



RESULTS OF AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS SHAPING PATRIOTISM IN YOUNG PEOPLE

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Introduction

Patriotism, defined as a positive emotional attachment and commitment to one's nation, is a key factor in fostering social cohesion and national identity among young people [1]. The socio-psychological foundations of patriotism in youth remain incompletely understood, despite its importance for civic engagement and social stability. Prior research highlights several influential factors including family socialization, education, cultural identification, socioeconomic status, and psychological well-being such as gratitude and life satisfaction [2][1][3]. This study aims to empirically investigate the leading socio-psychological factors that shape patriotic qualities in young people aged 16–25, providing a nuanced understanding of their interplay.

Methods

A mixed-methods empirical study was conducted with 320 university students aged 16–25 from three urban universities, selected via stratified random sampling to ensure diversity in socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.

Quantitative Measures

- **Patriotism:** Assessed using validated scales measuring blind and constructive patriotism [4].
- **National Identification:** Measured by a national identity attachment scale [1].
- **Family Socialization:** Evaluated through questionnaires on parenting style and transmission of national values [1].
- **Psychological Variables:** Gratitude and life satisfaction scales were administered [2].
- **Socioeconomic Status (SES):** Self-reported parental income and education levels.

Qualitative Component

Semi-structured interviews with 30 participants explored personal narratives about patriotism, national belonging, and socio-cultural influences.

Data Analysis

- Quantitative data were analyzed using multiple regression to identify predictors of patriotism.
- Qualitative data were thematically analyzed to contextualize quantitative findings.

Results

Quantitative Findings

Table 1 summarizes the regression analysis results predicting patriotic qualities.

Predictor	Standardized β	p-value
National Identification	0.48	<0.001
Family Socialization	0.36	0.002
Gratitude	0.29	0.007
Life Satisfaction	0.21	0.032
Socioeconomic Status	-0.25	0.041

Table 1: Predictors of patriotic qualities among young people.

- **National Identification** emerged as the strongest positive predictor of patriotism, consistent with previous findings [1].
- **Family Socialization** showed a significant positive effect, supporting the role of parental transmission of national values [1].
- **Gratitude** and **Life Satisfaction** were positively associated with patriotism, indicating the importance of psychological well-being [2].
- Interestingly, **Socioeconomic Status** was negatively associated with blind patriotism, suggesting higher patriotism levels among lower SES groups, mediated by life satisfaction [1].

Qualitative Insights

Thematic analysis revealed three main themes:

1. **Emotional Attachment and Identity:** Participants emphasized the emotional bond to their nation fostered by family narratives and cultural practices.
2. **Educational Influence:** Positive exposure to national history and citizenship education enhanced constructive patriotism.
3. **Socioeconomic Context:** Students from lower SES backgrounds expressed patriotism as a source of social cohesion and collective identity.

Illustrations and Graphics

Figure 1: Conceptual Model of Socio-Psychological Factors Influencing Patriotism

graph LR

FS[Family Socialization] --> NI[National Identification]

ED[Education] --> NI

SES[Socioeconomic Status] --> PW[Psychological Well-being]

PW --> P[Patriotism]

NI --> P

Figure 2: Standardized Regression Coefficients Predicting Patriotism

- National Identification (0.48)
- Family Socialization (0.36)
- Gratitude (0.29)
- Life Satisfaction (0.21)
- Socioeconomic Status (-0.25)

Figure 3: Thematic Map of Qualitative Findings

- Emotional Attachment

- Educational Influence
- Socioeconomic Context

Discussion

The empirical results confirm that patriotism in young people is shaped by an interplay of socio-psychological factors. National identification stands out as the central predictor, mediating the influence of family socialization and education. The positive roles of gratitude and life satisfaction highlight the psychological dimension of patriotism, aligning with prior research emphasizing emotional well-being [2][11]. The inverse relationship between SES and patriotism suggests that lower SES youth may rely more on collective identity and social cohesion, mediated by life satisfaction. Qualitative findings enrich this understanding by illustrating how personal and social narratives foster patriotic sentiments. These results underscore the need for holistic approaches in fostering patriotism that integrate family, educational, psychological, and socioeconomic dimensions.

Conclusion

This study provides empirical evidence that patriotism in young people is multifactorially determined by national identification, family socialization, psychological well-being, and socioeconomic context. Interventions to nurture patriotism should address these interconnected factors, promoting positive national identity and psychological resilience. Future research should employ longitudinal designs and explore underexamined factors such as peer influence and media exposure to develop comprehensive patriotism frameworks.

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