

## THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN THE STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

### *O PAPEL DA FAMÍLIA NA REALIZAÇÃO EDUCACIONAL DOS ALUNOS*

### *EL PAPEL DE LA FAMILIA EN EL LOGRO EDUCATIVO DE LOS ESTUDIANTES*

Natalia V. LAZURENKO<sup>1</sup>  
Kseniya Y. KOROLYOVA<sup>2</sup>  
Irina G. VOLOSHINA<sup>3</sup>  
Irina K. SVISCHEVA<sup>4</sup>  
Zhanna O. BLAGOROZHEVA<sup>5</sup>

**ABSTRACT:** First, parents compete for high-quality educational opportunities for their children, and better educational opportunities result in more excellent academic achievement. Second, parenting behavior and educational support for their children can nurture children's learning attitudes and influence academic achievement. The article reviews and summarizes the results of the analysis of parents' support in the educational success and values-based orientations of young students. Data for study which involved interviewing students (n=468, proportional selection by gender, age, course of study) made it possible to identify the following semantic units of analysis: values-based (life) orientations of student-age youth and motives for better education, wedding (family as a value), attitude to marriage registration and divorce (attitude to matrimony); reproductive attitudes (attitude towards parenting - fatherhood/motherhood). The results of the study have shown that family occupies an important place in the hierarchy of values of modern student's youth, taking an intimate meaning (values ranked as high: "happy family life", "love" - according to The Values Survey by M. Rokeach) and social significance, 93% of respondents note the importance and necessity of the institution of family for modern society. It was also concluded that their families' socioeconomic status profoundly influences students' academic accomplishment.

**KEYWORDS:** Family. Educational achievement. Value. Student's youth.

**RESUMO:** Em primeiro lugar, os pais competem por oportunidades educacionais de alta qualidade para seus filhos, e melhores oportunidades educacionais resultam em um desempenho acadêmico mais excelente. Em segundo lugar, o comportamento dos pais e o apoio educacional aos filhos podem estimular as atitudes de aprendizagem das crianças e influenciar o desempenho acadêmico. O artigo revisa e resume os resultados da análise do apoio dos pais

<sup>1</sup> Belgorod State University, Belgorod – Russia. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2369-4119>. E-mail: [lazurenko@bsu.edu.ru](mailto:lazurenko@bsu.edu.ru)

<sup>2</sup> Belgorod State University Belgorod – Russia. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5425-8408>. E-mail: [korolyova@bsu.edu.ru](mailto:korolyova@bsu.edu.ru)

<sup>3</sup> Belgorod State University, Belgorod – Russia. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7230-6779>. E-mail: [voloshina@bsu.edu.ru](mailto:voloshina@bsu.edu.ru)

<sup>4</sup> Belgorod State University, Belgorod – Russia. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3240-3085>. E-mail: [svischeva@bsu.edu.ru](mailto:svischeva@bsu.edu.ru)

<sup>5</sup> Belgorod State University Belgorod – Russia. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0342-5704>. E-mail: [blagorozheva@bsu.edu.ru](mailto:blagorozheva@bsu.edu.ru)

no sucesso educacional e orientações baseadas em valores de jovens estudantes. Os dados do estudo que envolveu entrevistas com alunos ( $n = 468$ , seleção proporcional por sexo, idade, curso) permitiram identificar as seguintes unidades semânticas de análise: orientações (vida) baseadas em valores dos jovens em idade escolar e motivos para melhor educação, casamento (família como valor), atitude em relação ao registro de casamento e divórcio (atitude em relação ao matrimônio); atitudes reprodutivas (atitude em relação à parentalidade – paternidade/maternidade). Os resultados do estudo mostraram que a família ocupa um lugar importante na hierarquia de valores da juventude do estudante moderno, assumindo um significado íntimo (valores classificados como elevados: “vida familiar feliz”, “Amor” - de acordo com *The Values Survey* de M. Rokeach) e significado social, 93% dos entrevistados notam a importância e a necessidade da instituição da família para a sociedade moderna. Concluiu-se também que o status socioeconômico de suas famílias influencia profundamente realização acadêmica dos alunos.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Família. Realização educacional. Valor. Juventude do aluno.

**RESUMEN:** En primer lugar, los padres compiten por oportunidades educativas de alta calidad para sus hijos, y mejores oportunidades educativas resultan en logros académicos más excelentes. En segundo lugar, el comportamiento de los padres y el apoyo educativo para sus hijos pueden nutrir las actitudes de aprendizaje de los niños e influir en el rendimiento académico. El artículo revisa y resume los resultados del análisis del apoyo de los padres en el éxito educativo y las orientaciones basadas en valores de los jóvenes estudiantes. Los datos del estudio que involucró entrevistar a estudiantes ( $n = 468$ , selección proporcional por género, edad, curso de estudio) permitieron identificar las siguientes unidades semánticas de análisis: orientaciones (de vida) basadas en valores de los jóvenes en edad de estudiante y motivos para mejor educación, boda (la familia como valor), actitud ante el registro matrimonial y divorcio (actitud ante el matrimonio); Actitudes reproductivas (actitud hacia la crianza - paternidad/maternidad). Los resultados del estudio han demostrado que la familia ocupa un lugar importante en la jerarquía de valores de la juventud estudiantil moderna, tomando un significado íntimo (valores clasificados como altos: "vida familiar feliz", El "amor" - según *The Values Survey* de M. Rokeach) y el significado social, el 93% de los encuestados señalan la importancia y la necesidad de la institución de la familia para la sociedad moderna. También se concluyó que el estatus socioeconómico de sus familias influye profundamente logro académico de los estudiantes.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Familia. Logros educativos. Valor. Juventud del estudiante.

## Introduction

Education is regarded as the primary mechanism for improving the population quality, and education throughout childhood is the basis for forming human labor-force quality. Childhood education influences success and satisfaction at the individual level. Moreover, it creates the labor force quality and capability of innovation to define the potentiality of a nation's development.

Family is the most important social institution that easily changes under the influence of transformations in socio-economic, political, cultural, spiritual and moral spheres of society. The state of affairs of the family's institute is currently quite contradictory, which actualizes its research from interdisciplinary perspective.

Under the conditions of today, several transformations can be identified in the field of family and marital relations: a trend to the values of individualism is more discernible, researchers point to suppressing family authority, a change in traditional models of family behavior, the emergence of new forms of family and marital relations, which in turn leads to disorientation in personal space, growth of forms of maladjustment.

We consider family in terms of axiological approach. It dominates in the structure of human values. The social value of family is associated with the reproduction of population, continuity of generations (translation of experience, norms and traditions), socialization, the formation of values-based orientations of young people.

E. M. Orlova emphasizes that the family values are a guide for an individual, determine his or her behavior, activities, play a leading role in the formation of family and marital relations. The study of the values of family and marital relations, according to the scholar, makes it possible to identify the features of the development of the institution of the family, to determine the directions of the formation of the culture of family and marital relations (ORLOVA, 2018).

According to S. A. Kizilova, E. N. Rashikulina, when analyzing a values-attitude towards family and marriage, it is important to determine the place of family and marriage values in the general structure of values of young people; to identify criteria and indicators of the readiness of young people for marriage and parenthood, including ethical and psychological readiness (KIZILOVA; RASHIKULINA 2016).

An analysis of studies over the past decade indicates that the family is still one of the leading values in the system of values of young people (MIRONOVA; TYRNOVA, 2014; REAN, 2015). At the same time, researchers note that modern young people are faced with the problem of transformation of family values, in which there is a loss of old value orientation and the formation of new social relations (SOMKIN; DANILOVA, 2019).

T. A. Rassadina, E. I. Repina offer an opinion that modern youth when building family relationship find it difficult to choose between pragmatic orientations and traditional values of family life (RASSADINA; REPINA, 2019). In the current context, family and marriage are endowed with new functions and characteristics that differ from traditional ones, which leads to

changes in social interactions, models of matrimonial behavior of people (VERZHYBOK, 2018)

Studies by foreign authors help to reveal the universality of the problem and the continuing scientific relevance of the problem with reference to different societies and cultures (FISKIN; SARI, 2021; ROOPA, 2015; UPLAONKAR, 1995; AGHASI; FALLAH MINBASHI, 2015; NAGASE, 2006; RONTOS, 2015)

T. K. Rostovskaya, O. V. Kuchmaeva remark that the formation of values of Russian young people occurs under the influence of factors characteristic of many countries of the world, for example, the transition to postmodernism, and those having Russian specificity (ROSTOVSKAYA; KUCHMAEVA, 2015). A tendency towards declining number of registered unions, the spread of consensual unions (de facto marriages), raising of minimum marriage age, birth inclination, an orientation towards a family with few children, refusal to have a child (voluntary childlessness) are the main trends in family and marital relations that are characteristic of the current stage of development of society.

In this context, special attention should be paid to the values-based orientations of the younger generation, and especially of student-age youth. The above changes are also characteristic of a certain proportion of students. The values-based orientations of students are the most mobile and two-pronged. On the one hand, parental attitudes characterized by the traditional way of life have a great influence on the formation of family and marital attitudes of young students, on the other hand, coming under the influence of social surrounding and the media, new liberal value views begin to form in the minds of young people, which can lead to dissonance, and to a complete transformation of family and marital sets and perception of the institution of the family (NAZAROVA; ZELENSKAYA, 2017).

On this premise, the formation of positive marital attitudes of students (value image of the family, attitude towards marriage; family lifestyle, attitude towards having children) should become a deliberate and controlled process.

## Methodology and Methods

In order to study the family values in the structure of family and marital attitudes of students, the Department of Social Work of the Belgorod State National Research University conducted a sociological study which included a questionnaire survey of students of the FSAEI HE “Belgorod State National Research University” (n = 468, proportional selection by gender, age, course of studies), the study engaged students from three institutes: the Institute of Social

Sciences and Mass Communications, the Institute of Economics and Management, the Pedagogical Institute.

The blocks of the questionnaire were aimed at considering the following problems:

- values-based (life) orientations and motives for marriage;
- students' attitudes towards marriage registration and divorce;
- spousal characteristics and reproductive intentions.

To diagnose the values-based orientations of student's youth, the *Value Survey* by M. Rokeach was used.

## Research Results

The first block of questions in the questionnaire concerned life values in terms of family values.

Students correlate the meaning of life with “choosing a path and achieving goals” (41%), “starting a family and raising children” (28%), “career” (23%), “responsibility of caring for their parents” (8%); at the same time, the pursuit is associated with “material well-being” (32%) and “family welfare” (34%) (material values are of primary importance for boys, family values are important for girls).

In accordance with the Rokeach *Value Survey*, students' major preference was revealed in terms of the positions of terminal (end) values (rank value) “happy family life”, “love”, “career”; the positions of instrumental (situational preference) values (rank value) “communicative interaction”, “responsibility” and “honesty”.

The analysis of several studies prompted the authors of the current study to present a typology of students reflecting vision of the meaning of life:

1) “young people striving for a desired goal”: the presence of a specific (strategic) goal and plan, achieved by all means; willingness to improve themselves and to receive education. This type is more often demonstrated by boys (74%).

2) “young people with an eye to the past”: the presence of a fuzzy goal, limited by past experience; tactical goals do not have clear (strategic) plans. This type is demonstrated by students of both sexes in approximately equal proportions (48% of boys and 52% of girls).

3) “persevering, a concrete result-oriented”: the process is of no importance, the result is important; strategic goals; enterprise. This type is more often demonstrated by girls (77%).

In connection with the typology presented, immediate goals in terms of founding and planning a family have been defined. Thus, 18% of students (of which 81% are girls and 19%

are boys) are planning to get married in three years; 41% of students (of which 27% - to have a child) are planning to start a family in 5-7 years. Most of the respondents who have not yet started a family are planning to pursue a career and travel. After 10 years, many young people see themselves as financially independent (41%), a happy family man (43%) with one child (82%), two children (37%), three children (11%).

In this context, the experience of students' parents is interesting: most of the parents (generation of the 70s – early 80s of birth) entered into their first marriage at the age of 20-25 and delivered their first child within 1-3 years of marriage. Thus, an unambiguous conclusion suggests itself: students, unlike their parents, have deferred matrimonial (marriage) and reproductive goals.

The overwhelming majority (93%) of the students of the National Research University “BelSU” represented in the sample answered that “the family as a social institution” is still indispensable to modern society; however, 2% of respondents consider the family a holdover from the past, the rest (5%) have not defined their answers. The respondents are ready to embrace family traditions from the parental family: 51% of students accept the upbringing of children in the parental family, 74% of students accept and are ready to adopt the relationship between relatives and the parental family, 53% - the relationship between parents and children. However, in terms of the value of the parental family, a fairly significant part of the respondents is not satisfied and does not take the relationship between parents as a value (41%).

Thus, the continuation of experience and traditions in the parental family is “passed on” to parent-child, intra-family relationships and upbringing, and may indicate a fairly stable family value system. This circumstance allows concluding that in the system of traditional values, the value of family is still of importance, the respondents highly appreciate the importance of both the parental family and their future family.

According to the research by M. A. Zhigunova (ZHIGUNOVA, 2017), the definition “family” among students is associated with “the beloved ones and relatives” and evokes positive associations. According to the results of the current study, the same tendency is observed: respondents correlate the concept “family” with “parents” (91%), “love” (21%), “home” (38%), “care” and “kindness” (16%), “coziness and comfort” (15%). The next block of questions in the questionnaire concerned the motives for marriage.

Most students indicated the main motives for marriage, such as having children, family well-being and happiness, and the care of spouses for each other (Table 1).

**Table 1 – Students' Marriage Motivation**

Marriage Motivation	Boys	Girls
Having a baby	61%	87%
Marrieds' responsibility of caring for each other	58%	77%
Not to remain unmarried	21%	54%
Financial well-being	14%	38%
Family well-being and happiness	51%	76%
Other-directed	11%	19%
I do not consider marriage to be a value	17%	5%

Source: Devised by the authors

A predominant motive for marriage, as shown by the study, for both boys (53%) and girls (71%), is “love”. The motive “to marry for convenience” (37%) (with explanations: “status”, “financial security”, “psychological confidence”) is ranked the second among girls; boys placed the motive “family with children” to the second place (39%) (this position among girls is in fourth place – 20% of responses). The third place among respondents of both sexes is taken by the position “unplanned pregnancy” (31% - boys, 32% - girls). As expected, one of the motives for marriage is “an independent life, separate from parents”: the number of respondents does not differ by gender (17% each).

The third block of questions in the questionnaire is related to attitudes towards marriage registration and divorce.

Registered marriage as a desired form of relationship is welcomed by 31% of the surveyed students (as expected, the overwhelming majority are girls (73%)), while 74% have a positive attitude towards marriage, 13% have expressed a negative attitude (83% of them are boys). Most likely, by expressing a positive opinion of marriage in general, respondents demonstrate an attitude towards a registered marriage. However, student's youth is loyal to *de facto* marriage: in the general sample, 63% of students react positively to an unregistered form of relationship (9% negatively). As the respondents themselves explain, the need to “test feelings” arises in 61% of boys and 52% of girls; 39% of boys and 31% of girls do not see the “difference between cohabitation and legal marriage”; 19% of boys and 7% of girls consider “the opportunity to break off the relationship at any time without consequences” as a positive trend. These results are consistent with the research by N. V. Kurilovich (2017), in which the author points to “a reasonably loyal attitude towards cohabitation in fact” among student's youth.

In this case, one can argue that the consensual union is, as it were, a “trial” form of marriage, and subsequently the respondents plan to register their marriage. In this connection, let us present the answers of student's youth regarding the unregistered form of marriage: “the

relationship is not serious and not long-term” (68%), since there is a possibility of “breakup over trifles” (31%), “you can easily break up because as there is no encumbrance on property” (25%), “a rehearsal of a regular marriage” (12%), “trial relations” (21%), “no proposal has been received” (11%). Note that 19% of students have a negative attitude towards cohabitation since this form can “be delayed and lead to marriage registration” (35%).

Thus, a dual position is determined, on the one hand, there is a tendency to “marriage without family obligations”, on the other hand – “a rehearsal of a regular marriage”, that is, a fairly conscious attitude towards a consensual union as a form of future legitimate marriage.

The analysis of the respondents’ answers indicates that age at first union does not have critical gender differences (Table 2).

**Table 2 – Age Range at the First Union**

Boys					
Age (years)	20-25	26-28	29-30	31-37	Not ready to get married
% of respondents	4	18	65	12	1
Girls					
Age (years)	19-22	23-25	26-28	29-32	
% of respondents	7	49	42	2	

Source: Devised by the authors

The data presented in Table 2 indicate a trend towards a raising of marriage age, both for boys and girls, which is a worldwide trend (Eastern European marriage model): the mean age at first marriage for women is 24-27 years, for men – 29-30 years old. Moreover, gender stereotypes such as “young brides on the marriage market” are not a decisive factor.

In connection with marriage issues, it was necessary to define an attitude towards divorce. In 49% of cases, the respondents defined their position on divorce as a “negative phenomenon”: 39% of boys and 46% of girls. However, 6% of boys and 4% of girls expressed a positive opinion of this demographic phenomenon. In addition, 19% of students in the general sample have a positive or neutral attitude towards the so-called “serial monogamy”. That is, there is a phenomenon where remarriage is considered as a “normal practice”; interesting is the fact that the correlation can be traced according to the positions: “marriage of convenience” – a positive attitude towards remarriage (78% of the total sample).

The factors of divorcing, according to the respondents, may be “decay of feelings / love has passed off” (61%), “serious financial problems” (28%), “betrayal of a wife / a husband” (59%), “different social status of spouses” (26%), “lack of common goals and interests” (34%). The authors of the study have identified a certain interdependence: the higher the value of



children in the family is, the lower the attitude towards divorce is (61% of students with high attitudes towards childbirth, 79% of the respondents have a negative attitude towards divorce).

The fourth block of questions in the questionnaire reflects the reproductive intentions of the respondents.

The ideal portrait of a husband includes the following characteristics: “daily breadwinner”, “financially independent” (women – 74%, men – 54%); “loving his wife and children”, “caring, considerate and reliable” (women – 38%, men – 36%).

An ideal portrait of a wife is “caring and kind”, “loving children”, “successful homemaking/good keeping of house” (women – 53%, men – 81%); “lack of bad habits”, “beautiful” (women – 28%, men – 49%).

It should be noted that in the general sample, students have high reproductive intentions: 93% of respondents plan to have a child (children), 49% of students consider family with two children as an ideal, 41% - with one child, 4% - with three, 6% have answered that having a child is not in their plans yet. Such data indicate a lack of position (or weak position) among students on having many children.

If we consider the factors that predetermine the low reproductive intentions of the respondents, then among them there are the following: “material and financial failure”, “inadequate housing or no housing at all”, “psychological unreadiness” and others (Table 3).

**Table 3 – Setbacks to Having Children**

A setback	% of the respondents
Material and financial failure	37%
Inadequate housing	28%
Psychological unreadiness	16%
Career	4%
Hindrance to a romantic life	8%
Health does not permit	3%
There is no reason why they should not have a baby	4%
Total	100%

Source: Devised by the authors

Moreover, those respondents who chose “to have no more than one child” in the questionnaire indicated a financial problem and a problem with housing in 71% of cases.

## Summary

1. Vector motives for marriage are “love” and “mutual understanding” (without gender differences). The predominance of a financial constituent as a motive for marriage is more inherent in girls. Family as a value among modern students is ranked high in the general system

of values (along with material independence and career growth). It can be noted that women more than men have a “compensatory” function when a successful career can replace a successful marriage.

2. Although an egalitarian type prevails in family relations in present-day conditions, many young people (especially young men) have traditional views toward family and the separation of family household duties. This is largely due to the adoption of the practices, traditions and significance of a parental family.

3. Girls often create marriage mindset under the influence of emotional and psychological motives, while boys – reproductive ones. Reproductive motives are associated with the formation of transformational processes and are mainly aimed at one or two-child families. Matrimonial goals, like reproductive ones, have deferred tendencies.

4. In personality determination of the future spouse, women give preference to masculinity in men, men – to femininity in women, however, in general, the vector is directed towards androgyny.

5. With the high value of family in the general structure of values-oriented orientations, student’s youth does not deny consensual marriage, and delays official registration. As a result, the age at first marriage, reproductive intentions are “postponed”, remarriages are not denied, the divorce neutrality is observed.

6. The study has revealed the presence of an evident contradiction: dominant orientations towards the customary type of family and approval of extra-marital relations. As the authors of the investigation see, positive family and marital attitudes can be formed based on the traditional matrimonial mentality.

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