

the North American literature (Jacobvitz & Bush, 1996; Stein, Riedel, & Rotheram-Borus, 1999). A novel finding of this study shows that increased feelings of unfairness are associated with elevated negative affect and decreased frequency of positive emotions. Thus, in addition to being quite prevalent among our young respondents, parentification has a disconcerting connection to negative emotions (with unfairness also related to decreased positive emotions), which, in turn, can adversely affect adolescents' functioning in cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal areas (Jaycox et al., 2009).

In our opinion, the problems which the parentified youth struggles with can go unnoticed or incorrectly diagnosed by teachers or school counsellors. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that the knowledge regarding parentification becomes widely disseminated not only among parents but also among education professionals so that proper strategies can be developed to effectively help students burdened by such a family dysfunction. However, it is important to bear in mind that our conclusions are limited by the correlational nature of our study. We can only talk about associations between parentification and other variables and may only speculate on potential causal links. Further research is needed to allow for approximation towards cause-and-effect relationships between the family context, parentification, and potential outcomes for parentified children in Poland.

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