

YOUNG FAMILY: POPULARIZATION OF FAMILY VALUES

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Abstract: This paper looks into the specific situation of young family against the background of Russian civil society and social state development. The social policy in the Russian Federation is aimed to support young family, promote responsible parenthood, and protect motherhood and childhood. The paper is dealing with one of the urgent social problems facing the world community, which revolves around various fields of scientific knowledge, i.e. transformation of modern family forms. The authors consistently describe the current social problems encountered by young families, analyze the results of sociological studies of recent years, using the secondary analysis of data and providing the recent statistics, and present the results of their own theoretical, methodological and practical research.

Keywords: young family, self-actualization, young family, self-actualization, family's educational potential, responsible parenthood, social policy, popularization of family values, scheme of informational support for young people.

1 Introduction

The establishment of civil society in Russia, which is a strategic goal of changes occurring in the country's political and social systems, leads to the transformation of social institutions (Moscovici, 1997). One of such institutions is family, which is the key factor of socialization, personality formation and cultivation of the sense of nationhood (Akvezba et al., 2019a).

By 2016, there were about 6 million young families in Russia, which is a considerable portion of the country's population (over 20 million people). As the Concept of State Policy for Young Families states "these are young people and young families that are the leading force in the implementation of virtually all priority national projects in Russia" (The Concept of State Policy in Relation to Young Family, 2008).

Along with the large number of marriages, there is also a large number of divorces, according to the Federal State Statistics Service. The number divorces in 2016 reached 61.7% of registered marriages. According to the Federal State Statistics Service, 72% of marriages are made between young people under 35 years of age, so this category of citizens is most exposed to the risk of divorce (Operational Indicators for the Period from 1945 to 2020).

Young families have a large role to play in the society (Monitoring of Socio-Economic Potential of a Family N1, 2002). Young families, as one of the main social institutions, are the target of sociological research (Znaniecki, 1954). It is the young family that lays the foundation for the future society, but it has neither life experience nor, in most cases, sufficient financial resources (Rodionova et al., 2017). The major problems of young families are usually the same as the problems of socially vulnerable categories (lack of housing, employment problems, psychological, financial and economic difficulties, cheating and conflicts, etc.) (Lisovsky, 2016). According to the statistics, in 2018, the number of marriages in Russia was 1,019,800 and the number of divorces was 853,600; which translates into 7.1 marriages and 6.0 divorces per 1000 people (Akvezba et al., 2018). In the Tyumen region, the number of registered marriages in 2018 was 30,028, and the number of divorces was 24,226; making it 9.2 marriages and 7.4 divorces per 100 people (Tyumen in Numbers. Demographic Situation, 2019).

Social and community work with young families includes the normalization of family ties between spouses, between parents and children, and this is a task to be tackled not only by family and child support centers (Kozyrev, 2000). The effectiveness of efforts to strengthen responsible parenthood, help couples sustain healthy relationships and enduring marriages is improved through the interaction of social institutions with educational and medical organizations and civic movements (After a Wedding,

1995). Family planning centers play an important role in solving this social problem (Polivalina, 2001).

2 Literature Review

Innovative potential and urgent problems of youth have provoked strong interest of many researchers exploring certain aspects of the behavior of young couples in marriage (Kalamaldinov, 2017).

Contemporary researchers pay attention to such issues as the forging and evolvement of relationships in young families (Tajfel, 1978); motives for entering into marriage; criteria for choosing a marriage partner (Allport, 1964); readiness of young people for marriage, etc. The problems of the family are also highlighted in periodicals (Family in Russia, Social Security, Social Work, etc.) (Akvezba et al., 2020).

The households of many young families are now run based on three pre-cultures: psychological illiteracy - poor knowledge of female and male psychology, the basics of emotional relations in the family; sexual ignorance - poor knowledge of the laws of human sexuality; educational illiteracy - poor knowledge of the root differences between child psychology and adult psychology, the inability to raise children consistent with their psychological needs and in the spirit of the current way of life (Akvezba et al., 2019b).

The problems arising in young families lead to conflicts (Kozyrev, 2000). The problem of young family durability becomes more urgent than ever, especially in a situation when youngsters prefer uncommitted relationships and late marriages (Bogdanovich, 1990). The problems of family as one of the social institutions were also of interest to foreign authors in the aspect of social transformation (Wilding & George, 1975) and social mobility (Statham et al., 2008). The family stability, the birth of children in marriage and their nurturing by both spouses are of paramount importance and are the main guiding principles beneath the activities of various public organizations on family affairs (Sorokin, 1927). However, not only objective difficulties and non-readiness of young people for family life may lead to young family disintegration (Govako, 1988), high requirements for the partner's personality in marriage also pose a complex problem that young families may develop. Unpreparedness for family and marriage is adding to the frequent outbreak of conflicts in the family and financial dependence of young family on parents.

3 Materials and Methods

The author's major focus was on the need, first, to reveal the features characteristic of young family, identify its essential needs and major problems; second, to build a social profile (descriptive model) of a young family in the Russian Federation based on the generalized findings of theoretical and methodological studies undertaken by representatives of this scientific field and the conducted sociological survey; third, to study the accumulated practical experience and to develop possible ways to provide more effective aid to young families.

For monitoring the situation of young families in the Tyumen region, a sociological study was conducted. The research object: young families from Tyumen. The research goal: to determine the situation of young families and to reveal the scope of their needs and problems in the modern conditions.

Certain objectives need to be addressed in order to reach this goal:

- collect and analyze information on the economic, social, demographic, and household situation of a young family with the help of a questionnaire survey;
- find out the causes of instability of young families in Tyumen;
- explore the problems suffered by a modern young family;

- build a social profile of a young family;
- identify the ways to help young families overcome difficulties.

The sample population composition was as follows: in the study, young families aged from 18 to 30 years made up the general population. The sample population included 20 young families, i.e. 40 people: 20 males and 20 females. An anonymous questionnaire survey was conducted in April 2019.

In order to get an idea of the experience accrued in organizing activities aimed at cultivation and popularization of family values among young people, and of the forms, methods and tools of work, we have examined the practical experience of the Tyumen Region authorities in implementation of such initiatives.

The main methods of work were the comparative analysis of the available theoretical, methodological and scientific materials revealing the specific situation of the Russian young family; generalization of the experience accumulated by the Tyumen Region authorities in their efforts to promote responsible parenthood; and secondary data analysis.

4 Results and Discussion

Analysis of the scientific and methodological body of knowledge on the family problems has yielded the following results.

Young family as one of the vulnerable layers of the society experiences certain social, psychological, legal, economic, healthcare and financial problems. Thus, for example, as concerns financial problems: material wellbeing at the outset of family life does not guarantee happy marriage, however the married life of young people should rest on a rational basis. Financial problems exist in all young couples, regardless of their wealth. In the beginning, young family spends a lot of money to build a nest (Kozyrev, 2000). This trend continues today.

A survey among young families showed that impact of the income levels on creation of own family through either registered or unregistered marriage is less than the impact of the level of education. Low-income families account for 57.5%, while the share of the needy in the sample reached 70%, which, in turn, demonstrates the mindset, to a certain extent held by young people, to start their own family after reaching a certain level of financial security. The overwhelming majority of families comprising young workers and job seekers are low-income families, with over 40% of such families among students. The proportion of high-income families is almost five times higher among families of students than among families of young workers or job seekers (22.8% and 3.4-5.0% respectively).

Thus, only young people from high-income families may continue their studies. For most young people, creation of their own family entails a need to find their own source of income. Young people faced with the choice between family, work and study give priority to family and work, which obviously reduces their level of education. As a rule, children of wealthy parents can afford to start a family and continue their studies. This conclusion is verified with the analysis of financial security of young people in unregistered marriage, which revealed that the money factor is the main reason why official registration is pushed back. The institution of informal marriage is rather popular among students, and one in two marriages is unregistered.

The desire of young people to live separately from their parents is choked for most of them by the financial factor. The proportion of working and job-seeking young people living separately from their parents decreases as the level of welfare increases. Separately living young people account for 30% of the unemployed, while among employed their share is slightly over 20% (Akvezba et al., 2020). A relatively high proportion of high-income separately living youngsters is apparently linked to the ability of their parents to sustain adequate living standards for them.

A survey conducted at MSU showed that all young spouses without exceptions intend to have children. Only 3% of male and 2% of female students at Lomonosov Moscow State University choose to be childless. Therefore, whether or not to have children is out of the question for young spouses. The only question is 'When?' (Monitoring of socio-economic potential of a family N1, 2002).

In many families, there is a clash between the old and the new marriage norms. Family conflicts may arise for various reasons, and it should be kept in mind that conflicts are not always destructive; on the opposite, they may contribute to the family thriving.

Young people, before starting a family, have an idea of their future marriage, which may later cause the dissonance between expectations and reality and trigger a conflict.

Dominance in a family relationship may provoke the role conflict, as well as a problem of functional responsibilities distribution.

Birth of a child to a family brings new roles, which entails moral and physical strains. Family adaptation becomes a tremendously difficult task for spouses raised in a single parent family or without a family. They have a very vague idea of the role of a father who was absent from their former family, while the role of a mother who was a single parent seems too independent and self-sufficient (Govako, 1988).

Unfortunately, divorce in a young family is rather common. The causes of divorce may be as follows: abuse perpetrated by one spouse against the other (the problem of cruelty and domestic violence in the family; for women who have been subjected to domestic violence, crisis centers are created where they are provided all kinds of assistance); pathological stinginess; neglect of the family and associated responsibilities.

The families in which the spouses grew up may be the trend predictors: parental divorce is predicating the divorce of children raised in this family.

These are the main problems facing young family today and interfering with its core functions, they are multifaceted and require a great deal of attention not only from the Department of Family, Motherhood and Childhood, but also from agencies and institutions that do care about the future of Russia. Today, the Russian Federation has taken enhanced measures to support family, motherhood and childhood, which implementation provides a state guarantee of the family security and stability, and gives hope for solution of the socio-economic problems of young family.

In line with the second objective of our research, we would like to present the socio-psychological profile of a young family in Russia. Today it is as described further. The age of the young family is from 18 to 30 years old (35 according to the regulatory documents that guarantee social allowances and benefits); childless, either with one child or with two or more children, but socially disadvantaged (heavily relying on social allowances and benefits); life priorities, as a rule, are aimed at career advancement, but in most cases they are financially dependent on parents and have no housing of their own; another important feature of the young family is proneness to conflicts.

In line with the third objective, the monitoring results may serve to reveal the current specific situation of young families, particularly in Tyumen region. The attitude to a young family should be based on a reasonable combination of social support and benefits, which are necessary both for protection and for ensuring proper conditions for its working activities, involvement and self-expression. The state should help the young family, but not replace it, and provide an environment for its creative self-expression; therefore, it should take a more active role with regard to this social institution. There is also a need to develop educational programs to train and prepare young people for family life, to create clubs for raising their awareness of

reproductive health, parenting, etc. The authorities should be more seriously involved in the affairs of the young family and only on this condition, the social problems of young families may be gradually eliminated.

At present, work with the family implies diverse efforts. The main goals and objectives of work with families include: development and implementation of measures to strengthen young family as a reproductive social unit; adaptation of young family; improvement of material, moral and spiritual state of young family; creation and development of a system of socio-psychological support for young family; creation of favorable conditions young family to successfully combine social and household running functions; stimulation of business activities of young people; and organization of family leisure and recreation.

Social and healthcare institutions provide assistance to many categories of population, so they have no possibility to pay sufficient attention to young family. For such purposes, the initiative to establish young family centers and clubs has been rolled out.

Having analyzed the experience of Tyumen Region and other regions in this area, we may draw a conclusion that support for young people in the dimension of family relations is provided both by the state and administrative structures, as well as at the initiative of other organizations and institutions whose initial lines of activity have originally had a different direction. Since one of the widespread forms of work with young people are interest clubs for adolescents, young adults and families, it may be concluded that club activities spark interest in young people and are effective in implementation of the key state youth and family policies.

The club form of work has proven to be an effective means for solving current problems of its participants, and presently there are clubs catering for various interests. One of the common club types is the family club as a public association of one or another legal form that is usually created at the initiative of the community or established by agencies dealing with the youth affairs or other state and public organizations. The key government youth policies are often implemented through a network of clubs.

5 Conclusion

Young family holds a special place in our society. From the society development perspective, it bears the greatest value. The concept of young family is characterized by the following criteria: the count of marriage (it must be the first officially registered marriage), marriage duration (up to 3 years), spouses' age within a certain range (from 18 to 30). Young family in Russia is a family in the first three years after marriage (if there are children in the family, marriage duration is not limited), provided that one of the spouses has not reached the age of 30 (Akvazba et al., 2020).

By the young family composition, the distinction is made between well-functioning young families and social-risk families that include single-parent families, student families, and families with underage mothers where fathers serve their military duty.

Preparing young people for family life is just as important a problem as preparing them for professional life and helping them adapt to life in the society. Family values need to be cultivated from early age in the parent family and further at school and other educational institutions, youth organizations and in the work environment.

Family as a social institution holds enormous potential for child's socialization. The success of socialization process is hinged on the educational capacity of family that can be built and developed by various methods of work.

Society benefits from prosperous family capable of developing and implementing its own life strategy, thereby not only

ensuring its own survival, but also having a sizable impact on the future of the country.

Today, the society development sets out a new vision of the role played by purposeful preparation for family life in the formation of adolescents' personality, in solving professional, social, economic and personal problems they face, as such preparation for family life is a conduit that enables adaptive and educational functions between the society and a person. Support for young people in their family life is fully and broadly represented in the Russian Federation, and the Young Family program has been implemented in various regions for about 10 years (Akvazba et al., 2019b).

Regional experience indicates that creation of a scheme of informational support for young people based on the program of clubs for young families seems to be an appropriate and effective way to meet the social order from the state.

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