

Social representations of current, future and ideal family Summary of results



18th International Summer School on Social
Representations and Communication,
July, 2012

Family - a changing concept

- “Family is the **foundation** of everything”
(Kaloustian, 2002, *apud* Diniz *et al.*, 2007, p.1).
- Family was used as a synonym of core family – but nowadays many other forms of family exist
(Georgas *et al.*, 2006)
- (Mihailescu, 2000) - even the word “family” has become ambiguous, as it describes different realities for each generation

Family in Romania

- The changes that occurred in the Romanian society after the Revolution of 1989 determined a series of changes in the Romanian family:
 - The most common type of family change from the extended family to the core family as a consequence of the rapid urbanization
 - Families had fewer children (one or two) as a result of the abrogation of the abortion law
 - New forms of family organization started to appear (single parent families, cohabitation, etc.)
 - And divorce rates – although still low – increase constantly

The present study

Tools

- **Associative networks** (*de Rosa, 1995*) - to investigate the semantic dimension of the sr (*content, structure, polarity*)
- **Hand drawings** – to investigate the iconic dimension and latent content of the representation
- **FACES III** (*Olson, 1985*) – to investigate family satisfaction, adaptability and cohesion within the family
- **Zimbardo Time Perspective Scale** (*Zimbardo & Boyd, 1999*) – to investigate subjects' time orientation perspective (*past negative, past positive, present hedonistic, present fatalistic, future*)
- **Message** for family members – to investigate possible expectations
- **Semi structured interview** – to get more information about the participants

Objectives

- To investigate young adults' social representations using a multi-methodological approach.
- To investigate gender differences within the content and structure of the sr.
- To investigate the influence of the economic condition of the sr.
- To investigate the general level of satisfaction and possible mediating variables.
- To assess the time perspective of young adults and investigate its relation with sr

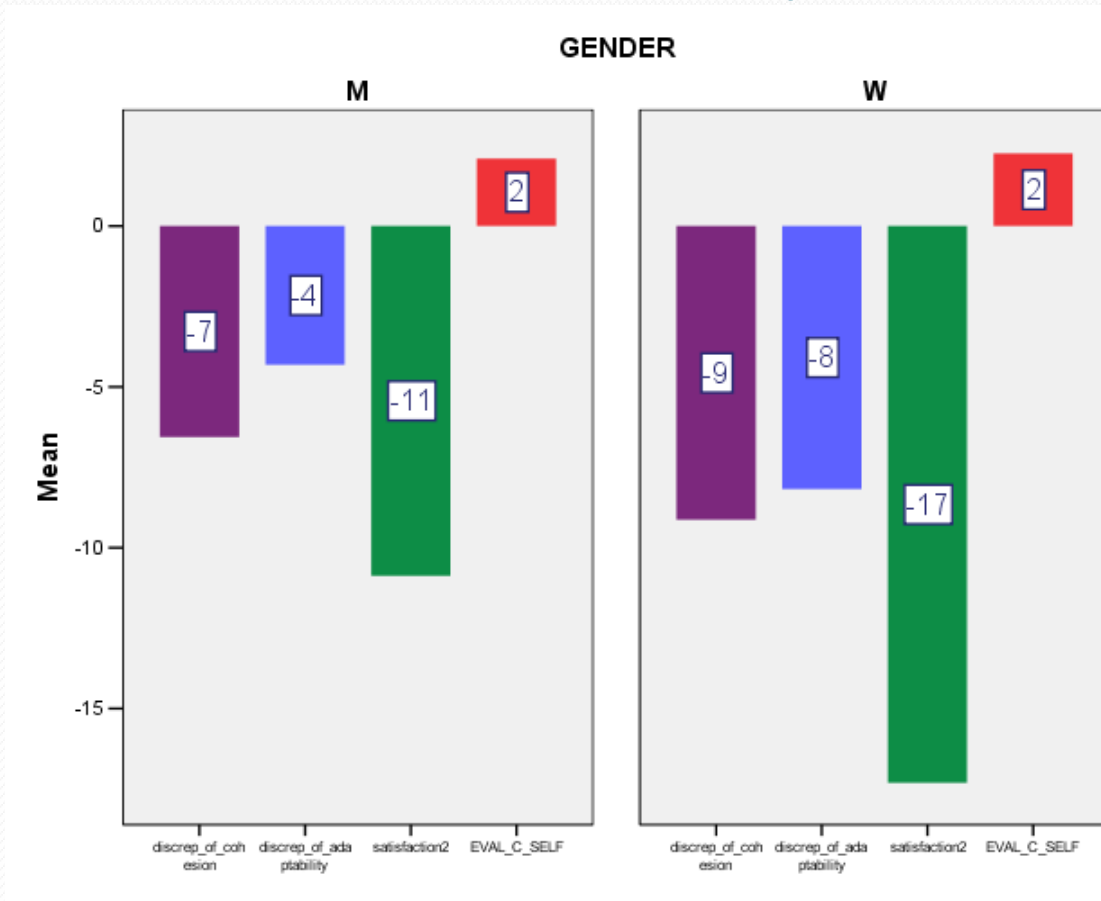
Hypothesis

- Romanian culture is a traditional culture, and **gender** roles are still strong for both men and women, so we expect that men will perceive themselves as the providers of the family and women will perceive themselves to be more closely related to child care.
- The subjects' financial independence will influence their social representation of the future family: subjects that are financially dependent of their parents will have a more vague representation of their future family .

General results

Gender and satisfaction in current family

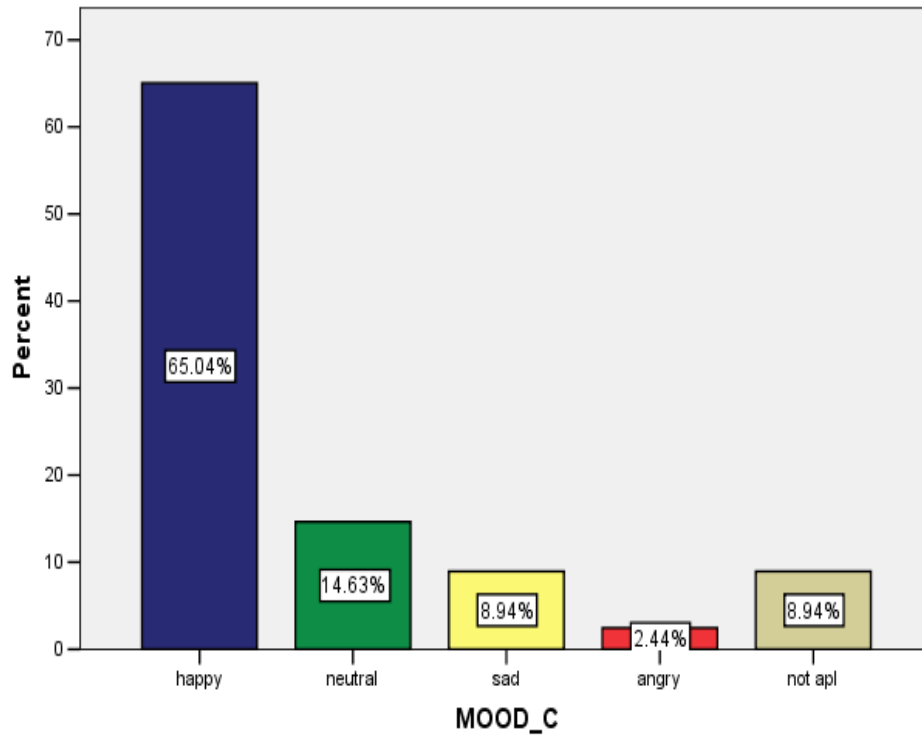
- All subjects had a negative satisfaction but women were significantly more dissatisfied than men ($t(121) = 6.43$, $p=0.009$).
- Both men and women **reported** a positive satisfaction (no significant differences)
- Women also had a higher discrepancy of cohesion ($t(121) = 2.57$, $p=0.04$) and higher discrepancy of adaptability ($t(121)= 3.86$, $p=0.009$).
- A possible explanation could be the fact that traditional roles are very strong in our culture and according to them women are responsible for taking care of the family, so they pay more attention to their own family, and are more critical than men who are more focused on providing.



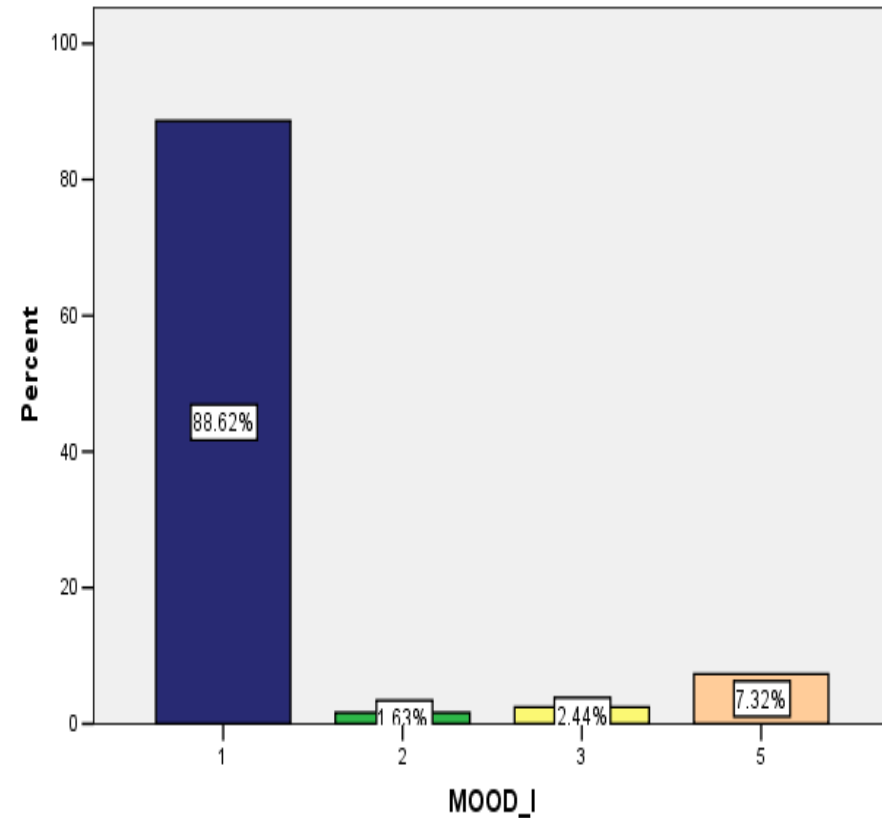
General results

Mood in current and ideal family (iconic dimension)

MOOD_C



MOOD_I

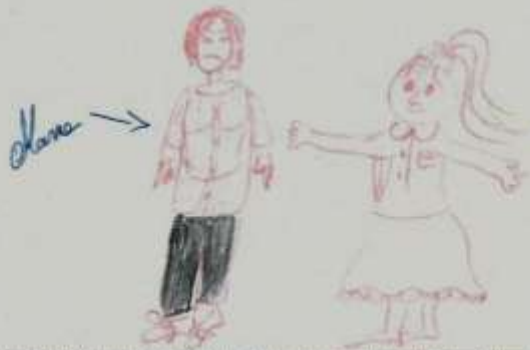


Mood in current and ideal family

UTILIZÂND TOT SPAȚIUL DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:

a) SĂ DESENAȚI FAMILIA DVS. ASA CUM ESTE ACUM;

b) SĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECARE PERSOANĂ DESENATĂ CU DVS.



Imaginați-vă că sunteți un poștaş și aveți de transmis un mesaj important adresat întregii f

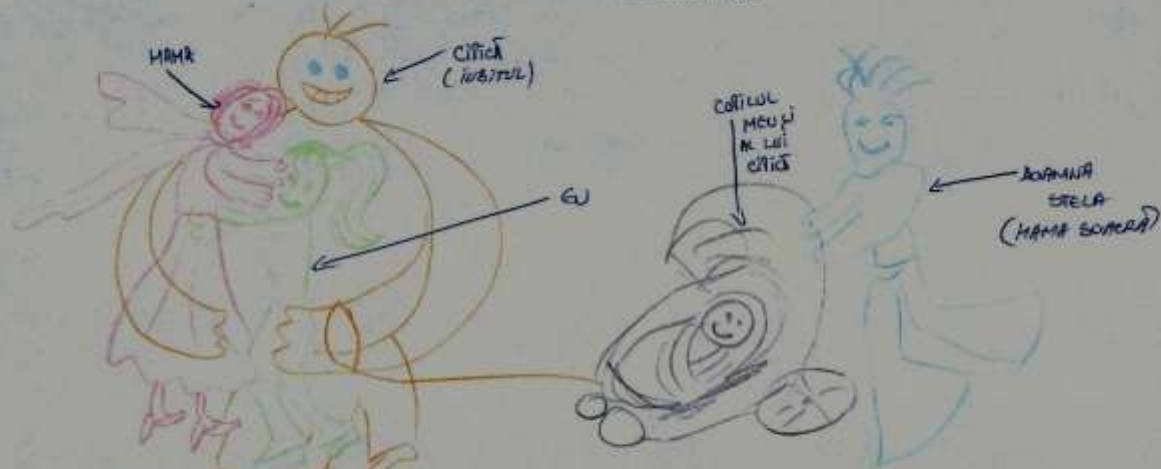
Destinatar	Mesaj
MAMA	MAMA SINTOARE CA MAMA CA ESTE BUCURIE, ES
TATA	TATA AM SINTOARE O SE VIAȚA

Septembrie Universităţii de

UTILIZÂND TOT SPAȚIUL DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:

a) SĂ DESENAȚI FAMILIA DVS. IDEALĂ;

b) SĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECARE PERSOANĂ DESENATĂ CU DVS.



Imaginați-vă că sunteți un poștaş și aveți de transmis un mesaj important adresat întregii familii și/sau membrilor săi. Scrieți mesajul dumneavoastră

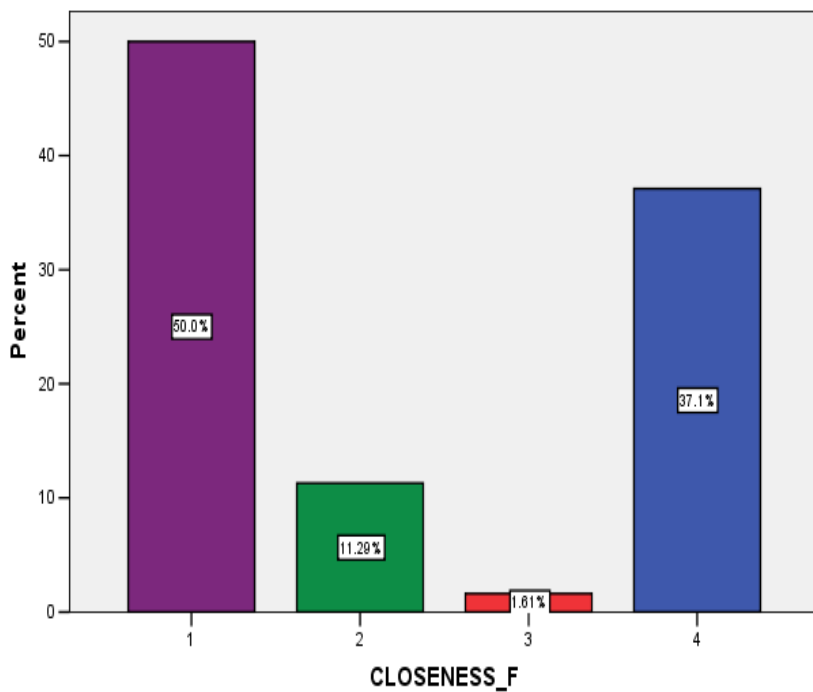
Destinatar	Mesajul meu
BOBANA STELA	
MAMA	
TATA	
FAMILIA	VA SINTOARE !!!

Septembrie Universităţii de

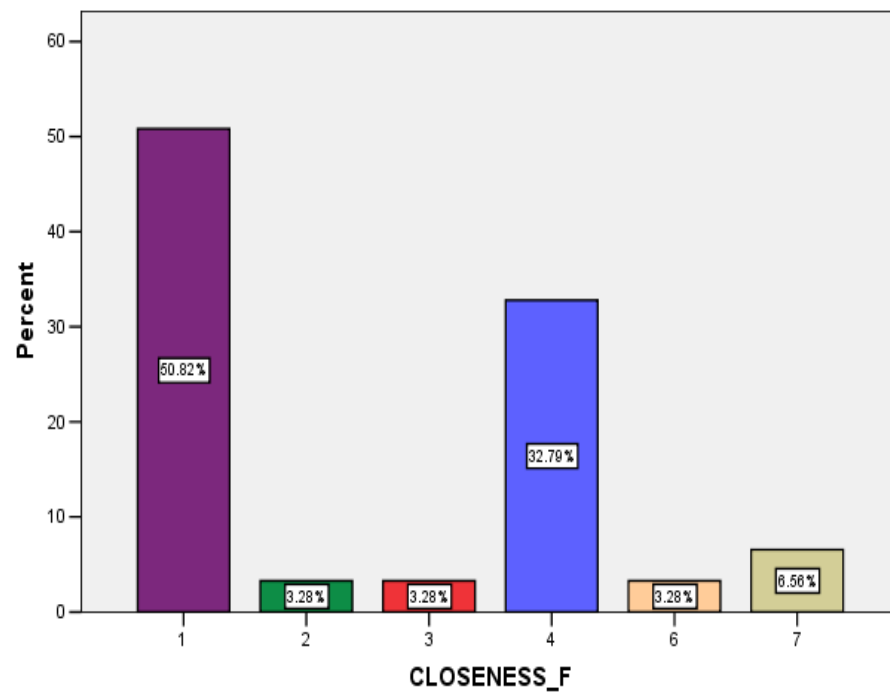
General results

Gender and representation of future family (iconic dimension)

CLOSENESS FUTURE (WOMEN)

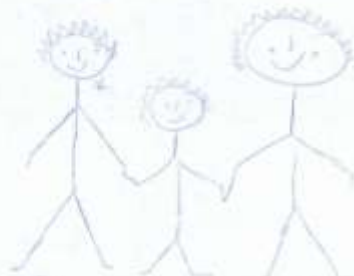


CLOSENESS FUTURE (MEN)



Closeness level in future family (men and women)

UTILIZÂND TOT SPĂTUL DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:
AȘA DESENAȚI FAMILIA DV. AȘA CUM VĂ IMAGINAȚI CĂ VA FI.
BÎNĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECARE PERSOANĂ DESEINATĂ CU DV.



Imaginați-vă că sunteți un poștaş și aveți de transmis un mesaj important adresat întregii familii și/sau membrilor săi. Scrieți mesajul dvs.

Destinatar	Messagele mea
Eu	
Soțul meu	
Fiul meu	

* Reproducție: Universitatea de Medicină

UTILIZÂND TOT SPĂTUL DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:
AȘA DESENAȚI FAMILIA DV. AȘA CUM VĂ IMAGINAȚI CĂ VA FI.
BÎNĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECARE PERSOANĂ DESEINATĂ CU DV.



Imaginați-vă că sunteți un poștaş și aveți de transmis un mesaj important adresat întregii familii și/sau membrilor săi. Scrieți mesajul dvs.

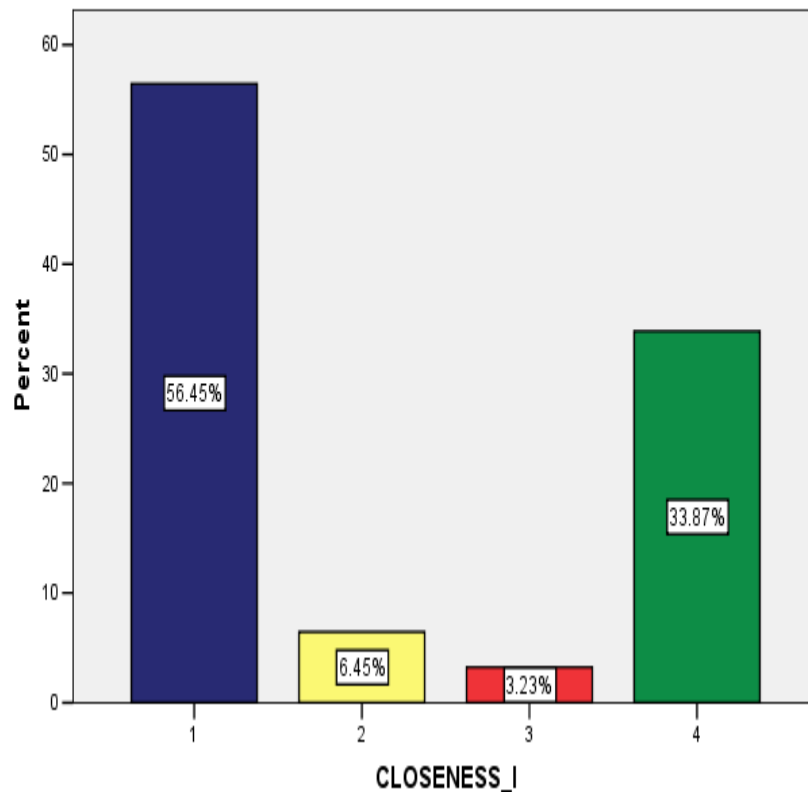
Destinatar	Messagele mea
Eu	
Soțul meu	
Fiul meu	

* Reproducție: Universitatea de Medicină

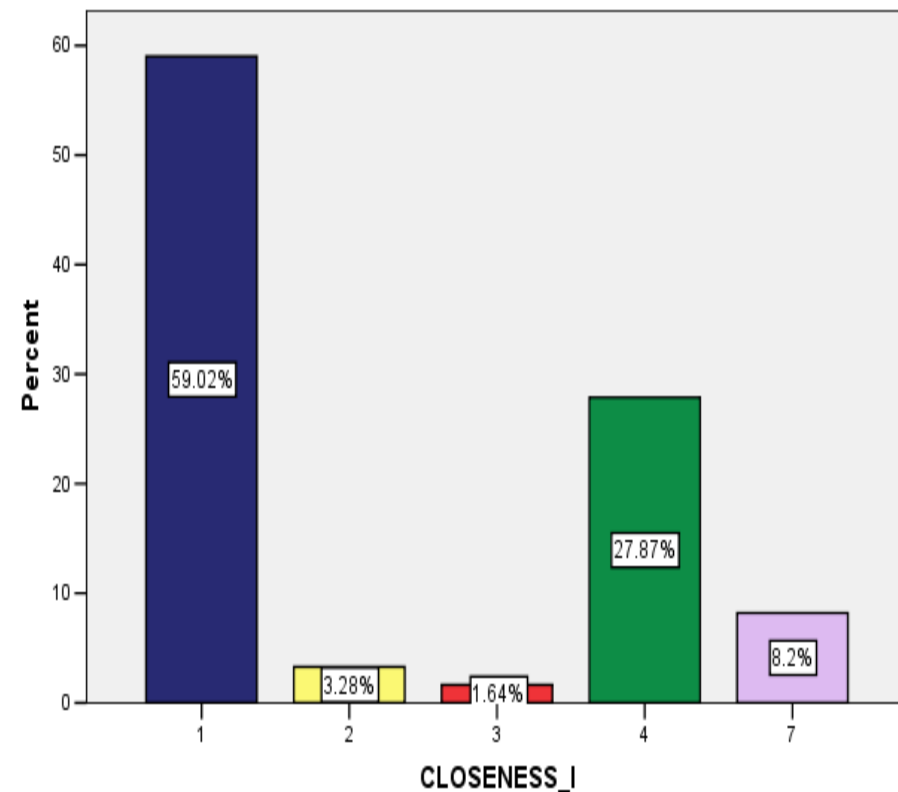
General results

Gender and representation of future family (iconic dimension)

CLOSENESS IDEAL (WOMEN)



CLOSENESS IDEAL (MEN)



Closeness level in ideal family women)

UTILIZÂND TOT SPAȚIU DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:

a) SĂ DESENAȚI FAMILIA DVȘ, IDEALĂ;

b) SĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECĂRE PERSOANĂ DESENATĂ CU DVȘ.



Imaginați-vă că sunteți un poștaş și aveți de transmis un mesaj important adresat întregii familii și/sau membrilor săi. Scrieți mesajul dumneavoastră

Destinatar	Mesajul meu
FAMILIA	VĂ IUBESC MULȚ DE TOT!
FIDAT	

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UTILIZÂND TOT SPAȚIU DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:

SĂ DESENAȚI FAMILIA DVȘ, IDEALĂ;

SĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECĂRE PERSOANĂ DESENATĂ CU DVȘ.



Imaginați-vă că sunteți un poștaş și aveți de transmis un mesaj important adresat întregii familii și/sau membrilor săi. Scrieți mesajul dumneavoastră

Destinatar	Mesajul meu
Familia	Vă iubesc mult!

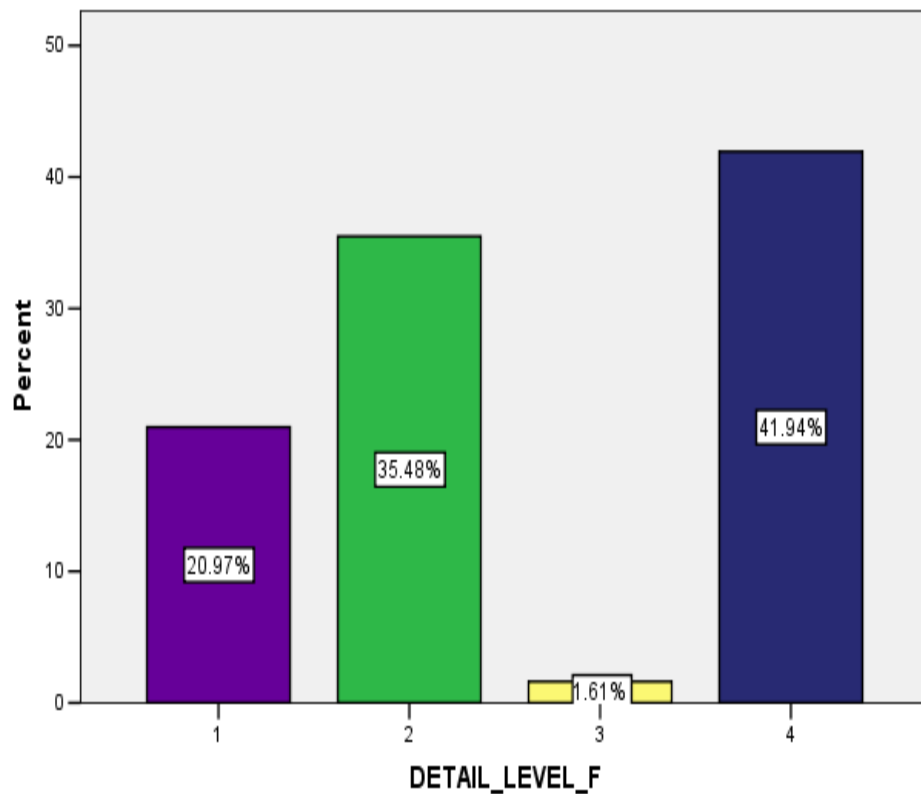
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General results

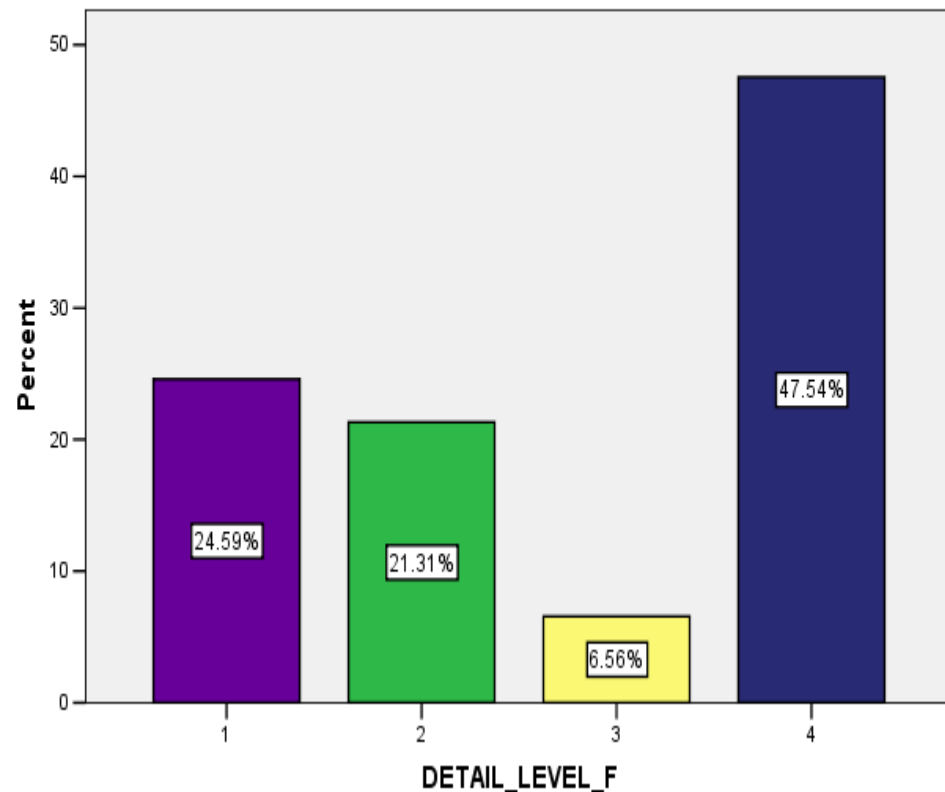
Gender and representation of future family (iconic dimension)

Women focused more on characters and men focused more on other details, and overall women had fewer schematic drawings

DETAIL LEVEL FUTURE (WOMEN)



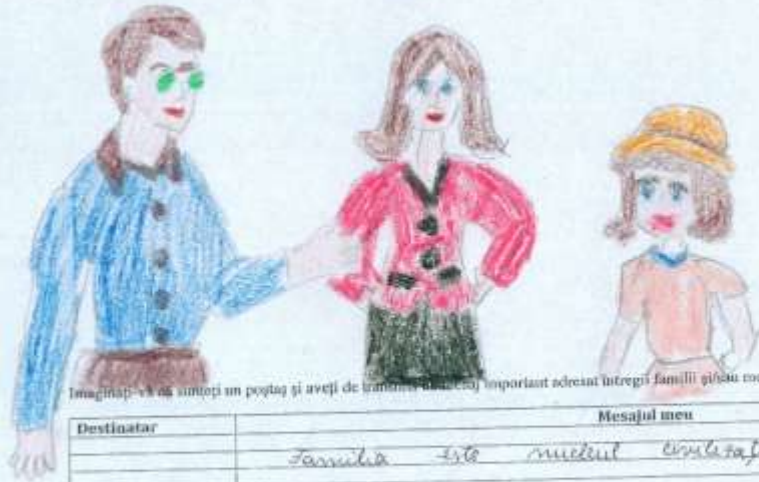
DETAIL LEVEL FUTURE (MEN)



Detail on characters (women subjects)

UTILIZÂND TOT SPAȚIUL DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:

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Imaginați-vă că scrieți un poștaş și aveți de trimis un mesaj important adresat întregii familii și/sau membrilor săi.

Destinatar	Mesajul meu
	Familia este nucleul civilizației.

* Epistola Universității de Roma

UTILIZÂND TOT SPAȚIUL DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:

- a) SĂ DESENAȚI FAMILIA DVS. AȘA CUM VĂ IMAGINAȚI CĂ VA FI.
b) SĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECARE PERSOANĂ DESENATĂ CU DVS.



FILIA MEA



SOȚUL

Imaginați-vă că scrieți un poștaş și aveți de trimis un mesaj important adresat întregii familii și/sau membrilor săi. Scrieți mesajul dvs.

Destinatar	Mesajul meu
	Vă scriu dintr-o scrisoare dintr-o scrisoare, în care vă scriu despre viața, sănătate, familie și despre viața din România.

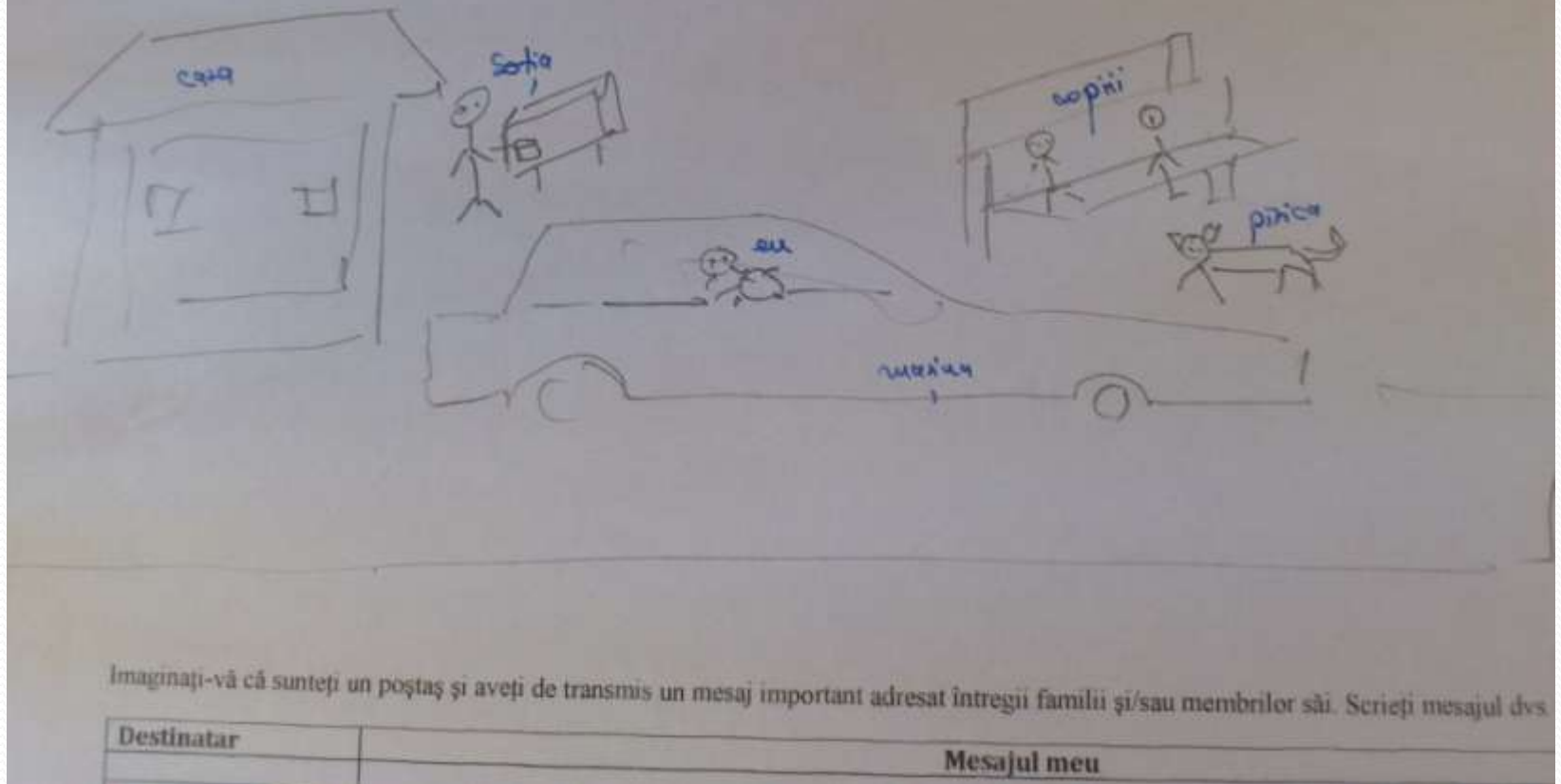
* Epistola Universității de Roma

Detail on other elements (men subjects)

UTILIZÂND TOT SPAȚIUL DISPONIBIL, VĂ RUGĂM:

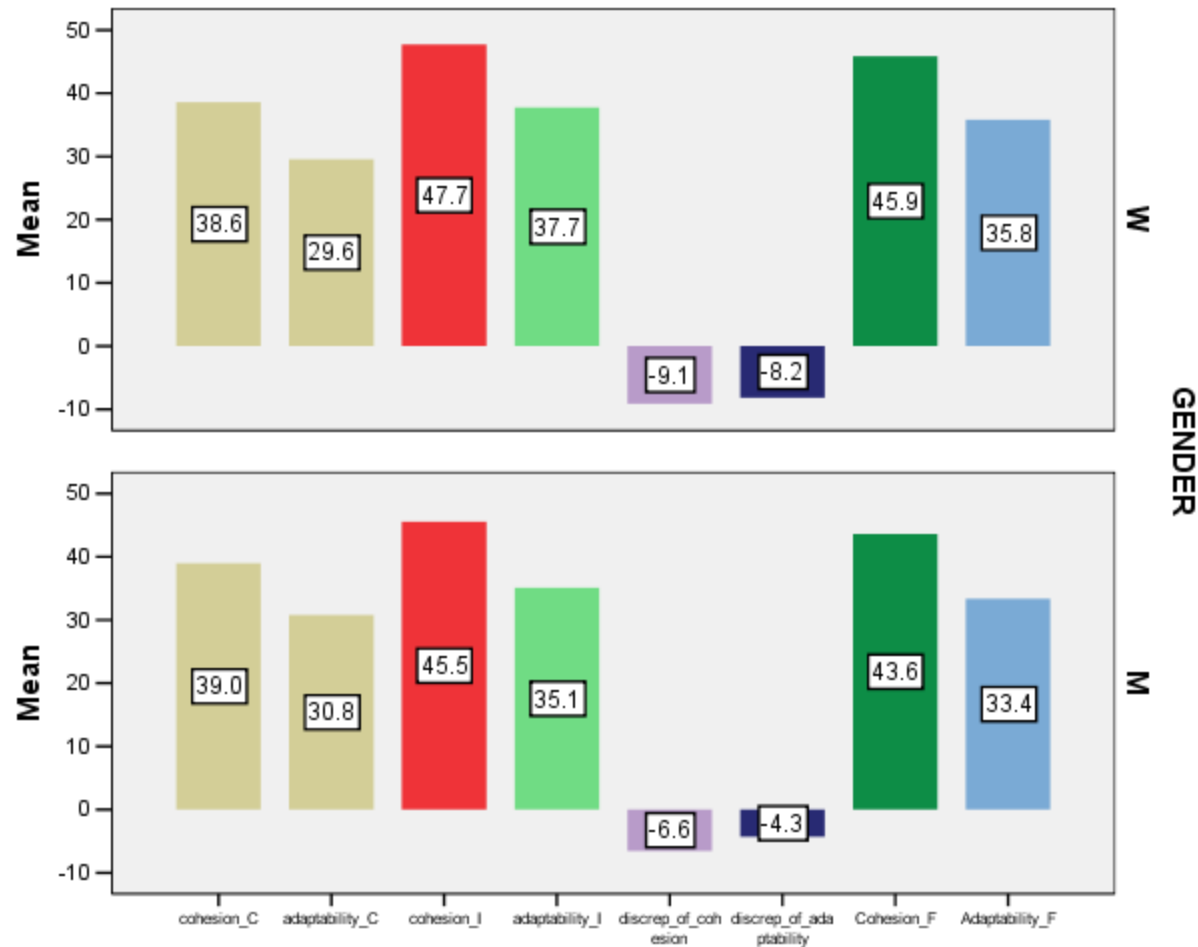
a) SĂ DESENAȚI FAMILIA DVS. ASA CUM VĂ IMAGINAȚI CĂ VA FI;

b) SĂ INDICAȚI CE LEGĂTURĂ DE FAMILIE ARE FIECARE PERSOANĂ DESENATĂ CU DVS.



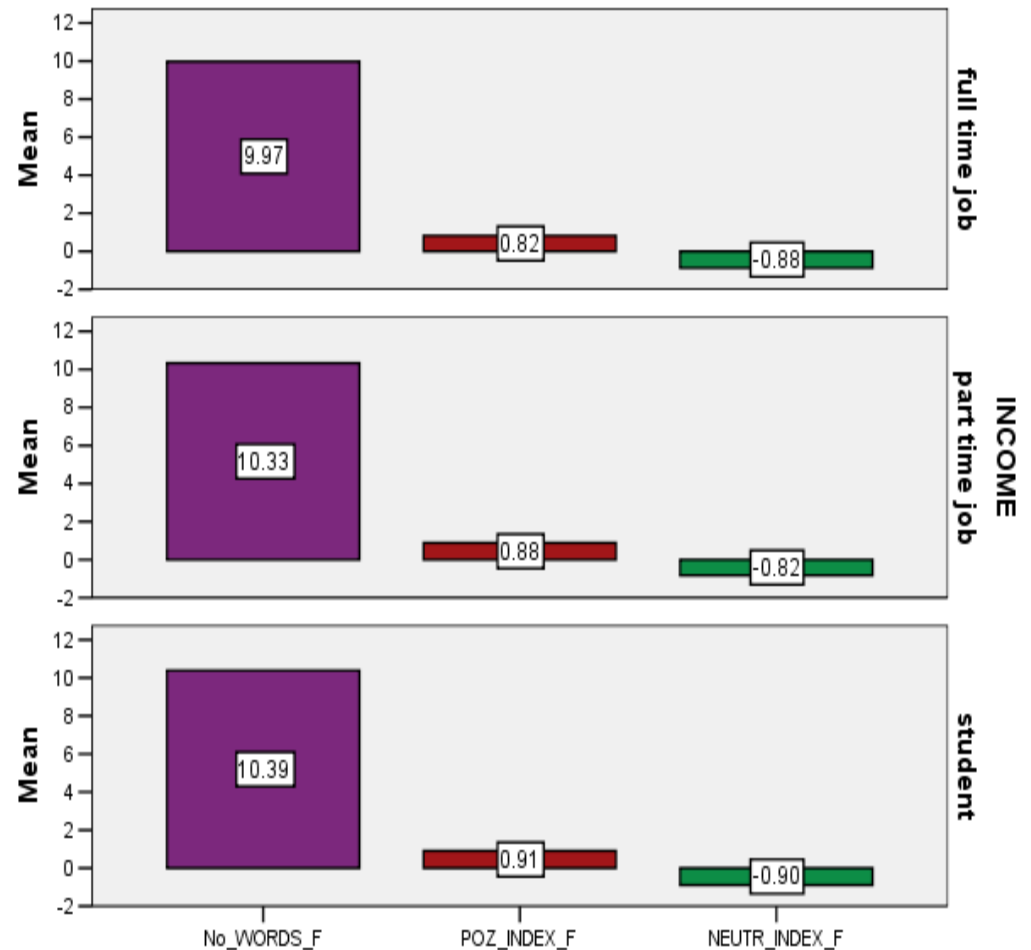
Gender differences within cohesion and adaptability

- Women want their future family to be more cohesive ($t(121)= 2.83$, $p=0.005$) and adaptable ($t(121) = 2.25$, $p=0.026$).
- Also the ideal family for women is more cohesive ($t(121)= 3.19$, $p=0.002$) and more adaptable ($t(121) = 2.05$, $p=0.043$).
- In accordance with women's lower satisfaction, they also have higher discrepancies of cohesion ($t(121)= 2.0$, $p=0.048$) and adaptability ($t(121)= 2.64$, $p=0.009$)



Second hypothesis (economical condition)

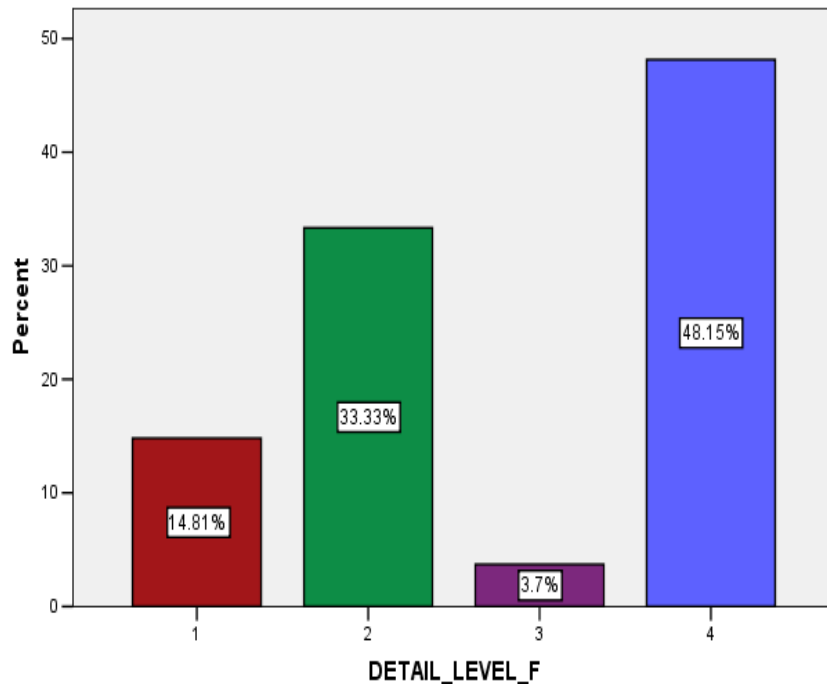
- There are no significant differences between subjects that were employed and those who were unemployed with respect to the number of words in the associative networks.
- Also being employed doesn't determine a more positive representation.



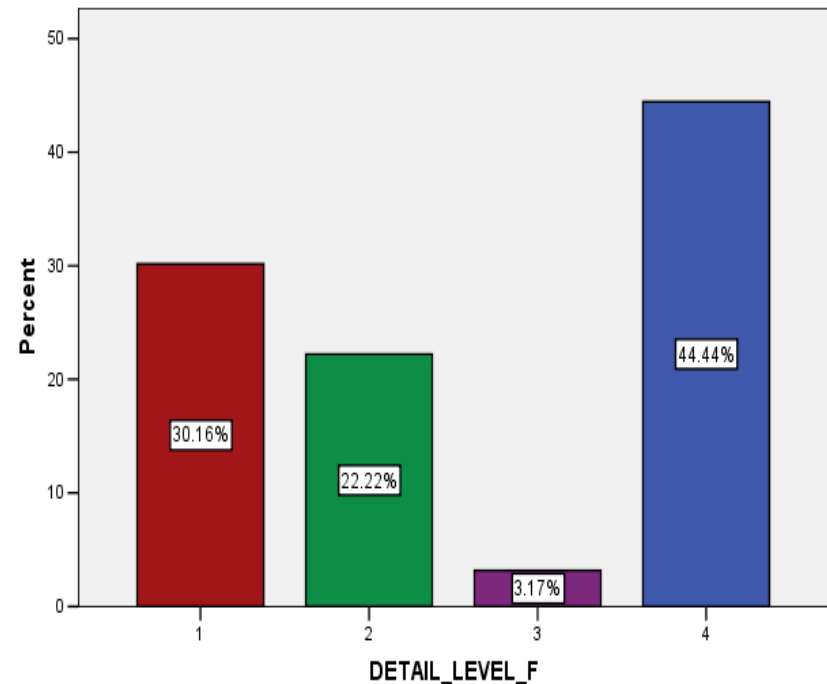
Second hypothesis (economical condition)

- Subjects that were employed drew in a higher percentage complex pictures with other elements present (car, house garden etc.)
- Subjects that were unemployed drew in a higher percentage pictures that emphasized on the characters.

DETAIL LEVEL FUTURE UNEMPLOYED

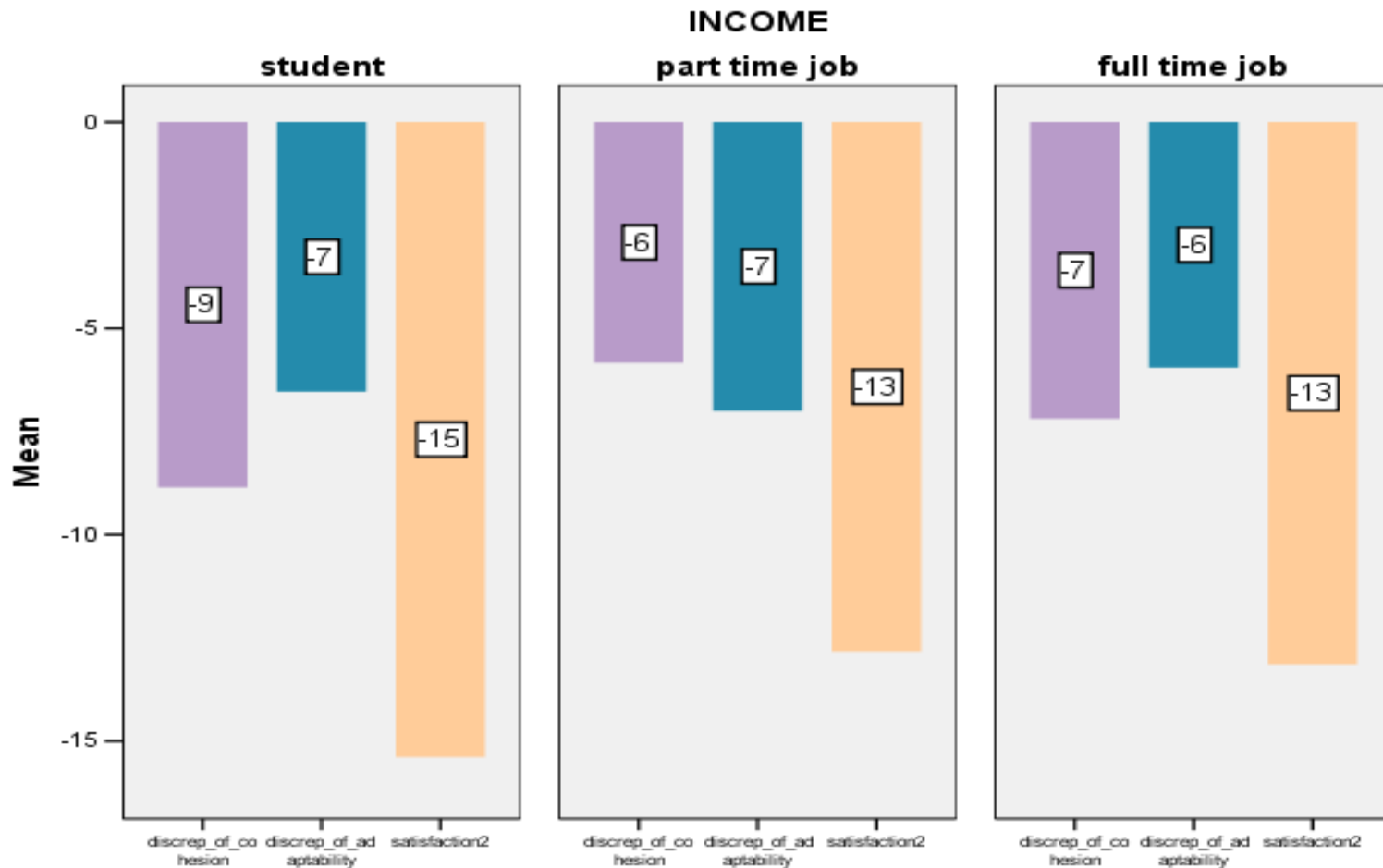


DETAIL LEVEL FUTURE EMPLOYED



General results

Economic condition and satisfaction



Conclusion

- Women seem to be more dissatisfied than men with their current families, and there are two possible explanations: traditional gender roles make women more critical to their families, or they have very high expectations from their ideal families (and because of that, higher discrepancies).
- Women report a higher need of cohesion and adaptability than men.
- In the drawings women focus more on characters while men on other aspects such as cars, houses, etc.
- Subjects that were not employed emphasized more in their drawings the characters, while unemployed subjects focused more on other elements.



Thank you for your attention!!!