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## «ӘЛЕУМЕТТАНУ» СЕКЦИЯСЫ

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## IMPACT OF GENDER STEREOTYPES ON THE FORMATION OF FAMILY REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOR IN A PANDEMIC

The article examines some of the features of gender stereotypes in society as one of the important factors in the formation and development of the family, as a social institution. In all cultures, the family is the primary socializing agent for the child. The analysis of social interaction in everyday life sheds light on the operation of larger social systems and institutions. The author proves that gender issues, which have arisen in connection with the intensity of the development of society, with the growing importance of women's participation in the public life of citizens, deserves attention in the aspect of modern gender relations.

Keywords: gender stereotype, social institution, society, family.

#### Introduction

In different societies, the family occupies a different place in relation to other social institutions. In most traditional societies, the family in which an individual was born almost completely determines his social position for the rest of his life. In modern Western societies, social status at birth is not inherited. Nevertheless, the region of residence and the family's belonging to a certain class rather rigidly determine the nature of the individual's socialization. Children learn the behavior patterns of their parents or members of their environment. Socialization is the process by which a helpless infant is gradually transformed into a self-aware intelligent being who understands the essence of the culture in which he was born. Socialization is not a kind of «cultural programming» during which the child passively perceives the influences from what he comes into contact with. From the very first moments of his life, the newborn experiences needs and wants, which in turn influence the behavior of those who should take care of him [2].

#### Materials and methods

Socialization is the process by which a helpless infant is gradually transformed into a self-aware intelligent being who understands the essence of the culture in which he was born. Socialization is not a kind of «cultural programming» during which the child passively perceives the influences from what he comes into contact with. From the very first moments of his life, the newborn experiences needs and wants, which in turn influence the behavior of those who should take care of him [9]. Why tackle trivial aspects of social behavior? Walking past someone on the street, exchanging a few words with a friend - it looks so insignificant and uninteresting, we do it hundreds of times a day without thinking about it at all. In fact, the study of ordinary forms of social interaction is of great importance for sociology. It is one of the most exciting areas of social science research. In fact, all large-scale social systems are designed specifically for those models of social interaction that are reproduced by individuals in the course of everyday life. The routine of daily existence makes up a large part of social activities. Our life consists of monotonous behavioral rituals, repeated day after day, week after week, and even year after year. Socialization agents are structural groups or environments in which the most important socialization processes take place. In all cultures, the family is the main agent of the child's socialization. In addition, peer groups, schools and the media are agents of socialization [2]. By agents of socialization, we mean groups and social contexts within which the processes of socialization take place. However, in later stages of life, many other agents of socialization come into play. There are as many socialization agents as there are groups and social contexts in which individuals spend any significant part of their lives.

In the works of many scientists, the problems of the rights of men and women are considered, where the main attention is paid to their legal provisions, the difficulties of realizing equal rights in practice. The issue of the rights and responsibilities of the sexes in the family is of particular relevance, since it is the family that is a miniature model of the existing gender order in society. It should be especially noted that recently the family as a system of relationships has undergone significant changes. The relationship here is based more on preference than on the basis of existing traditions. Today, the dominant types in marriage and family relations remain patriarchal, matriarchy or egalitarian, but still the basis of family relations is its legal regulation, that is, the consolidation of the rights and obligations of spouses at the legal level, the violation of which entails certain legal consequences.

For a long time, the status of men and women in the family was far from the same, and the family itself was built according to the «power-subordination» scheme. The beginning of the 20th century marked a new understanding of the family, which was now interpreted as a union of equal subjects, which led to a radical revision of family legislation. At present, relations between spouses in Kazakhstan are regulated by the Law on Marriage and Family, the norms of which are based on the principle of equality between husband and wife. Content analysis of the norms of family legislation has shown that not all norms comply with this principle, violation of equality occurs in relation to both men and women [8]. Despite attempts to overcome gender inequality in modern society, some norms, on the contrary, exacerbate its manifestation in the family. Today, «feminine» qualities are perceived as socially generated, as are traits of «masculinity.» During socialization, most women develop qualities that are completely different from those of men (caring for others, maintaining personal relationships). Even with high professional employment, women, most of them spend much more time in household chores than men [5].

### **Results and discussion**

As a result of a survey of 68 people of reproductive age living in the city of Almaty, we received the following data. The age category of the respondents was 70.5 % at the age of 30-45, 20.3 % at the age of 46-55 and 9.4 % at the age of 16-30. The survey was attended by 73.4 % of women and 26.6 % of men. Of these, 70.3 % are officially married, 12.5% are currently divorced, 10.9% are not yet married / single and the remaining 6.3 % are in a civil marriage. At the same time, 82.8 % have higher education, 94 % - secondary, 7.8 % incomplete higher education, of which 88.9 % work. 41.9 % of respondents had their first child at the age of 16-25, 37.1 % - in the range of 26-35, 17.7 % have no children, the remaining 3.3 % became parents after 35 years. By the number of children, the surveyed families in the main share of 73.4 % have from 1 to 3 children, 9.4 % from 3 to 5 children and 3.1% from 5 to 7 children. Of the total number of respondents, 28.1 % had problems with childbirth. At the time of the survey, 42.9 % of the participants were satisfied with their financial situation. And 77.8 % were not against giving birth to more children. It turned out that 48.4% of pregnancies were planned, while 20.3 % were unplanned pregnancies, the rest was partly planned and planned in the future. 40.6 % of respondents terminated pregnancies artificially, i.e. about half of the respondents got rid of unplanned pregnancies. A question was asked about the adoption of a child, to which 76.6% answered in the affirmative, when 23.4 % did not want to adopt children.

Women are more vulnerable in the labor market during the economic crisis, and improved economic conditions have further stimulated the behavioral changes that have already taken place. In previous crises, if women were laid off, their unpaid care work increased. When jobs are scarce, women are often denied job opportunities, preferring to hire men. The greater their losses in employment during the period of isolation and the higher the demand for jobs after the Covid-19 crisis, the more difficult it will be to restore women's employment to their previous levels. Globally, women suffer more from unemployment than men. In 2020, 5% of women lost their jobs, compared with 3.9% of men. Nearly 40 percent of all working women are employed in the sectors most affected by the crisis, including the garment industry. The unequal distribution of increased demand for care work during the crisis has disproportionately affected women, who typically do about three quarters of all unpaid domestic work. Kindergartens and schools were closed due to the pandemic. This, and the need to care for elderly relatives who are unable to provide support, has increased the need for unpaid work. Monitoring gendersensitive unemployment, access to social protection, reduced working hours and the gender pay gap is key in designing and implementing a comprehensive response to the crisis. It is also very important to have access to sex-disaggregated data on the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on all of these issues [4].

When conducting, updating and performing risk assessments, employers and health and safety professionals should consider the disproportionate impact of the impact of Covid-19 on certain groups, including workers with family members in vulnerable groups, pregnant women and caregivers. Behind them, as well as on workers who have suffered from domestic violence. During the pandemic, the number of cases of domestic violence increased. The situation is exacerbated by the isolation regime and economic pressures. During the economic crisis, women were heavily involved in informal and part-time jobs, which continued to enable them to pursue fertile careers. Moreover, leaving the labor market was not associated with high costs due to huge wage arrears for those in formal jobs. Conversely, during the economic upsurge, new opportunities arose to realize oneself from a professional point of view and find a job in accordance with one's level of education, which could influence the decision to bear children due to the higher costs of leaving the labor market. The departure from the traditional family model, which creates the appearance of physical security for a person, is dictated by the need of both sexes for a friendly and emotionally safe atmosphere in the family, which is difficult to create in the vertical hierarchy of the traditional family [6]. In addition, with early marriage, young and immature people fall into material and moral dependence on relatives, on the basis of which they give themselves the right to interfere in the internal affairs of a young family, which can lead to the breakdown of the family.

## Conclusions

In Kazakhstan, a record number of children were born in 2020, which also suggests that reproductive behavior in Kazakhstani families has also been active in recent years. According to the data, 425.6 thousand children were born in 2020. Thus, the previous record of 1987 was broken. Then more than 417 thousand children were born. According to experts, the situation was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, or to be more precise, the measures taken against the spread of the virus. Quarantine for a long enough period contributed to the growth of reproduction. However, some point out that such spikes have not been without technical difficulties and the health situation. There were no prerequisites for such a sharp growth on a monthly basis [3]. But it can be summed up that during the period of self-isolation, a transformation of the family took place, a kind of shift in the ideology of gender equality, which in turn influenced the formation of reproductive behavior and relations within the family as a whole. On the one hand, the number of children born has increased, and on the other, as already noted, cases of domestic violence have increased, which in most cases led to a breakup, as well as to suicide attempts by women. Despite the evolution of gender roles in the family sphere, the growing popularity of the concept of «symmetric» marriage, the distribution of household responsibilities remains the most conservative area of family relations [7]. According to Cohn, the social dependence of women can be associated with the biological dependence of the female body on the functions of procreation, since they prevent a woman from moving away from her home. In addition, we can also highlight the psychological dependence that occurs in girls in the process of socialization, when they observe their mothers and when they are taught «domestic activities» in contrast to the «external» activity of boys [1]. In this situation, the crisis of the family is seen as an organic continuation of its evolution.

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## ПАНДЕМИЯ ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ОТБАСЫЛЫҚ РЕПРОДУКТИВТІ МІНЕЗ-ҚҰЛЫҚТЫ ҚАЛЫПТАСТЫРУҒА ГЕНДЕРЛІК СТЕРЕОТИПТЕРДІҢ ӘСЕРІ

Мақалада отбасының қалыптасуы мен дамуының қоғамдағы гендерлік стереотиптердің кейбір ерекшеліктері әлеуметтік институтының маңызды факторларының бірі ретінде қарастырылады. Барлық мәдениеттерде отбасы баланың негізгі әлеуметтендіруші агенті болып саналады. Күнделікті өмірдегі әлеуметтік өзара әрекеттесуді талдау үлкен әлеуметтік жүйелер мен институттардың жұмысына жарық түсіреді. Автор қоғам дамуының қарқындылығымен, әйелдердің азаматтардың қоғамдық өміріне қатысуының өсуімен байланысты туындаған гендерлік мәселелер заманауи гендерлік қатынастар тұрғысынан, әсіресе, пандемия кезінде назар аударуға тұрарлық деп тұжырымдайды.

Кілтті сөздер: гендерлік стереотип, әлеуметтік институт, қоғам, отбасы, пандемия.

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## ВЛИЯНИЕ ГЕНДЕРНЫХ СТЕРЕОТИПОВ НА ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ РЕПРОДУКТИВНОГО ПОВЕДЕНИЯ СЕМЬИ В УСЛОВИЯХ ПАНДЕМИИ

В статье исследуются некоторые особенности гендерных стереотипов в обществе как одного из важных факторов становления и развития семьи, как социального института. Во всех культурах семья является основным социализирующим агентом для ребенка. Анализ социального взаимодействия в повседневной жизни проливает свет на работу более крупных социальных систем и институтов. Автор утверждает, что гендерные проблемы, возникшие в связи с интенсивностью развития общества, с возрастающим значением участия женщин в общественной жизни граждан, заслуживают внимания в аспекте современных гендерных отношений, особенно в период пандемии.

Ключевые слова: гендерный стереотип, социальный институт, общество, семья, пандемия.

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