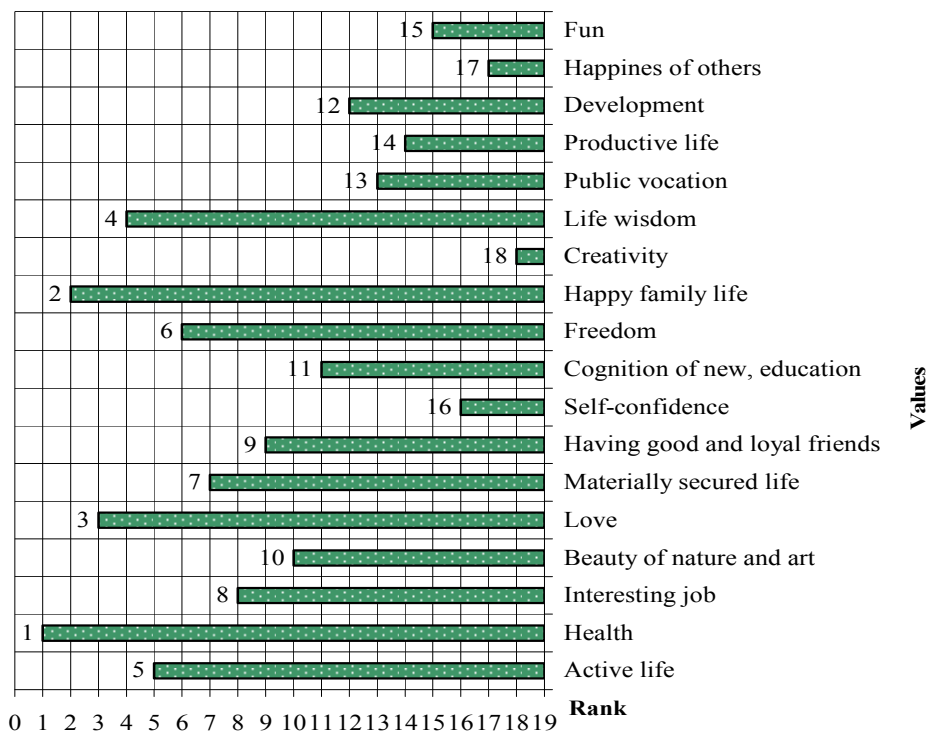


Figure 1. Graphical representation of the results of researching the value orientations of an individual (M. Rokich) (terminal values)

– the list of instrumental values by choice of convicts is as following:

1. Bringing up (good manners);
2. Responsibility (sense of duty, ability to keep the promise);
3. Neatness (cleanliness), ability to keep things in order, order in deeds;
4. Independence (ability to act independently, decisively);
5. Honesty (truthfulness, sincerity);
6. Self-control (restraint, self-discipline);
7. Courage in defending own thoughts, attitudes;
8. Firm will (ability to insist on own, not to retreat facing difficulties);
9. Diligence (discipline);
10. Life joy (sense of humor);
11. Tolerance (to the views and opinions of others, ability to forgive others their mistakes and misconceptions);
12. Education (breadth of knowledge, high general culture);
13. Efficiency in deeds (hard work, productivity at work);
14. Rationalism (ability to think soberly and logically, to take thoughtful, rational decisions);
15. High queries (high living standards and high claims);
16. Cheerfulness (caring).

17. Breadth of views (ability to understand point of view of others, respect tastes, customs, habits of others);

18. Intolerance to the shortcomings of oneself and others.

With regard to instrumental values, the convicts find important the values of interpersonal communication, individualistic and conformist values. Ethical, altruistic, intellectual values and values of accepting the others are chosen by the convicts as the latest position (see Figure 2).

After the experimental study of features of value orientations of the convicts using this technique, it has been found that the system of value orientations of the convicts is characterised by the dominance of «protective», conditioned with frustration values: freedom, independence, previous family relationships and friendships, values of material prosperity. At the same time they demonstrate the importance of socially approved instrumental values such as neatness, good manners, responsibility, honesty. However, according to the results obtained, the convicts are characterised with objections of altruistic values – happiness of others, sensitivity, tolerance and broadmindedness, values of development, fulfillment and creativity.

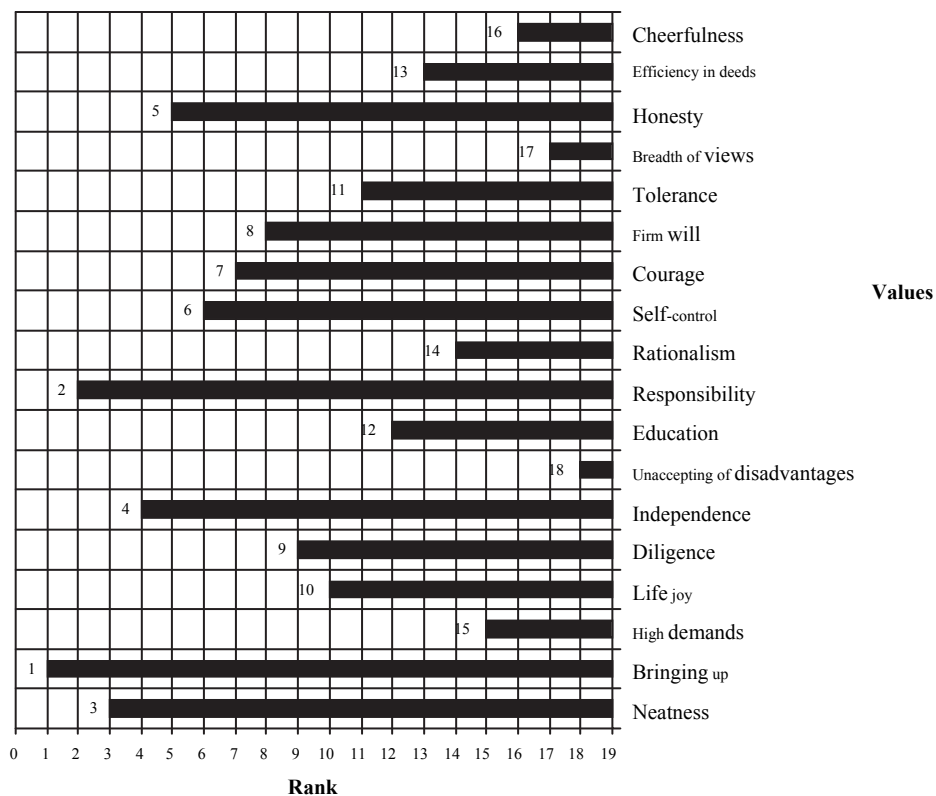


Figure 2. Graphical representation of the results of researching the value orientations of an individual (M. Rokich) (instrumental values)

Having used the test on «Life-purpose orientations» after D. A. Leontiev the following results have been obtained (see Figure 3):

– Goals in life. Scores on this scale characterise the presence or absence in the life of the convicts of goals in their future, which give meaning to life, orientation and time perspective. The low scores on this scale have been found in 5 participants (14%). Low points are peculiar to a person who lives only with today or yesterday. However, high scores on this scale can characterise not only life-purposed people, but also projectors, whose plans do not have real basis at present and are not supported by personal responsibility for their implementation. High scores have been found in 31 participants (86%).

– The process of life, or interest and emotional richness of life. The content of this scale coincides with the well-known theory that the only sense of life is to live. This indicator demonstrates whether the convicts perceive the process of life as interesting, emotionally rich and full of meaning. High scores on this scale and low by the rest characterise the hedonist, who lives only with

today. High scores have been found in 34 participants (94%). Low scores on this scale are the sign of dissatisfaction with own overall life; at the same time, it can be given the full sense with memories of the past or orientations to the future. Low scores on this scale have been found in 2 participants (6%).

– Effectiveness of life, or satisfaction with self-realisation. Scores on this scale reflect the estimation of the period of life spent, the sense of how productively and meaningfully its part has been lived. High scores on this scale have been found in 32 participants (89%). By this indicator one can characterise a person who lives the rest of life, who has it all in the past, but the past is able to give sense to the remnant of life. Low scores have been found in 4 participants (11%), which indicates the dissatisfaction with the part of life lived.

– Locus of control – «I» («I» – the owner of life). High scores correspond to the perception of oneself as a strong individual with sufficient freedom of choice in order to build own life in accordance with the goals and ideas about its sense. Participants with high

scores – 33 (92%). Participants with low scores – disbelief in own power to control the events in own life – 3 participants (8%).

– Locus of control – life or manageability of life. With high scores – belief that man is given the possibility to control own life, to make decisions freely and to exercise them. High scores on this scale have been found in 31 participants (86%). Participants with low

points – fatalism, belief that human life is not subject to conscious control, that the freedom of choice is illusory and it is meaningless to betray something for the future – 5 participants (14%).

Summarising the results of this technique, we can conclude that almost all of participants (86%), in our case the convicts, have fully formed, own life–purpose orientations.

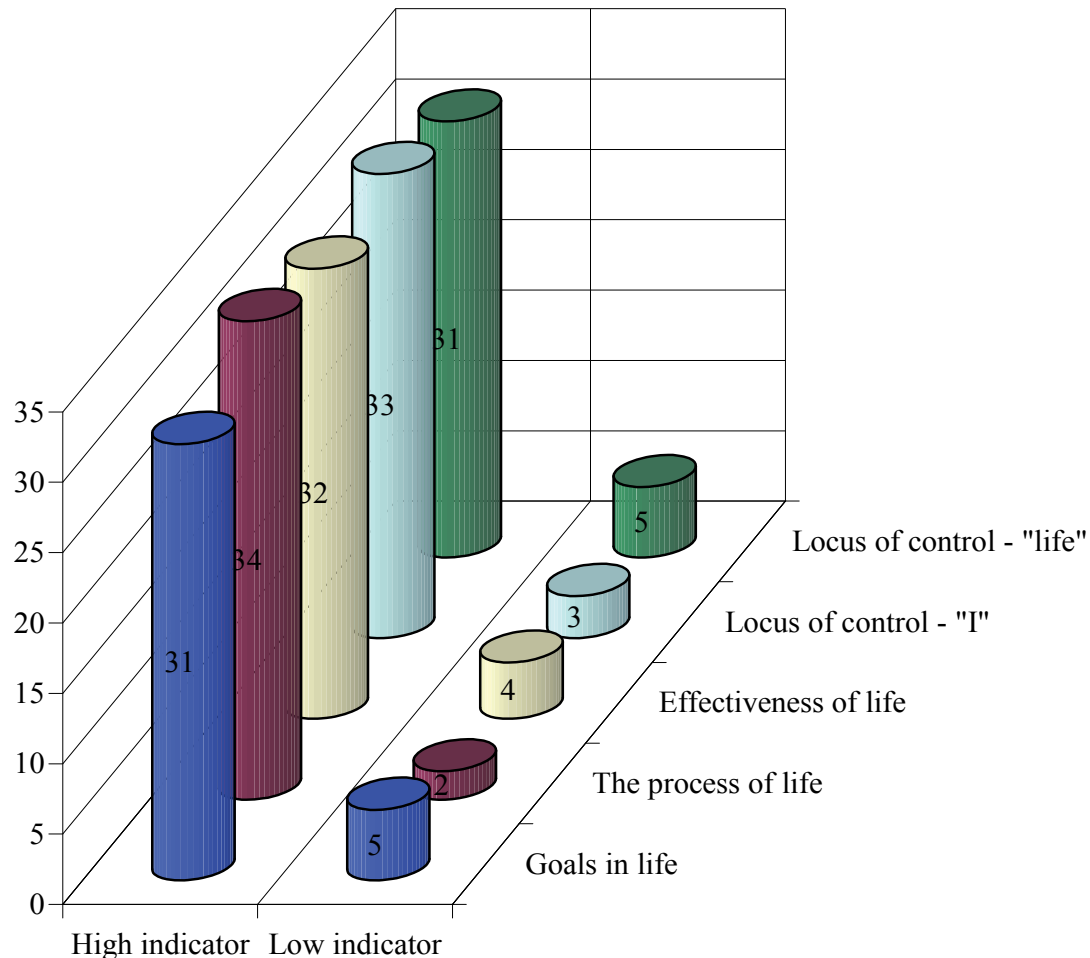


Figure 3. Graphical representation of the results of test on «Life-purpose orientations» after D. A. Leontiev

Having used the test «Diagnostics of real structure of value orientations of an individual» after S. S. Bubnov the following results have been obtained (see Figure 4):

1. Love;
2. Assistance and mercy to other people;
3. Respect for people and influence on others;
4. Health;
5. Pleasant leisure time, rest;
6. High material welfare;
7. Cognition of new in the world, nature, man;

8. Communication;
9. Social activity to achieve positive changes in a society;
10. High social status and management of people;
11. Search and enjoying the beautiful.

Summarising the results of this technique, we can conclude that health and love are the most important values. The high social status is chosen by the convicts as the latest position.

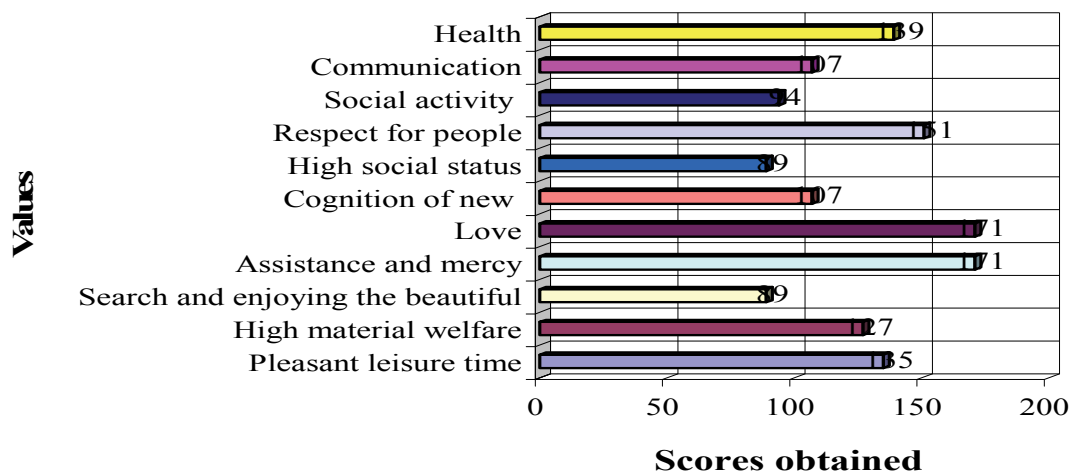


Figure 4. Graphical representation of the results of test on «Diagnostics of real structure of value orientations of an individual» after S. S. Bubnov

Having used the method of «The level of correlation of «value» and «accessibility» in different spheres of life» after Ye. B. Fantalova the following results have been obtained (see Figure 5):

1. Happy family life;
2. Health (physical and mental);
3. Freedom as independence in actions and deeds;
4. Love (spiritual and physical affinity with the beloved person);
5. Having good and loyal friends;
6. Self-confidence (internal harmony, freedom from internal contradictions, doubts);
7. Materially secured life (absence of material difficulties);
8. Cognition of new, education;
9. Active life;
10. Interesting job;
11. Creativity

Summarising the results of this technique, we can conclude that health, freedom, love and happy family life are the most important values. The values of development, self-realisation and creativity are chosen by the convicts as the latest position.

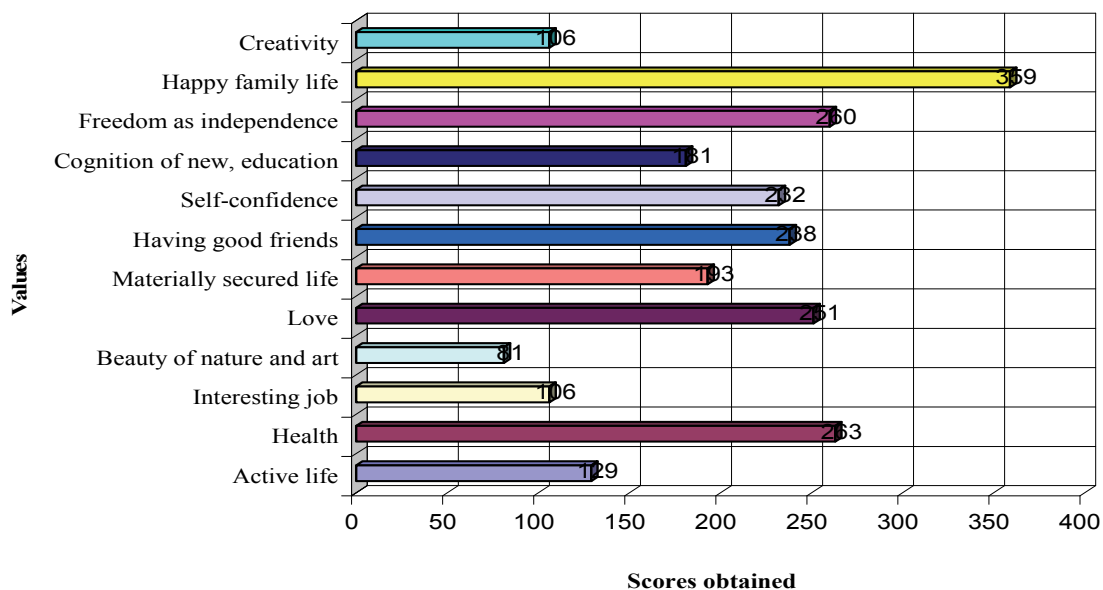


Figure 5. Graphical representation of the results of the method of «The level of correlation of «value» and «accessibility» in different spheres of life» after Ye. B. Fantalova

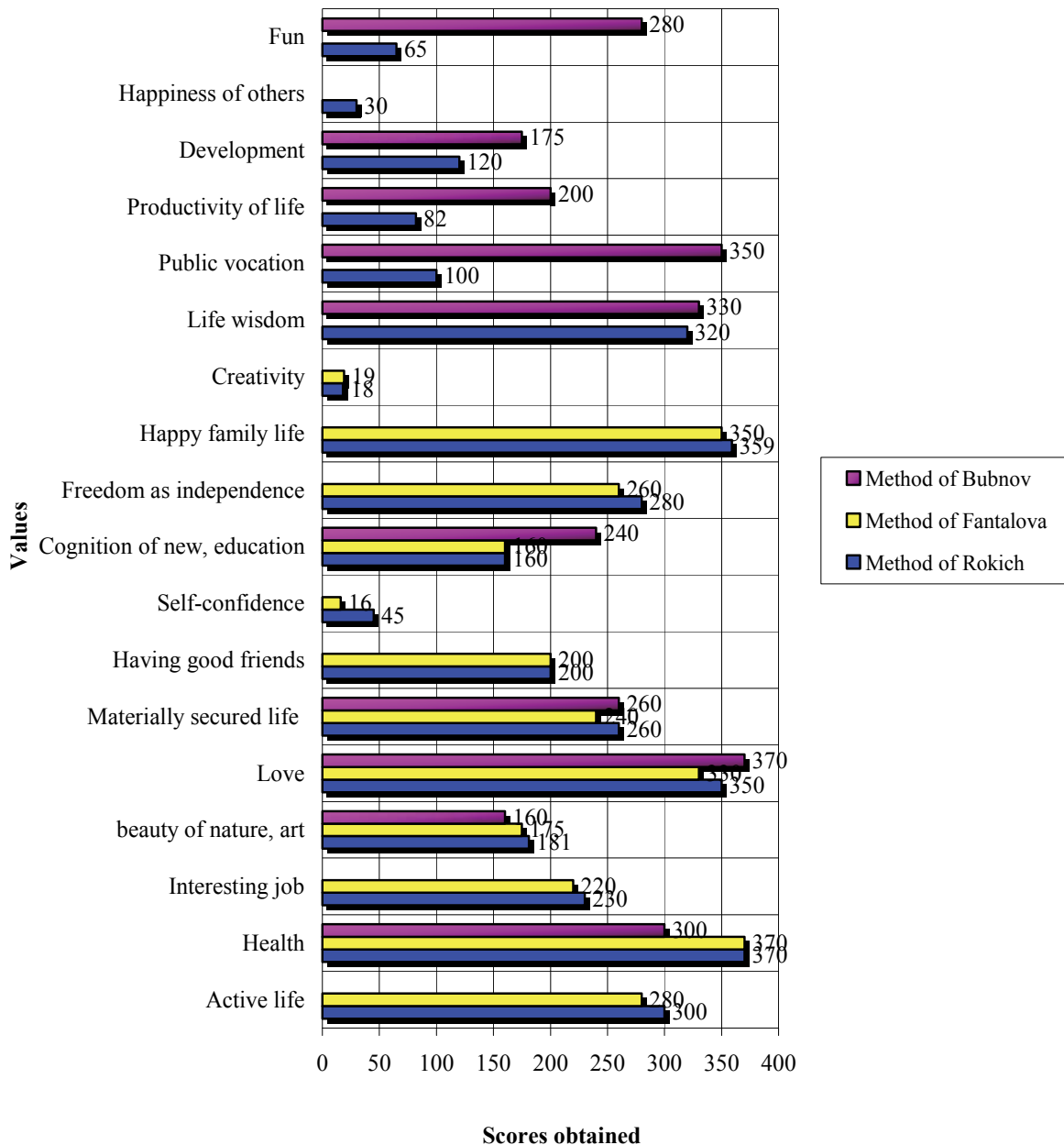


Figure 6. Graphical representation of the results of all methods used

Conclusions

The analysis of the results obtained shows that the system of value orientations of the convicts is characterised by the dominance of «protective», caused by frustration values: freedom, independence, previous family relationships and friendships, as well as values of material well-being. At the same time they demonstrate the importance of socially approved instrumental values such as neatness, good manners, responsibility, honesty.

It has been revealed that the denial of altruistic values is peculiar for the convicts – happiness of others, sensitivity, tolerance and breadth of views, as well as values of development, self-realisation and creativity.

It has been established that 86% of the convicts have a high level of implementation of basic vital values, which testifies to the adaptive nature of the origin of value orientations of the convicts.

It has been proved that health and love are the most important values. High social status is chosen by the convicts as the latest position. This is explained by the fact that in institutions of this type there is its own social system, whose representatives are divided into 3 groups: leaders,

neutrals, neglected. And the lower by hierarchy the group, to which the convicts belong, the lower is their status and rights.

In terms of the issue addressed in this paper, the problem of features of value orientations of the convicts is not confined. Prospective areas for further research may include the deepening of theoretical and empirical knowledge about the features of value orientations of the convicts, as well as the development of social, psychological and pedagogical means of post-penitentiary rehabilitation of persons who have returned from places of imprisonment to a society.

References

1. Darvish, O. B., & Klochko, S. E. (2004). *Vozrastnaya psikhologiya [Age psychology]*. Moscow: VLADOS-PRES.
2. Kozlov, S. S., Manuylov, G. M., & Fetiskin, N. P. (2002). *Sotsialno-psikhologicheskaya diagnostika razvitiya lichnosti i malykh grup [Socio-psychological diagnosis of development of an individual and small groups]*. Moscow: Institute of Psychotherapy.
3. Leontiev, D. A. (1992). *Test smyslozhiznennykh oriyentatsiy [Test of meaningful orientations]*. Moscow: Smysl.
4. Fantalova, Ye. B. (2006). Metodika «Uroven sootnosheniya «tsennosti» i «dostupnosti» v razlichnykh zhiznennykh sferakh» [Method «The level of correlation of «value» and «accessibility» in various life spheres]. *Journal of Practical Psychologist*, 2, 32–37.