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FAMILY VALUES OF BELARUSSIAN AND TURKMEN STUDENTS

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The purpose of the article is to compare family values of Belarusian and Turkmen students. Transformation of sociocultural values, including family values is an inevitable consequence of serious economic and social changes taking place during the last decades in the world. Family values differ sharply around the world. Today people travel a lot, they often work and live far from their homes, and it is essential to understand their values.

Introduction. In recent years, many researchers speak about crisis of a modern family. They name many factors – a high divorce rate, small families (with one child), or childfree couples, decline of worth of family. It is noted that personal and professional self-realization, achievement of social success have become more significant values for young people. In addition the character of family values is changing. A psychotherapeutic function of family plays an important role among modern young families. Young people, living in the dynamic world, experience emotional overload and tension and it is important for them to have understanding, support and recreation in their families. It fosters closeness in the family, opportunities for learning, creating memories, improving social skills, and developing empathy.

Family values influence wellbeing of the matrimonial relations. They can help define behavior in various situations, help youth make good choices, and solidify the bond that a family has. According to a list of family values on this or that family stage some functions become prior - birth and upbringing children, an organization of everyday life, etc. The personality is inclined to pay more attention, energy, time to family values that are of main importance for him/her. Poor quality of realization of main family values brings disappointment in family life.

The structure of family values is influenced by national identity of spouses, religion, national, cultural customs and traditions[1].

Main part. In our survey, we studied family values of young people from Belarus and Turkmenia as we assumed that existing national differences would find reflection in character of family values.

The purpose of our research was to study peculiar properties of family values of different cultures (on the example of Belarus, Turkmenistan).

The issue of family values of the young is well discussed in the book by Lisovsky V.T. "Youth: love, marriage, family". The book presents some results of social research.

Many researchers stated that a family crisis was caused by a general social crisis (L.A. Verbitskaya, V.T. Lisovsky and V.T. Pulyaev). The family is traditionally viewed as the keeper and translator of the valuable bases of life to younger generations (moral and religious, esthetic ideals, traditional standards of behavior and communication).

The family for Belarusians has always been the center of all of their moral and economic activity, sense of existence. It was a supportive base not only of statehood, but also it represented a world order. Almost all ethical and esthetic values were developed in the family, they were acquired by a person gradually, with increase of their depth and seriousness [2]. Country family life had respect for old customs and traditions; the formal legislative matrimonial law did not play a significant role in life of peasants. Marriage for peasants was not only guarantee of welfare, independence and weight in the society, but a moral imperative. Only married people could receive their own land, they understood that to get more independent both male and female hands were necessary.

Identification and disclosure of family values allows drawing a conclusion about the high importance of traditions and ceremonies in Belarusian family upbringing. Orthodox focusing on the supreme values was the core idea in education of younger generations. Today in Belarusian family the tendency of a modernist system values is observed [3]. It is expressed, first, in increasing values of a personal choice, personal territory, comfort, respect and consent in a family. Many modern Belarusians choose partnership relation instead of marriage[4]. The following hierarchy of family values is characteristic of Belarusians: mutual understanding; emotional support and parental and educational function; business activity; household economy and everyday life; external appeal.

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Turkmen are highly moral people. They cultivate hospitality, honoring of seniors, modesty, nobility, truthfulness, honesty, courage, sincere generosity.

Turkmen consider a concept of honor highly. "My honor is honor of my family, my tribe, my people", - they used to repeat. The so-called spirit of relationship is strongly developed. Turkmen have always appreciated sincerity. "Tell the truth even if it is against you" – says a popular proverb. Responsibility and ability to be obliging are valued, thoughtlessness and indiscretion are condemned. The Turkmen society has always been negative to malicious gossip, considering that "the one who gossips with you, gossips also behind your back". Turkmen value friendship and love, maintain kind relations with neighbors. Traditions of Turkmenistan are very friendly [5].

We conducted comparative research into family values of Belarusian and Turkmen students. Two groups of students (30 Turkmen and 70 Belarusians) took part in the research. We used a questionnaire "Family values".

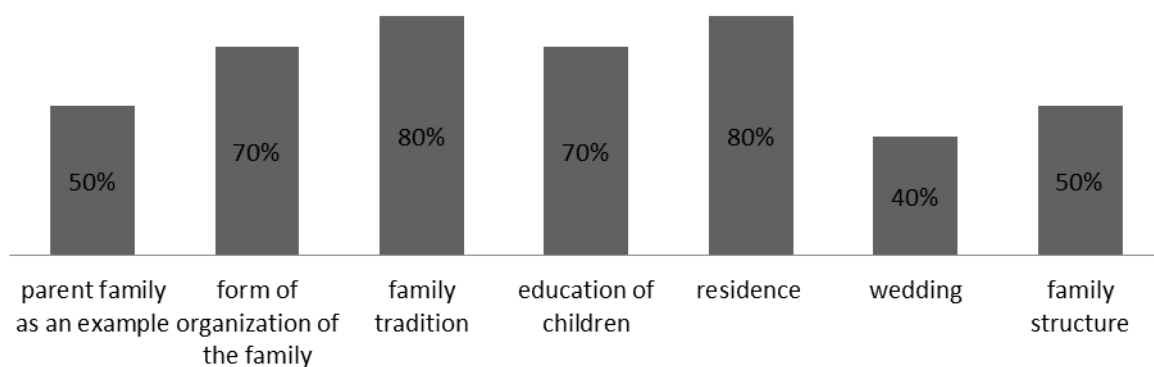


Fig. 1. Family values of Belarusian students

On analyzing the data, we found out that 88% of Belarusian students were going to get married in the future and only 1% of the young people was not going to get married. 85% of the students did not approve cohabitation. 90% of the students considered that the age of marriage did not matter for them, 10% noted that a suitable age for marriage was between 20 and 30. 95% of the students thought that the main motive for marriage was love, 4% considered the birth of children as the main motive.

For almost all the students a family was a warm and cozy place where they could always get support, help and love. Only half of the students perceived their parents family as an example for them. 85% of the students knew their parents family history. 60% of the students tended to follow a patriarchal model with a man as the head of the family, 40% wanted to have an egalitarian family.

90% of the respondents considered that for marrying and starting a family only one's desire was important, 5% noted the higher education of young people. 90% believed a man to be the main breadwinner, 10% of students were for equality.

The first rank among the family values was given to love by 50% of the students, then came an emotional comfort in family (10%), 20% of the students chose support, care and understanding, 15% - stability and 5% leisure. 95% of the students thought that both a husband and a wife were to be organizers of family leisure, 5% considered that this function belonged to a man. 99% of the students were sure that a family should spend family leisure-time together. 80% of the students noted that in their families there were no family traditions, 10% celebrated New Year, 5% celebrated birthdays, New Year, Christmas, 5% Easter, New Year and other holidays.

30% of the students discussed any issues in their families, 40% spoke about only important issues, 25% did not discuss anything, 5% discussed only the issues concerning trips.

30% of the students would like to have three to five children, 20% - three, 30% - two, 20% of the young people would prefer to have one child.

On analyzing the data, we found out that 70% of the students from Turkmenistan were going to get married, 29% were almost sure that they would get married some time. 90% of the students were negative to cohabitation. 90% of the Turkmen students thought that the proper age for marriage was between 20 and 30. 99% of the students considered that love was the best motive for marriage. Most of the students associated family with love, friendship, children, care, happy life.

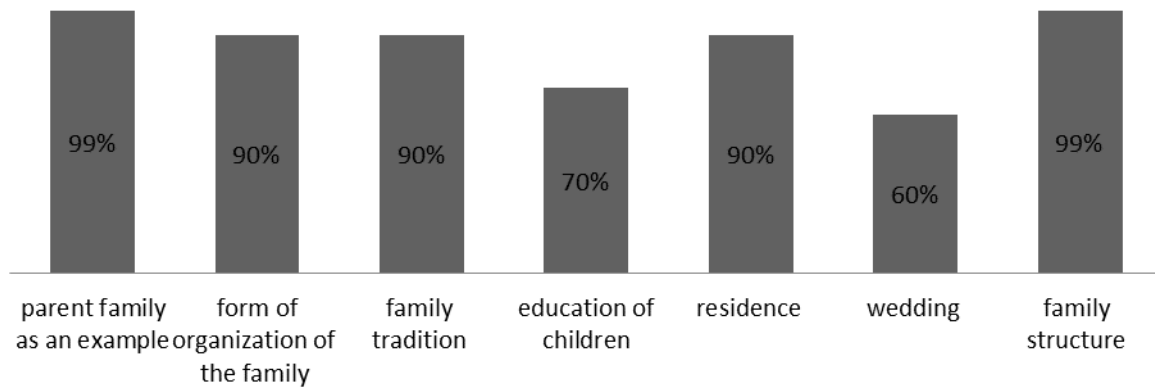


Fig. 2. Family values of Turkmen students

99% of the Turkmen students said that their parents' family life was an example for them. 90% of the students knew their family history. 50% supported equality in family, 40% considered that a man had to be the head in a family, 10% thought a woman had to play the leading role.

The students from Turkmenistan believed that for getting married and creating a family some factors were important. They were love, living together (40%), own housing (35%), one's desire, (20%), education (4%). 70% considered that a husband had to support a family financially, 30% believed that spouses were equally obliged to perform this function.

50% of the students put love on the first place among family values, 20% support, care and understanding, 15% stability, 10% procreation, 5% material values.

60% of the students considered that a husband had to organize family leisure, and 40% considered that a husband and a wife had to do it together. 70% of the students were sure that a family should spend family leisure-time together. 70% of the students noted that in their families they had some traditions of celebrating New Year, birthdays, wedding days and other holidays.

95% of the students said that family discussions were not accepted, 5% of the students remembered some discussions about children, mostly their education.

50% of the students would like to have three children in their future families, 20% - four, 25% - two, 5% of the young people did not plan having children.

Now we will pass directly to the comparative analysis. The first similarity of the Belarusian and Turkmen students consists in the fact that most of them are going to married. Almost identical number of students is negative to cohabitation. The Belarusian students consider that people can get married any time, the age does not matter, while the students from Turkmenistan emphasize that age is important, it is necessary to get married when you are from 20 to 30. It explains the fact that one of the main conditions of marrying for them is own housing.

It is possible to conclude that the Turkmen students have a more careful approach to marriage than the students from Belarus. The concept of "family" differs. For the students from Belarus family is love, friendship. Other associations are common. The students from Turkmenistan more brightly and fully describe this concept. They say: "a family is care and respect", "it is our life, children". Only half of the Belarusian students think their parents' family is an example for them, while for the students from Turkmenistan family life of their parents is an example (99%).

Belarusian and Turkmen students have some similar features: they know their family background and they think that sufficient conditions for getting married are love and desire to live together. As for a family type, we get a very interesting result: most of the Belarusian students support the predominating role of a man, and the Turkmen students value equality in family. All the students think that the role of breadwinner is male. Both groups of the students consider love as the most important among family values.

3. CONCLUSION

Analyzing the data, it is possible to draw a conclusion that Turkmen family culture differs from Belarusian culture. Traditions of a Turkmen family seem to be stronger.

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The research allowed revealing and comparing family values of two cultures, Belarusian and Turkmen.

There is no such thing as a “typical” family any longer, because family cultures adapt and change. Family culture is not just about the things we can see. It is not just about the national dish, the clothes people wear, the gods they worship, or even the places they live. Family culture is for the most part invisible; but is very important to understand people living nearby.

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