The research material was collected earlier in connection with personality tests. In this research the personality items are used as independent variables. The aim of the research was to examine personal and social elements and their relations and changes during a period of 1.5 years. Further aims was to examine the life and development of adolescents at the age of 13.5-15. The emphasis was especially on gender differences, family environment and peer issues.

The study was based on the data of risk behavior of adolescents collected by questionnaires in 1985-88. The sample consisted of students from 5th to 9th grades in three schools. The questionnaire consisted of items about success of the students at school, their personality (Eysenck Junior-EPI), self-esteem (Coopersmith), locus of control (Nowicki - Strickland), psychosomatic symptoms and risk behavior.

The study was quantitative. The correlative analyses supported the researcher's idea to divide variables into personal and social elements. Factor analysis was used to reveal relevant social and personal dimensions. Using three separate factor analysis, the following factor pairs and one single factor were named: family support and positive self-concept, peer activity and psychological balance, outward-oriented adolescent and popularity among peer. Psychosomatic behavior was examined separately. The reliability (Tarkkonen 1987) was between 0.901 and 0.711. Second order factor analysis was used to examine variables based on factors, their relations to each other and their changes during the 1.5 years. After the second order factor analysis two new factors were named: the personality- and family factor and the social factor. Cross-tabulated data based on personality- and family factor and social factor as axis revealed the structure of personal and social welfare of adolescent, reflecting also self-concepts.

Especially social (peer issues) but also personal component of the structure changed during 1.5 years. The family support were salient to girls at the age of 13.5 and to boys at the age of 15. Peer issues were important for both genders. Popularity with peer and risk behavior (smoking and alcohol abuse) were more salient to girls than boys. Positive self-concept of girls was connected to the peer issues and that of boys to the family support. The maturing process takes different paths in timing and in the contents of different development areas.


Avainsanat-Nyckelord-Keywords
adolescents - self-concepts
self concepts - personality
personality - social relations

Säilytyspaikka-Förvaringsställe-Where deposited
Muita tietoja-Övriga uppgifter-Additional information