The subject of my doctoral dissertation is “Fatherly attitudes in the rural environment.” There were numerous motives that led me to take this issue. The most important was the presence of thesis consolidated in the literature and social discourse: about the crisis of fatherhood, crisis of masculinity, perception of the “new father” as a modern phenomenon in the history of fatherhood, and above all the lack of research determining the attitude of a father in the contemporary rural environment. I defined the term ‘attitude’ in accordance with the principles of cognitive theory, as a tendency of fathers to behave in a specific way in relation to a child. According to this concept, three components build the attitude of a father: emotional (positive or negative feelings towards the child and the types of emotions that are associated with communicating these feelings, types of relationships concerning a father on one side and a child with a mother on the other), activities (engagement of the father in the care and the process of upbringing, inspiring a child to participate in education and culture, cooperation of the father in providing material conditions to the child and organizing leisure time) and cognitive (the father’s knowledge of upbringing, the ways of finding sources of this knowledge, educational concepts formulated by a father, the assessment of relationship with a child). As the area of research I decided to take Polish village into consideration because I think that for many reasons it is a very interesting place to explore the knowledge crucial for my dissertation. Starting from the eighties we have observed here the dynamic changes that determine the social image of these areas, people and culturality. This image is different than the one encoded in its intention. The research of qualitative nature was conducted in nineteen randomly selected villages of the Plock district in Mazovia Province. The collected material includes 37 in-depth interviews. According to the methodological assumptions of the doctoral dissertation, selection of the sample had intentional - random character. The following features were the purposeful selection criteria: fathers with a child in I-III grades of primary school from Plock district (rural area); age of fathers: the men could not have been more than 40 years old; place of residence: the fathers live in the countryside. Criteria for the random selection: rural community of Plock district; schools chosen by a draw (attended by the children of surveyed fathers). Analysing the collected research material, first and foremost I was looking for answers to many specific problems, designed adequately to the accepted indicators of the specific components of a father’s attitude. Analysis of all strands led me to extract the eight types of paternal attitudes: four appropriate (unconditional acceptance of a child, emotional calmness, paternal warmth, participation in the child's life); and four inappropriate (incomplete acceptance, emotional instability, passive fatherhood, neglecting child’s life). Appropriate attitudes are typical of fathers who are involved in the care and process of upbringing. As far as I am concerned, inappropriate attitudes should be a piece of information and signals for fathers that many of their beliefs about the care and upbringing and the specific actions related to this process should be changed for the welfare of a child. On the basis of extracted attitudes and analysis of research material I was able to create the typology of contemporary fatherhood models in the rural environment. Appropriate attitudes present a model of favorable fatherhood which is represented by wise, untired and devoted
father, whereas inappropriate attitudes illustrate the model of unconcerned fatherhood with the disrespectful and "great absent" image of a father.