

GENDER INEQUALITY: SPOUSES STATUSES AND ROLE IN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN TRANSCARPATHIAN REGION



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Abstract. Features of modern political, economic and social development of Ukraine, a deep crisis that covered all spheres of society had a negative impact on the functioning of the family institution. Family-marital relations are characterized by a number of disturbing tendencies, in the priority of which is the increase in the number of divorces and accordingly single-parent families, the birth rate does not provide a simple reproduction of the population and continues to decrease. At the same time, it is with the family in society that the hopes of humanization of the social relations, the moral renewal of the personality, the formation of which begins in the family. This determines the theoretical and practical relevance of socio-philosophical, psychological and pedagogical research of the problem in development of modern family institution.

At the present stage family undergoes radical changes in its functions and forms of family life. Increasingly widespread is the incomplete and extramarital family, the age of marriage increases, fertility rates decrease, the transfer of basic functions of the family to social institutions is carried out, the number of conflicts between members of the family increases due to different understanding of family values and different perceptions of the role distribution. All this leads to the need of studying these issues in order to prevent conflict situations in marital and family relationships and to ease the transition to new, adapted to modern conditions forms of family life.

One of the issues that arise during the research of the modern family as a social institution is the issue of gender inequality that may form during the formation of the status-role position of the young family.

Keywords: *gender inequality, social status, family status, family relations, young families, spouse role in marriage.*

Introduction

The question of equality between man and woman is increasingly being raised. The thoughts of different people are sometimes diametrically opposed: from the fact that there must be absolute equality, to the point that such equality could not possibly exist [1; c.75-83].

Throughout the history of mankind, we are witnessing the repeated changes in social systems, the matriarchy was replaced by the patriarchy. But quite often in history we can find references to the phenomenon characteristics of which has almost any society- the inhibition and discrimination of woman. In today's gender studies a wide range of issues is being observed about men and woman in society, family and their professional activities. In sociology the concept of gender behavior is constantly being observed but nevertheless the difference between man and woman has a lot to explore. The gender stereotypes, as well as other kinds of social stereotypes is an inalienable attribute to everyday thinking, self-awareness and interaction of individuals in social space. Namely, based on gender stereotypes gender-role behavior is formed.

The study of marital and gender issues, which explores the formation, development and functioning of the family within sociology branch has long existed. In particular, the mentioned problem was studied by number of scientists. The change in life activities of the family was studied

by A.I. Antonov, A.H. Vyshnevetsky, T.A. Gurko, V.V. Solidnikov, the functioning analysis of the family is carried out in the words of N.H. Aristova, M. U. Arutunyan, S.I. Golod and others. The first attempt to create a model of gender relations in the family was created in the works of I.U. Borisov, Z.O. Yankovoi and continued by T.O. Gurko, N.M. Rimashevskoi, I.M. Tartakovsky Z.O. Yankovoi and other.

The aim is to study gender inequality through the status-role positions of a young couple in modern society.

In modern Ukrainian society, deep transformations effected all branches of public life. In particular, social changes have affected the life of modern Ukrainian family, which is a complex socio-cultural phenomenon. It focuses on virtually all aspects of society's life and goes to all levels of social practice- from individual to the socio-historical, from material to spiritual. The family acts as an important bearer of culture and its components, values, axiological orientation, traditions, social norms, rules of conduct etc. Therefore, in the socio-philosophical aspects, a modern family cannot be regarded outside the social space of Ukrainian society.

Today it is obvious that the family problems go beyond its narrow concept. that is why at the current stage of development of Ukraine there is a need for awareness and rethinking of changes in the socio- economic, political, demographic, national and spiritual development of people's lives in order to find ways to improve the condition of today's modern family. This means that the problem is relevant and needs to be addressed at the state level. This is possible due to a scientific analysis of the situation, the life conditions of specific categories of families, comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the basic functions of the family (economic, reproductive, educational, axiological, communicative), the socio-cultural and socio-psychological problems of Ukrainian families, structural and functional features of modern society family [4; c.83].

The transformational processes that are taking place in our society have affected the family and reflected, first of all, on its main functions and structural components. Family in society plays an extremely important role, its existence is prerequisite for the functioning of society through physical and socio-cultural substitution over generations. However, the realization of the basic functions of the family is not a consequence of biological regulators, but the result of the actions of social processes and social system in total. Like other social

institutions, the family develops under the influence of the whole set of socio-economic relations and cannot exist independently from society.

Today the specificity of the transitional state of Ukrainian society involves the recourse to gender-based research. therefore, modern knowledge in the field of socio-psychological research of the family should more and more address the gender-role aspects of family behavior of the person, analyze the formation of family-role identity and gender role identity, to study the mechanism of socialization and stereotyping, as well as to explore the features of spouse's modern gender perception of each other. Regarding this, the interdisciplinarity of the gender approach should be noted and the use of research obtained as a result of its practical application can play a positive role in solving both the global and local crisis phenomena of the modern family and also help to overcome the disparity of many researches, their one-sidedness in the study of certain phenomena [5; c.75].

Studying family roles, including marital roles is important for understanding the role of family for both society and the individuals as well as for predicting family stability. This is especially important at the first stage of the family life cycle, for harmonious existence and development of the family and marriage. It is important that there is no discrepancy in the perceptions of the family roles of men and woman, same family values [1; c.77].

Men and woman have different ideas about the ideal family type and gender distribution of family roles. Causing frequent partner unions with contradictory attitudes on the type of family relationships. Dissatisfaction with the divergence and their family behavior results in conflicts that often end in divorce. As a result, family becomes an additional stressful factor. This is especially noticeable in today's Ukrainian society, when the state of chronic emotional stress has covered all groups of the population. A harmonious family, more than other social structures can provide interpersonal relationships that are of

particular importance in the prevailing conditions.

The modern family is the most important social environment for the formation of personality and child upbringing, which is not only responsible for the social reproduction of the population but also the reproduction of a certain way of life, way of thinking and relations. The contradictory nature of family roles, narrow limits of their implementation leads to dissatisfaction with the personal needs of family members and are the cause of role-overload, role conflict. Ambiguous understanding of the family roles or uncertainty of role expectations, inconsistency of the role expectations and role demands of the spouses, the ratio of high-level role expectations in relation to the marriage partner and low evaluation of his role behavior are the cause of dissatisfaction with the family role requirements of the spouses and as a consequence the cause of family conflicts [3; c.64].

Society is interested in the stable family relationship, harmonious marriage relations. Such family atmosphere has a beneficial effect on the child upbringing and eases solving a whole series of social problems for adults (housing, social security, employment, etc.) That is why family remains one of the main objects of the analysis for sociologists and social psychologists for more than a century and a half (not to mention philosophy, that was interested in family problem through its existence) [2; c.57].

To determine the degree of roles distribution a selective research was conducted among young families in the Transcarpathian region.

As a result of the study, when asked "Do you share responsibilities between you and your second half" 50% of the respondents answered that they do share domestic responsibilities, financial and organizational issues. Other 50% answered "no", depending on the situation, they perform one or the other duties.

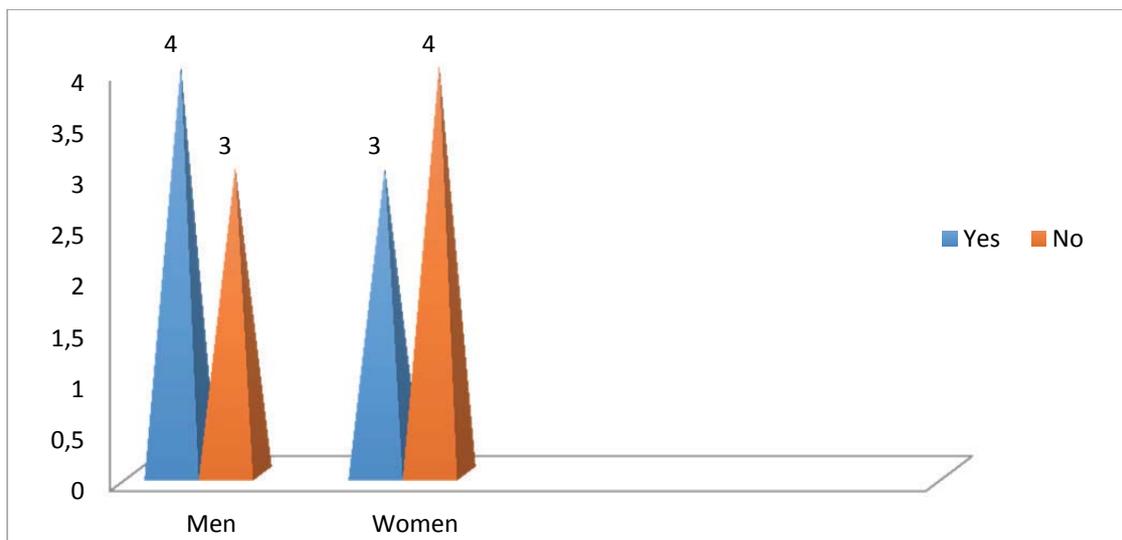


Diagram 1. Do you share responsibilities between you and your soulmate?

As we can see on Diagram 1, more men than women say yes, which suggests that men are more likely to share responsibilities in a family than women. For the child's upbringing, men do not dare to take this function exclusively on themselves. They believe that children should be taken care of either by women or women along with men. From respondents' point of view with division of responsibilities, family life becomes more combined and functional. Man and woman in family life fulfill those roles, that are given to them by nature. Most women answered "no", arguing that distribution is not needed, there should be equality of responsibilities.

To the question "Does gender inequality exist in families?" 14.25% of the respondents replied that in their family life there is a humiliation of the opposite sex, namely women. According to respondents, we can conclude that women are not equal in relation to men.

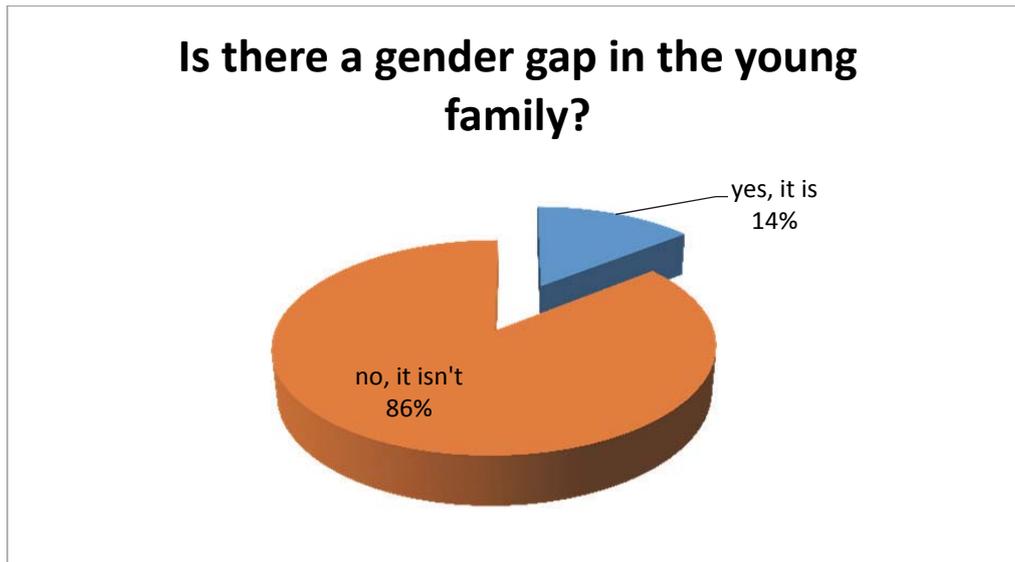


Diagram 2. Is there a gender gap in the young family?

Another percentage of respondents answered that there is no gender inequality in their family life. Relationships between the spouses are equal, they respect and value each other without showing superiority. Men are configured to equality in family leisure. Meaning that they decide for themselves on how to spend their free time (together or separately). In any case, the restriction of the right to a separate rest should not be happening to neither men nor woman. Women generally support this view.

To the question "Do you share the status-role position in family relations?", respondents views were shared equally: 50% answered «yes» and 50% answered «no». The first half considers that each spouse has a certain status in the family, that is, the head of a family, a loving husband or a wife, the role of father and mother. The other half believes that there should be equality in the family, that is, nobody has to give out more than the other, and this opinion was supported by more women than men. Based on the distribution of family responsibilities, respondents can be divided into the following types: traditional (or patriarchal), feminist, egalitarian, and situational. The traditional type assumes men domination and greater responsibility in the performance of financial security, status, management, and his wife primarily relies on the household functions and the child's upbringing; egalitarian type - equal responsibility of husband and wife in all spheres ;, situational - the domination of husband or wife depending on the situation. Distribution of roles, in which, performing the functions of material security, status, management, is dominated by a woman, can be called feminist.

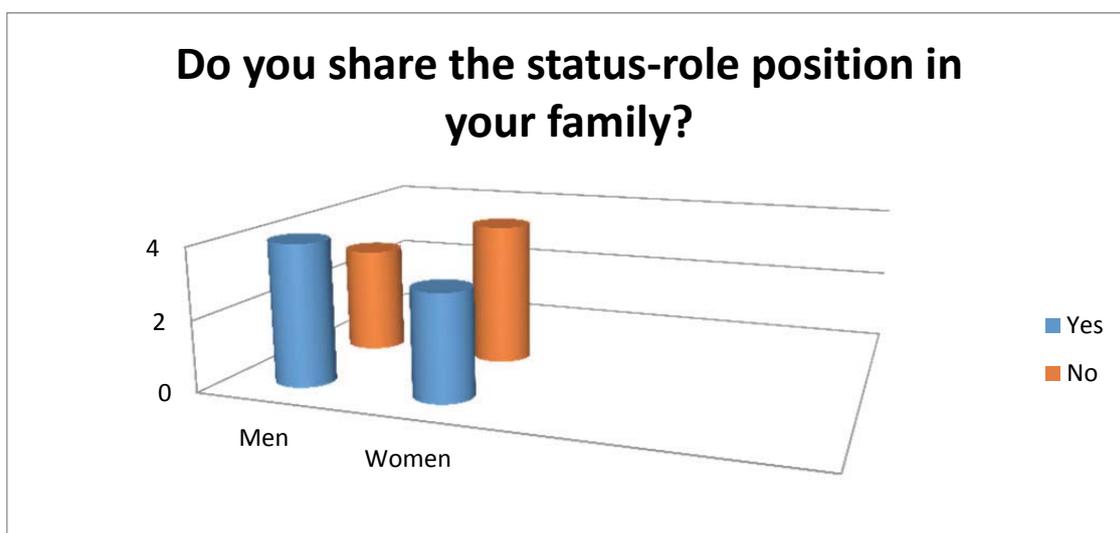


Diagram 3. Do you share the status-role position?

According to the data, respondents can be divided by type of family distribution.

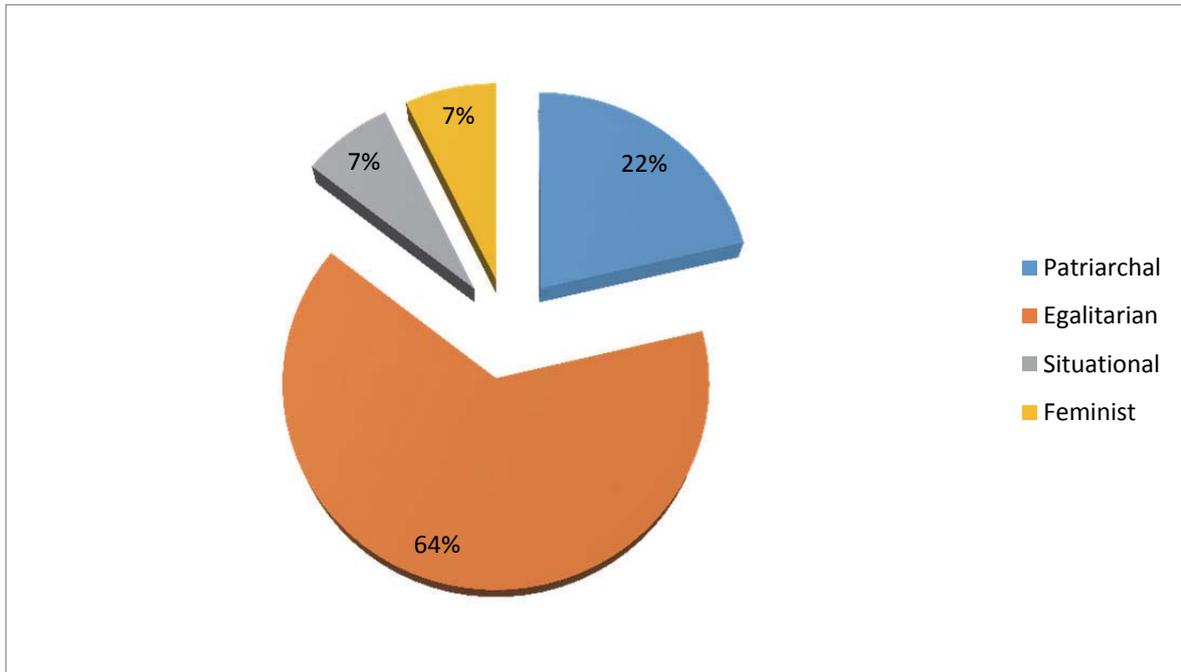


Diagram 4. Family types

To the question "Do you have conflicts on the basis of patriarchy in families?", respondents replied that 35.7% do have conflicts, mostly because of misunderstandings. From this it can be deduced that the spouses do not respond in a timely manner to the words of the partner, request to provide assistance in difficult situations, the ability to relax together, relieve tension, fatigue, and stress.

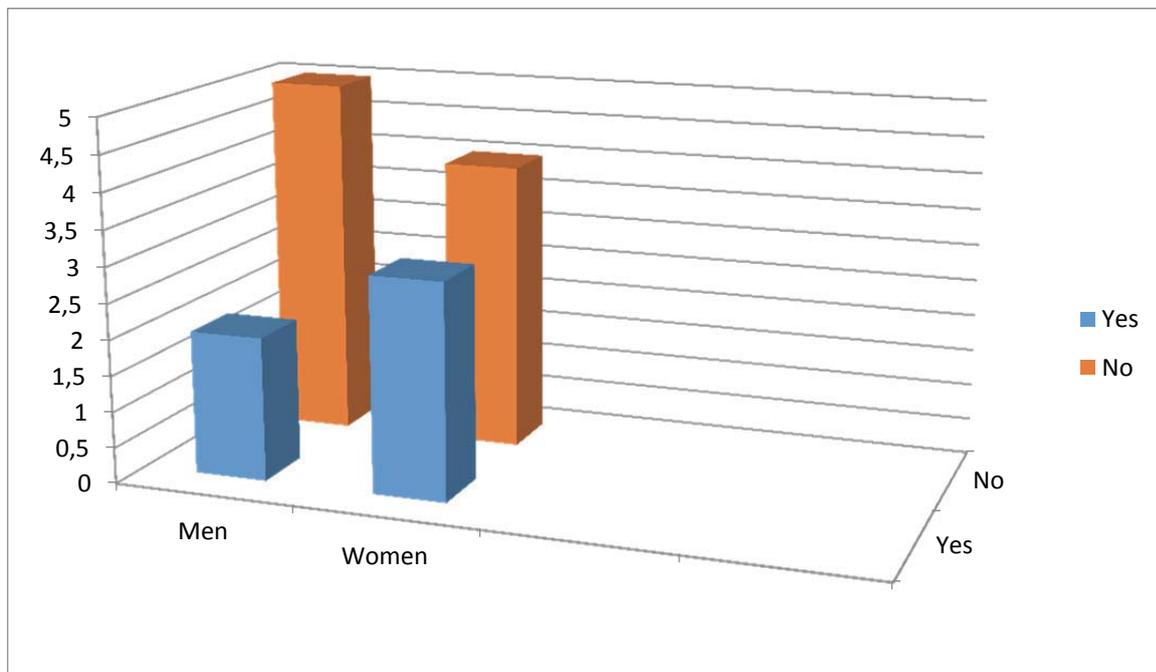


Diagram 5. Are there conflicts based on patriarchy in families?

64.3% of the respondents indicated that they did not have conflicting situations and misunderstandings in their family life.

Therefore, the research results suggest that there is a role dissonance in the studied young families in virtually all spheres of family life - everyday life, leisure, finance, and the upbringing of children. The family status of a woman, as before, is determined by the status of a housewife and a child educator. The novelty of today is that women intrude into the sphere of business activity more quickly and with greater desire than men in the sphere of housekeeping.

Despite the fact that the majority of women just like man, take responsibility for family's financial support, men are willing to share household functions with their wives, but in some situations, this is one of the factors behind the family conflicts. Thus, conflicts between spouses regarding the optimal distribution of roles may arise, first of all, in the areas of financial security of the family, professional self-fulfillment, and family decision-making. Some differences can also be observed in terms of parenting. Differences in representations about marital roles are a manifestation of differences in deeper levels, which can be described as a greater "progressiveness" of women, their support for ideas of gender equality.

Men began to positively perceive equality in matters of organization of free time, division of work at home but it's hard for them

to get used to the fact that woman works and provides for the family equally.

Currently there is a gradual shift from the traditional to the egalitarian type of relations. In the first place, it touched the sphere of leisure and distribution of power (making important decisions, family budget), buying clothes for family members and household items, helping the elderly generation.

The problem of roles division between spouses is the basis for the distribution of families into traditional and egalitarian. The peculiarity of the present stage of the formation of the family is a significant increase in egalitarian families and, accordingly, a decrease in the number of traditional ones. In traditional (patriarchal) family roles and responsibilities are distributed strictly according to the norms predicted by gender roles. The egalitarian model assumes an even distribution of the rights and responsibilities of family members. Yes, the family system is fairly open, in today's society it is easy to marry, but it is also easy to divorce. Legal, ethical, religious, socio-psychological barriers to divorce today are reduced to a minimum. The spouse has the right to freely determine the fate of the family. Freedom and responsibility of the individual for making a decision on the creation and preservation of the family has increased, the fate of the family is fully determined by the personal choices of each family member.

Conclusion

The modern family is a product of social evolution. Time has changed, culture changed, worldview and value orientations changed. Along with them, the relationship between husband and wife, the position of a woman, the attitude of parents to children, and children to their parents changed. The family hierarchy from a strictly vertical gradually adopted a horizontal position. But, despite all the changes that have affected families in recent decades, this social institution has essentially not changed and continues to remain one of the most important institutions of society.

The family and all its main components (exogamy, affinity, love, parenthood, motherhood, sons and daughters, feelings of fraternity, etc.) arose in a culture that not only contributed to the formation of the family as a social institution but at the same time complicated the course of its development, repeatedly placed difficult challenges before her. Family, persistently overcoming obstacles, changed and transformed: something was lost, another transformed under the influence of circumstances, and something acquired.

Gender inequality - relevant, comprehensive and global problem of modern society. The world has shown support for the protection of women's rights and has taken aim to maximally align their position in society. However, in most countries, in everyday life, they are still neglecting these rules and regulations and living on principles that have been formed many centuries ago. The main causes of gender inequality in Ukraine is the gender stereotypes, as well as the inability of women to fully realize themselves and their potential. To succeed in resolving this issue, we should, first of all,

realize the importance of it, secondly, to make citizens well informed about the problem and, thirdly, to conduct thorough and purposeful measures on the changing role of women in modern Ukrainian society.

The social reorganization of modern Ukrainian society is associated with controversial processes in the spiritual sphere, is inseparable from the transformational changes of existing value systems and affects all spheres of society. In particular, these changes affect the state of marital relationships and family, the relationship between the spouses, parents and children, and thus with a new force outline the controversial position of gender in the private and public spheres. All this forces researcher to pay their attention to research gender aspects of human behavior in family life, to study the mechanisms of socialization and stereotyping, as well as to analyze the features of modern gender perceptions of spouses.

The evolution of the family is nothing more than a reaction to a challenge from society. It faces a number of problems, overcoming which is the answer to this challenge. Solving the problems, it evolves into a better state in term of the dominating culture. This transformation will continue as long as there are socio-cultural reasons for it. Lack of community requirements will mean a lack of incentives for development. At the same time there will be stagnation and the family will continue to fall apart in the future. It may be doomed to such a result: if it does not find the strength to accept the challenge of time, it will cease to improve. As you know, the civilization systems that are not updated come to collapse.

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