

## Peculiarities of Matrimony in Ural Monoprofile Towns

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**Abstract:** In 2010, the author carried out a social study aimed at investigating the families of the Ural monotowns. The article examines the place of marital and family and blood relationships in the hierarchy of life values of monotown residents. The paper provides estimates given by respondents to their marital relationship, being a priority among all types of family relationships. The work studies the conditions and factors that affect preservation and specificity of the marriage relationship between the monotown residents, including the traditional patriarchal values of Ural mining environment that are of no small importance. It is shown how the content of the respective roles changes, exacerbating the atmosphere in the family, but at the same time promoting the inherent values of the spouses. The authors consider the reasons of Ural residents' dissatisfaction with family life, based on unrealized egalitarian settings of spouses, contributing into the growing disappointment in their own marriage. Results of the study suggest that the feature of Ural family in monotowns is gradual assertion of marital values, initiated by the woman, while maintaining the values of patriarchy, initiated, usually by a man.

**Key words:** Family • Matrimony • Marital satisfaction • Autonomy

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### INTRODUCTION

Family and blood relationships are the leading value in the hierarchy of social values of contemporary Russians. This fact is attributed to the category of a general trend. As the researchers note, "among adult respondents 50.6% and among the young ones 50.4% agree that family life is preferable in all respects" [1]. A modern human perceives the family as a way of life and self-realization and a married family complies with this setting to the utmost.

We define a marital family as postmodern; its main characteristics are self-realization, intimacy, autonomy, personal interaction between men and women. In our country, a marital family appeared recently, but according to the VCIOM, the majority of the surveyed Russians stated that the ideal family is a married family, since all issues there are resolved independently, without the interference of other people (65%) [2].

This work is an attempt to study the peculiarities of marital relationship in the families of modern Ural monotowns that is not a simple task, because "we know too much about the family to explore it objectively" [3].

**The Main Part:** Interest in the case was not accidental, as it is the family that serves as a basis and an important component of the cultural space of the Ural region, which has a huge national and strategic importance for the development of the Russian Federation. In the Sverdlovsk region, there are 18 monoprofile towns and 12 of them have federal status. Specificity of a monotown is the "abnormally high dependence of socio-economic situation on the work of one or two enterprises" [4]. Core production enterprises not only provide employment, but create the material and real potential for the operation of the service sector. City-forming enterprises have been determining specific features of monoprofile city families and the family, in turn, brought up people based on the values of industrial and factory culture, which has become part of the family culture. The family provides professional socialization of the younger generation and serves as one of the main resources for a highly skilled work force, so necessary for the successful development of the Ural region.

The study, conducted by the author in 2010 in Serov, Sverdlovsk Region, was devoted to main characteristics of the families in Ural monoprofile towns. The object of

investigation was selected to be a worker with or without children, the workers' family should have included two actual recipients of income working for the local industry. The sample population was 600 people. The survey methodology was a questionnaire.

The results showed that the leading life value of the residents of monopole towns, employees of local industry, is the family: in the first place men placed trust and well-being of the marital relationship, the women - marriage and children. This does not contradict the view of Russian scientists that the basic values of both provincial youth and older people are family, health, friendship, safety, love and justice" [5]. In our study, more than 80% put mutual understanding, trust and reliability in the marital relationship in the first place, which confirms the key value of the marital relationship in representations of factory workers. Our results agree with the nationwide picture. The Internet voting held at the site, "What is most important for a perfect marriage," the respondents in general mentioned mutual understanding, cooperation, willingness to solve the problems in the relationship and mutually pleasant intimacy. The key concept appeared to be reciprocity and cooperation in all areas of family life. [6].

As the results of the survey show, the respondents had a realistic view of their conjugal relations: only a third of spouses' called their feelings for a partner love. Such an assessment is especially peculiar to the respondents aged 20 to 25 years, as indicated by 80% of respondents. In this age, love is the leading characteristic of conjugal orientations at sufficiently rare assessment of relation to the partner as a habit, which was mentioned only by 6.7% of men and 8.1% of women. With age, there is a strengthening of critical assessments: only 36.7% of men and 29.5% of women aged 40 to 45 years called their relationship to a partner love.

For half of the respondents aged 40 years and more the attitude to a spouse is a habit, as 46.7% of men and 54.1% of women reported. 8.1% of women are indifferent to their husbands, which is 1.7 times higher than the figure for men. Such degeneration of relations mostly for women may be explained by the following reasons: the equal participation in the budget forming, the burden of household work, men's resistance, when trying to establish relations of equality in the home and business affairs, little help in the education of children and a low level of sexual culture do not contribute to the preservation of love for a spouse. M. Kimmela forecasts

that in the near future in Russia, the expansion of women into the labor market should be followed by men's return in the family [7] that, in our opinion, is not a forecast for the near future of Ural monotown inhabitants. The extremely difficult is the harmonious combination of work and family roles for the monocity residents working in the steel industry. The specificity of the industry is such that even the introduction of new technologies does not exclude the remaining physical load and harmful effects on the worker's body.

The survey showed that the number of women, who have negative emotions towards their spouses, is almost twice more than men: 1.2% vs. 0.5%. 7.3% of women and 11.3% of men did not respond to this question, which is a kind of a negative assessment of the marital relationship.

The results of our study confirm the fact that the sexual harmony is not the main component for the residents of company towns: only a third of the respondents define modern sexual harmony as a prerequisite to successful marriage. The following is noteworthy: the value of this component, not being a primary condition for marital happiness, is far more important to respondents than loyalty to one another.

For women, residents of company towns, the equal distribution of housework between husband and wife is more important than the harmonious sexual relationships, as 38.9% of the respondents reported. This is the feature of marital relations in Ural company towns: economic equality of the majority of spouses in particular active employment and working activities of women, along with asymmetric distribution of domestic tasks in the background of low culture of intimate relationship does not allow spouses to position sexual harmony as a dominant of marriage. Thus, a family of plant workers can not be called marriage in full, although it contains elements of egalitarianism.

As it was stated above, the attitude of half of the respondents aged 40 years and above to the spouse is a habit. How can we explain the phenomenon of family preservation at skepticism about the spouses to each other? We believe that the cause of this phenomenon must be sought in the objective life situation of the family. Development and change of identity of the spouses and their relationship, kids, common property, the low income of a spouse, making him dependent on the other, fear of psychological injury to children in case of divorce, the lack of separate housing or money for it and so on - all

these circumstances are far from a complete list of reasons for the continuing of the family, when spouses grow cold to each other.

More negative assessments of spouses by women are explained by the fact that in monotown, in the family of the local industry employees, the spouses, especially women, have very little chance to find a new partner. Fear of remaining alone with the kids (which does not fit into the patriarchal family culture of the mining monotown) forces a woman to live with her husband, even in the absence of the sympathies. This feature is a specific feature characterizing the marital relationship of the respondents.

The data obtained from the survey indicate low satisfaction of respondents with the marriage: 79.6% rated it as "good" and "satisfactory", 14.1% as a failure and 6.3% of respondents could not answer the question. Marital satisfaction of factory workers was lower than on average in Russia, which can be attributed to the specific characteristics of matrimony in monocities. According to the data obtained in 2008, the Academic Institute of Social Studies in the RSSU within the nationwide study "Change of life in post-Soviet space," 92.7% of respondents call their marital relations "good" and "satisfactory" and only 7.4% of the respondents give poor evaluation [8].

Attention is drawn to the existence of relationships between gender, age, education level of the respondents and their assessment of their own marriage. Thus, the assessment of the respondents with higher education is virtually the same regardless of gender: men and women are almost unanimous in assessing the state of their marriage. The largest number of marriage evaluations as successful were given by the respondents aged 20 to 25 years, regardless of gender and education. From 30 - 35 years the percentage of respondents estimating their marriage as successful decreases.

Another pattern that we identified in the survey was the increase of the age of respondents evaluating their marriage as satisfactory. This has an explanation: a resident of a monotown, acting within his developed stereotypes of mono-behavior based on the current mono-mentality, with age (the highest evaluations of marriage as satisfactory are given by the respondents, ranging from 60 years old), recognizes the fact of the family, that agrees with specific mono-standards, as success in life. Individual is satisfied with his family life, if it coincides with the standard in a given medium (multiprofile town).

The study also found that as the age of the respondents, regardless of the gender, grows, the number of evaluations of marriage as a failure decreases, which we explain as a capacity for objective assessment of the marriage by elderly respondents. At maturity spouses become more tolerant of each other, they realize the impossibility of fundamental change of anything that promotes marriage as a satisfactory evaluation.

A specific group of respondents rated their marriage as a failure. This rating is based on dissatisfaction with the marital relationship, property, housing and frustration in children. In addition, the dissatisfaction with marriage is the result of a powerful press of destructive processes in the 90ies, which provoked in Russians the sustained growth of dissatisfaction with various aspects of life, including family.

Note that the index of marital satisfaction for men is 10 - 12% larger than for women, who are more categorical in their assessments. Women experience more discomfort in the family, which complies with the situation nationwide.

The results of the survey show that a specific feature of marriage of monocity residents is a slightly higher percentage of spouses, dissatisfied with their marriage. The causes of this phenomenon, in our opinion, are not so much financial problems faced by the family, as the preservation of elements of the mining culture of patriarchy in the Ural family culture. Forced to close contact with relatives - cousins, increased dependence (compared to the metropolis) on public opinion and the transparency of private lives, ultimately, contribute to the lowering of assessments of their marriage. Note also that the life of the monocity inhabitants is determined by such factors as limitedness in all kinds of choices. Unrealized egalitarian settings of an individual are finally supplanted by family interests, which promotes the growth of disappointment in their marriage, so respondents can not call it a success

Satisfaction with the marital relationship also depends on the nature of the interaction of spouses, on the knowledge of the individual needs and interests of each other beyond the marriage, that is, autonomy. In the study, we attempted to assess the autonomy in the family. To do this, we have chosen the indicator of encouraging the individual needs of one spouse by another one, i.e. encourage individual expression.

According to the study, 32.8% of men and 34.7% of women indicate the presence of autonomy in their families, 34% of men and 39.1% of women indicate a partial autonomy in their families and 33.2% of men and 26.2 % of women admitted the virtual absence of autonomy. The emerging trend in autonomy dynamics can be described as follows: two-thirds of the Ural monocity claim to have full or partial autonomy in the family, that characterizes the family as a family of the marital type, though the desire of each spouse to self-realization outside the family is growing faster than the ability of partners to reconcile to the terms of this growth.

### CONCLUSION

All of the above is the basis for the conclusion: Ural family of monotown inhabitants is a family in transition, it can not be called a marital family to the full, as it contains elements of egalitarianism, to which women are more strongly attracted (which is consistent with the world trends [9]), against the persistence of patriarchal lifestyle features, based on the traditions of the mining environment [10].

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