

FAMILY AS A PROBLEM OF THE GENDER POLICY OF UKRAINE

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Annotations:

Власова Ольга, Масур Ганна. Сім'я як проблема гендерної політики України

Проаналізовано ставлення студентської молоді до актуальних проблем сім'ї загалом і студентської сім'ї зокрема. Наведено результати анкетування студентів денного відділення різних факультетів Дніпропетровського національного університету залізничного транспорту на тему «Сім'я майбутнього в контексті гендерної політики України». Відзначено, що прескриптивна функція стереотипів у нашому суспільстві все ще залишається дуже сильною, при цьому пріоритетний вплив на формування свідомості сучасної молоді належить стійким патріархальним стереотипам. Разом із тим, зауважено, що поряд зі сталістю основних гендерних стереотипів відбуваються зміни в гендерних відносинах, особливо в руслі гендерного паритету. Зазначена тенденція передусім пояснюється висвітленням цієї проблематики в науковій літературі та засобах масової інформації, тому у статті підкреслено необхідність подальшої гендерної освіти молоді.

Власова Ольга, Масур Анна. Семья как проблема гендерной политики Украины

Анализируется отношение студенческой молодежи к актуальным проблемам семьи в целом и студенческой семьи в частности. Приводятся результаты анкетирования студентов дневного отделения Днепропетровского национального университета железнодорожного транспорта по теме «Семья будущего в контексте гендерной политики Украины». Отмечается, что прескриптивная функция стереотипов все еще остается достаточно сильной, при этом приоритетное влияние на сознание современной молодежи оказывают стойкие патриархальные стереотипы. В то же время исследователи заявляют, что наряду с устойчивостью основных гендерных стереотипов происходят изменения в гендерных отношениях, особенно в русле гендерного паритета. Данная тенденция во многом объясняется освещением указанной проблематики в научной литературе и средствах массовой информации. Подчеркивается необходимость дальнейшего гендерного просвещения молодежи.

Vlasova Olga, Masur Ganna. Family as a problem of the gender policy of Ukraine

The article deals with the students' attitude to current problems of the family and the student's family in particular. It introduces the results of the questionnaire survey on the theme «Family of the future in the context of gender policy in Ukraine» which was held among the full-time students of Dnipropetrovsk National University of Railway Transport. It claims that nowadays the prescriptive function of stereotypes still remains very strong and the consciousness of today's young people is influenced by stable patriarchal stereotypes. However, the researches state that along with the constancy of the main gender stereotypes the gender relations are changing especially in the sphere of gender equality. This tendency can be primarily explained as this issue has much mass media coverage and research literature attention. Thus, the article stresses on the necessity of further gender education of young people.

Key words:

соціально-економічні трансформації, демографічна криза, гендерні стереотипи, сім'я, відповідальне батьківство, гендерна освіта.

социально-экономические трансформации, демографический кризис, гендерные стереотипы, семья, ответственное отцовство, гендерное просвещение

social and economic transformations, demographic crisis, gender stereotypes, family, responsible fatherhood, gender education

Transformation processes in the Ukrainian society, which actively began with "shock therapy" in 1992 and were aimed at a transition to a market economy led to the aggravation of the social situation in the country [2]. The latter, as the researchers note, caused an extremely negative integral consequence – a demographic crisis, which is characterized by the degradation of quantitative and qualitative indicators of the population. Academics and public officials are unanimous in recognizing the fact that the socio-economic transformation of the early 90s led to profound demographic violations of reproductive processes [1, p. 4].

Statistical data show that the population of Ukraine has been steadily declining: for the years of independence our population has decreased by 6,378,500 persons. The increase of poverty and uncertainty about the future are the main causes of mortality tradition of large families in Ukraine. The main type of family became the one-child family (72.3%), and the number of parents who confine themselves to the birth and upbringing only one child has been growing from year to year. Moreover, the number of marriages in Ukraine has decreased – for 10 years (from 1991 to 2011 inclusive) the number

of marriages decreased by 137 000. Data on the Dnipropetrovsk region show a similar trend: in 2012, were registered 6054 marriage less than in 2011, but the number of marriages with foreigners for the same period increased by 35 positions. One of the factors that determines the demographic crisis and indicates the transformation processes in the family and marital relations is the age of the people who enter into a formal marriage. Today, the most appropriate age for marriage is considered 28–32 years. Increasingly, today's young people want to get education, learn profession and make career before marriage, and delay childbearing until "better times" [3].

The danger of such processes, the researchers believe, lies in the fact that the demographic development has inertial nature, and the negative effects of 90-ies of the last century will be provided for a long time. Despite the fact that the statistics for 2011–2012 indicate an increase in the number of newborn children (in the first half of 2012, in Ukraine there were born 13 900 thousand children more than at the same period in 2011), a fundamental dynamics of the population growth does not change (in comparison with 2010 the population in 2011

was reduced by 144 900 persons). In addition, in Ukraine, as in other developed countries, increasingly dominates the "post-Soviet" model of the family, which is defined in modern sociology as a model of social liberalism. This primarily relates to changes in the status of woman, who tends to have a stable economic sovereignty. In modern conditions, a woman is not in a hurry with a choice of man, seeking primarily to get qualification and learn a profession in demand in the labor market [4].

Realizing that support of family and motherhood needs radical changes, in recent years the Ukrainian government has taken a number of important laws and regulations aimed at improving the socio-economic status of motherhood (the Law of Ukraine "On State assistance to families with children", the Law of Ukraine "On leave", The concept of the State target social program of the family support until 2016, and others). Taking into account the importance of the mentioned problems, one of the tasks of scientific work of the Gender Studies Center of Dnipropetrovsk National University of Railway Transport is the study of the students' attitude to the actual problems of the family as a whole and the student's family in particular.

The aim of this article is to analyze the full-time students from different departments of Dnipropetrovsk National University of Railway Transport survey results on "Family of the future in the context of the gender policy of Ukraine." In the survey 100 boys and 100 girls were involved.

The results of the survey confirm that the traditional "feminine" values defined by the society – family and children – still remain a priority for modern girls. Most of them (66%) plans to start a family in the near future, whereas the vast majority of boys (78%) tend to make a career. Representatives of the "strong" sex believe that a man must have a favorite work in accordance with their vocation, career, where he will be able to realize his potential. They argue that men who do not find themselves often have intolerable temper and suffer from depression and neurosis.

The researchers note that today the most significant feature of the changes in marriage and family relations is the pluralization of forms of family life, the diversity of family associations and marital relations [5]. Recently there has been quite ambiguous attitude of scientists and young people themselves to such form of family relationships as civil marriage. Is it good or bad, considering the instability of the marital relationship and the significant likelihood of divorce? The results of the survey confirmed that among the youth of today the most desirable form of organization of the marital relationship still remains officially registered marriage, which is preferable for 85% respondents (38% boys and 47% girls). But 11% boys and 4% girls were more inclined to civil marriage. This,

in our opinion, is a testament to the fact that the young man are less the girls ready for the official family relationships and responsible parenthood.

Taking into account the demographic crisis in Ukraine, one of the questions asked was a question of how many children young people are planning to have, and whether they are planning to have any at all. The responses showed that 67% respondents (21% boys and 46% girls) want to have more than one child, and 30% (26% boys and 4% girls respectively) are planning to have only one child. As we see, the plans of boys and girls with respect to the number of children are somewhat different: a significant percentage of girls tend to have more than one child, then as young men for the most part are not ready for parental responsibility. In the next section of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to name the three main traits of their future marital partner. Note that, in answering this question, the youth showed identical views. Both boys and girls often pointed to such character traits as loyalty, kindness, honesty. For example, young men see their wife faithful (39%), kind (33%), honest (24%) responsible (24%), intelligent (20%), beautiful (12%) and caring (10%). Girls see their man honest (36%), kind (32%), faithful (30%), understanding (24%) responsible (18%), with a sense of humor (10%), purposeful (8%) and loving (8%). It is interesting that no girl noticed that her future husband should be beautiful and smart, whereas for men, women's beauty and intelligence have a certain value.

Historically, each society has developed regulatory requirements and expectations of the "proper" male and female behavior, in other words, gender roles are formed. Traditionally, the wife provides the birth and upbringing of children, creating a home-like atmosphere and housekeeping. The man must provide financial support and protection of the family, making key decisions, implementation of family power. Today, however, we are increasingly witnessing the destruction of the traditional ideas about the roles of women and men, not only within the family but also in society as a whole. A growing number of modern women tend to self-realization and financial independence. In line with the marked we asked respondents, who, in their opinion, should do homework. The majority of survey participants – 57% (28% girls and 29% boys) recognizes that domestic responsibilities must perform the one who has more free time, while a minority – 37% respondents (20% girls and 17% boys) believe that it is the responsibility of the wife. It is obvious that the majority of young men do not choose the role of housewife for his future wife, even willing to take part of the homework.

We cannot say with certainty that today's young people committed to egalitarian family as a form of family partnership, which is characterized by full "interchanging" roles of man and woman,

the complete absence of definite fixation tightness of their duties [5], but note that, thanks changes in stereotyped thinking, boys and girls are ready for a new, nontraditional form of family relationships. For example, most of the girls (84%) tend to parity position of spouses, and choosing her future husband, first of all wants him to perform family responsibilities with his wife and be actively engaged in the education of children. While a much smaller portion of respondents (16%) first expects from her future husband's financial security, paying less attention to his care. Stereotyping provides that the head of family is the member who earns more. Note that 98% youth who participated in the survey, does not share this view.

People, who want to create their families, are seeking to satisfy the complex needs – in love, in children, in the experience of the common joys, in understanding, communication, etc. We asked young people about the relation to the unequal marriage characterized by a significant difference in age, different social positions and others. Majority of respondents (74%) expressed a neutral attitude to such marriages, 16% – positive, while 10% respondents treat such marriages negatively.

Let us recall once more the traditions, according to which the mother had to care of the baby, and the man was given the role of the family breadwinner. Today, according to the law "On leave" № 504/96 BP, to take leave to care for a child up to the age of three may not only a mother, but a father (or a grandmother, grandfather, other relatives or a guardian). Modern online publications give information that about 2% all maternity leave in Ukraine execute men. On this occasion, we asked how respondents relate to maternity leave for men. Answers were distributed as follows: 64% (40% girls and 24% boys) have opted for "why not, everything in life happens", 29% (8% girls and 21% boys) expressed negative attitude, and 7% (2% girls and 5% boys) gave a positive response.

The results of the survey confirmed that 92% boys aware of the concept of "responsible parenthood", the main features of which, along with the material support of the family, are a sense of responsibility for the child, involvement in the education and care for him, a physical presence and accessibility, participation in decision-solutions. In this case, 94% young men are willing to devote to the process of upbringing a child and care for him all his spare time, 2% – one hour a day, and 4% respondents said that they were not ready to pay attention to the child, believing that it is – a woman's business. However, 82% girls believe that a man is not worse than a woman in handling the baby, and are willing to entrust worrying about the kid to her future husband for certain time; 4% girls believe that manage to do it themselves as husband will better earn money.

Statistics show that one in five Ukrainian family with children (21.7%) is not complete. We asked respondents about their attitudes toward single-parent families, and received the following answers: the majority of respondents – 62% (36% girls and 26% boys) negatively related to single-parent families, 36% (14% girls and 22% boys) showed neutral attitude. There are cases where the father, without mother brings up his child as a matter of principle. The negative attitude to these families was demonstrated by 74% respondents (37% girls and 37% boys), 24% respondents take a neutral position.

Thus, this study demonstrated that the prescriptive function of stereotypes in our society is still very strong. Consciousness of today's youth is formed due to persistent patriarchal stereotypes which have priority, but for the most part negative impact on all spheres of human activity, in particular, on family relationships. In line with the main gender stereotypes the career is still priority for boys, while women dream of creating a family. Persistence of another gender stereotype, which formed the image of a woman – the mistress, "Berehynia" mother – manifested in the responses of the respondents regarding the number of their future children. If the girls want to have at least two children, the boys plan to restrict by the birth of only one child.

However, despite the constancy of principal stereotypes, it should be noted that over the past 50 years there have been changes in gender relations, which are related to the influence of gender studies and feminist philosophy, gender politics of democratic Western states, with the processes of democratization and humanization of society, as well as gender education of society. According to the study, the stereotypes have changed in line with gender parity. Most of today's young men are not afraid to go beyond the well-established and ready to take on non-traditional roles in the family, such as domestic work, give the child all the free time and even go on maternity leave. Young people today don't consider any longer the head of a family the one who earns more. Moreover, contrary to the popular stereotype that modern girls see their man mainly as the source of material well-being, it appears that a significant proportion of young women expects from the men performing family and parental responsibilities more than financial security.

Therefore, leaving for everybody right to choose the future gender role, we still recognize the relevance, importance and need for gender education for young people on the path to parity democracy in society in general and family relations in particular.

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