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**ROLE OF A YOUNG FAMILY IN SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF  
RUSSIAN SOCIETY**

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**Abstract**

The negative consequences of the global crisis led to the de-structuring of the social institutions of society, and above all, the social sphere of life of various communities and groups. The discrepancy of social interests and needs of social subjects in modern society makes the study of the phenomenon of a young family as a primary social institution ever more relevant. In modern Russian society, the family undergoes a transformation, the essence of which is the transition of the family as a social group based on marriage and love to marriage partnership. In the absence of the necessary social support of the state, society, the young family initially loses stability, which determines the originality of its status. The young family is a special social formation – a social group characterized by special social qualities and properties, and above all – the young age of the spouses and a short period of interaction that determine specific interests and needs. The problem of a well-known opposition to the family and society, the family and its individual member, takes on global importance. The paper considers the status of a young family in the system of social ties – social structure of the society. Studying the factors necessary for the formation and strengthening of the status of a young family, attention is drawn to the fact that the institution of a young family needs to be studied not only from the standpoint of state interests, but also as a social value.

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## 1. Introduction

The post-Soviet period was characterized by a decrease in marriages, an increase in the number of unregistered marriages, incomplete families, and an increase in the number of illegitimate children. Large families cause disapproval among young people, especially in the urban environment. Young families are among the poor families and the situation becomes ever worse with the appearance of a child and, especially, two or three.

The analysis of the current state and social status of the modern young family is based on a wide range of theoretical and empirical sources reflecting various aspects of the marital and family sphere as such.

The abundance of scientific literature covering the concept of a young family is made up of the classical theories of foreign and domestic scientists – Durkheim (1994), Engels (1985), Parsons (2000). Modern family concepts and theories have expanded sociological knowledge: A.G. Kharchev, M.S. Matskovsky, A.I. Antonov, V.M. Medkov, I.S. Golod, V.V. Elizarov, G.A. Vishnevsky, L.I. Savinov, L.V. Kartseva, A.I. Kuzmin, A.R. Mikheeva and other Russian researchers (Durkheim, 1994; Engels, 1985; Kharchev, 2013; Kovalevsky, 1993; Sorokin, 1993; Weber, 1990).

Unfortunately, a young family as the most important institution of social structure remains an unstudied object. The problem is that this social institution is not identified as a holistic individual social community, is not considered as an autonomous social object in the social structure of the society. Researchers traditionally appeal to the concept of a “young family” if they need to indicate the age of the family, or highlight its typology.

The object of study of a researcher is the chain of “individual-society” relations. Studying the interaction of a young family and the society, researchers adhere to the traditional position, the essence of which is that a young family is an object of social influence. Its status is considered as result of social interaction of various social institutes – economics, education, upbringing, mass media, culture, etc.

It is noteworthy that a young family is not only an object, but also a subject of social transformations, which plays an innovative role in the modern society. From the point of view of state interests, the vital functions of the family are the demographic, upbringing and socialization of children, as well as the reproduction of labor resources. From the standpoint of family interests and family values, the most important tenets of creation and preservation of the family include the birth and upbringing of children, the transfer of material and spiritual values. The family is also interested in improving well-being, health and professional and social status of its members.

## 2. Problem Statement

Due to the worsening demographic situation in the country, the problem of studying a young family is quite urgent, given the role of youth in replacing outgoing generations and reproducing the socio-demographic structure of the society. The family is a complex social structure: the concept of a family as a primary social community in a wide social perspective is correlated in connection with other social institutions and social processes. The understanding of the family as a small social group focuses on the patterns of functioning and development of a family as autonomous integrity. All this determines

the originality of the social role of a young family in the society, its special place in the system of social ties and relationships.

A young family is a separate type of family, different from others, primarily with regard to financial, material and age specifics. The position of a young family in the society needs to be studied by sociologists due to difficulties and problems of such a family, it is necessary to find a solution to these problems.

### 3. Research Questions

A young family needs to be studied as a value, since the family itself, being the fundamental social institution of the society, holds one of the main places in the hierarchy of value orientations along with the values of health, love, and life. It is a young family living separately from their parents that should become the most important object of study within the social theory. First of all, there is a need to study the recent negative trends in marital relations among young people. The deterioration of moral, social and economic status of young people in general, especially family youth, is mainly caused by the political and economic situation in the country.

Focus on the priority of universal human values, creation of a social state of the rule of law on democratic foundations, as established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, determine the correlation of the state family policy with the provisions of international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial and Feminist Discrimination, Convention on the Rights of a Child, Vienna Declaration and Program of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on the Family, and documents of the International Labor Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund and other international organizations.

The role of the economic factor of a young family is revealed by Engels (1985) in the work *The origin of family, private property and labor*, where he shows the relationship between the development of labor, on the one hand, and the family – on the other, reveals the nature of changes in the status of the family as a result of socio-economic transformations. This approach is justified by the conclusion of a famous modern sociologist Zaslavskaya (2004) about the contradictory and simultaneously progressive nature of these changes, since the inclusion of a young family in transforming the institutional structure of the society is primarily a socio-cultural process, the external expression of which is a qualitative change in everyday mass practices.

Social management of formation and life of young families is carried out within the framework of two areas of state policy – family and youth. At the same time, both these areas of social policy do not pay sufficient attention to the problems of a young family. Therefore, in addition to the traditional economic means of stimulating family lifestyles, it is important to design and implement the planning and functioning of the young family.

This type of family, as a collective social institution, has a complex object-subject nature, consuming the help of state, public and other social services, while at the same time engaging in amateur performance to ensure its own survival, maintain its functional tasks and structural ties. In some cases,

which are not yet dominant, the family's capacity is sufficient to move from the beneficiary category to a financially independent self-sustaining entity using domestic resources to improve its economic situation. This is a promising development line, which is explained not only by the budgetary difficulties of the state and the need to abandon support for the least distressed, in order to concentrate funds in favor of targeted support for the most distressed. The position of an independent person standing on feet and counting on his own socio-psychological abilities is more attractive than the position of a dependent, even provided with a solid benefit. The importance of social stimulation of domestic family reserves – economic, demographic, educational, etc. is increasing.

#### **4. Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to consider the phenomenon of the status of a young family as the most important subject of the social structure of the society. The topic is particularly important for sociologists since the regulation of the dynamics of the population, the process of its reproduction is a problem not only of sociology, but also of all social sciences in general.

#### **5. Research Methods**

In previous publications, we drew attention to the need to take into account the peculiarities of social interests and the needs of young people as the most important social community, which in the future should contribute to the real readiness of young people to create a stable family (Shamileva, 2017). The scientific literature uses the concept of the “readiness for family life”, which includes socio-moral, motivational, psychological and pedagogical readiness. Social and moral readiness for family life implies civic maturity (age, secondary education, profession, level of moral consciousness), economic independence, and health. Sociological studies show that early marriage is an important factor in the relationship between spouses. It is possible to build a family at the age of 18, but the most socially favorable age for marriage is 20–22 years for girls and 23–28 for boys (this takes into account the fact that the male body reaches full maturity later than the female).

It is noteworthy that in the Chechen Republic the marriage of young people at an early age, especially those of the representatives of the fair sex, having jumped out of a cozy family nest early, stumble upon the real problems of adulthood also affects the statistics of divorces. The mentality of the Chechen family requires overstated requirements for moral consciousness.

A developed moral consciousness is manifested in the understanding of the social significance of the family, in a serious attitude to marriage, in a thoughtful choice of a mate, in a sense of responsibility for the family, in deep respect to a future husband (wife), to the representatives of the older generation, to other family members, in sensitivity, as well as in communication with them.

When starting a family young people naturally think about material and housing problems. According to numerous studies, the factor of material and housing security does not directly affect the stability of a family. However, poor material living conditions often exacerbate conflict situations arising from other reasons.

In general, the desire for separation with parents is characteristic of modern youth, although the dependence of young people on parents is still great. For example, according to the same studies, about 80 % of all married people expect to receive material assistance from parents, which indicates the economic and social independence of young people.

Young people who intend to build a family without a solid material foundation usually have to listen to many quite fair warnings.

## **6. Findings**

According to the results of an annual sociological online survey conducted by a sociological group of employees of the Grozny State Petroleum Technical University named after M.D. Millionshchikov and the Complex Research Institute named after Kh.I. Ibragimov of the Russian Academy of Sciences “Social Justice in the Perception of Youth in the Chechen Republic” (2020), 21 % of respondents are ready to hypothetically marry in conditions of low and even lack of material security (Internet results). To the question “How do you feel about the marriage of young people with low material security?” 16.3 % of them believe that the newlyweds themselves should create material conditions for the family. (Perception of social justice by Chechen youth).

Moreover, 44 % of newlyweds are going to live together with their parents (and 37 % of young people had fuzzy ideas about the parents’ opinion about their marriage) (Attitude to Marriage and Divorce). Other newlyweds intend to live in a dormitory, in a private apartment, in a separate apartment, in a room of a communal apartment.

When studying successful and unsuccessful marriages (successful ones include those where both spouses are satisfied with their relationship and consider their marriage durable), it turned out that in the group of successful families only 43 % of women married before the age of 21, in unsuccessful ones – 69 % (Russians identified the optimal age for marriage).

## **7. Conclusion**

The state support of young families representing a set of the economic, social and legal measures taken by public authorities of the Chechen Republic stimulate creation and preservation of young families, protection of their rights and improvement of a demographic situation in the Chechen Republic.

Thus, a stable, prosperous family can only function with a certain preparation of young people for family life together. Social problems in a young family cannot be solved without a set of practical measures and social services for young people. Social work among young people has a great influence on the formation of young families. It is considered as the most favorable socio-economic conditions for the development of each young person, contributing to the social development of an individual, his acquisition of all types of freedoms and full participation of individuals in the life of the society. To regulate the status of institutionalization of the young family, it is necessary to implement targeted, effective innovations.

Summing up these problematic aspects it is possible to conclude that in a situation of deep polarization of the living standards of various social groups and individuals, the institutionalization of a

young family requires a whole set of favorable conditions for its development and solution of its vital problems.

Qualitative changes in the status of this subject as the most important social institution may be objectively real with a new approach, in particular to the value-normative system of society, as well as, in general, state policy that meets the social needs and interests of a young family.

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