

# Attitude to the family of urban and rural residents

Lyudmila G Lebedeva\*

Samara State University of Economics, 141, Sovetsky Armii Str., Samara, 443090, Russian Federation

**Abstract.** Contradictory phenomena in family and marriage relations, in relation to family and children in modern society, have, among other things, a territorial and settlement aspect. The overwhelming majority of respondents (residents of different territorial settlement structures) recognize the family as hope and support in life. Residents of villages and small towns show higher ratings of the family (its significance, value); residents of the megalopolis show noticeably less high ratings of the family. The differences in the assessments of the family among different social groups suggest the need to search for special approaches in socio-economic, socio-cultural, and demographic policy in relation to the development of different territorial settlement structures. The study of people's needs in the family variant of living and the search for options for social planning and management, taking into account the needs of family collectives, can be considered a promising area of scientific research and practical municipal and regional management.

## 1 Introduction

The processes of urbanization have had a diverse impact on the lives of people belonging to different age-generational groups and territorial settlement structures, especially in recent decades. The processes of urbanization have stimulated several contradictory phenomena in family and marriage relations, including noticeable changes in people's attitudes toward family and children.

Various social factors and actors, including the activities of various social actors, social movements, as well as conscious policies of States and municipal authorities, play an increasingly important role in the development of family and marriage relations, the family as a social institution. Social actors must have a sufficiently strong and influential scientific and humanitarian foundation. In this regard, it is important to take into account the results of sociological research concerning various social problems and needs in the development of society.

### 1.1 Problem statement

Like other social institutions, the family (and the perception of the family) undergoes certain changes over time. The family and the vision of the family are experiencing contradictory effects, on the one hand, the restraining forces of tradition and, on the other hand, the forces of modernization [1, p. 555]. For example, in the social practices of young people, sociologists have recorded "the autonomy of sexuality from the institution of marriage" [2, p. 47]. This is recognized as a reality for all countries (first of all, the so-called "Western countries"), where "post-material" values (quality of life, self-expression for individuals) begin to prevail over

"materialistic" values (including family) [3]. In recent decades, "certain changes and contradictory phenomena in family and marriage relations" have been noticeable in Russian society as well [4, p. 54].

In this study, in connection with the question of whether the family (and children) ceases to be a value for modern generations, special attention is paid to how residents of different territorial settlement structures assess the importance of the family.

### 1.2 Methods and empirical basis of the study

As a factual basis in this work, the materials of a sociological survey in the Samara region (Russia) in 2020 under the guidance of the author of the article are used. The sample of respondents represents the population by age, gender, and territorial settlement structure (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Distribution of respondents by place of residence.

| Place of residence                                    | Number of respondents | Percent |
|---|-----------------------|---------|
| In the city of Samara                                 | 252                   | 40.6    |
| In the cities of the Samara region                    | 217                   | 35.0    |
| In the villages, and settlements of the Samara region | 151                   | 24.4    |
| Total   | 620                   | 100.0   |

The maximum size of the sampling error with a 95 % probability does not exceed 5 %. The total number of respondents was 620 people aged 16–69 years.

## 2 Materials and Methods

\* Corresponding author: ludleb@mail.ru

What is the general attitude towards the family in society? In particular, to what extent do residents of different territorial settlement structures perceive the family as hope and support in their lives and associate the concept of "happiness" with family and children? (Table 2, Table 3).

**Table 2.** Distribution of answers to the question: "In your opinion, are the words "Family is hope and support" fair?" – Depending on the place of residence, percentages of the number of respondents (*N, n*).

| Answers options                          | In the city of Samara | In the cities of the Samara region | In the villages, and settlements of the Samara region | Total         |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | <i>n</i> =252         | <i>n</i> =217                      | <i>n</i> =151   | <i>N</i> =620 |
| Yes, quite fair                          | 59.1                  | <b>69.1</b>                        | <b>78.8</b>   | 67.4          |
| Basically, yes, fair                     | <b>32.1</b>           | 22.6                               | 17.2  | 25.2          |
| Perhaps not, unfair                      | <b>6.0</b>            | <b>6.0</b>                         | 1.3   | 4.8           |
| No, completely unfair                    | <b>1.2</b>            | <b>0.9</b>                         | 0.0   | 0.8           |
| I find it difficult to answer            | 1.6                   | 1.4                                | <b>2.7</b>  | 1.8           |
| Total                                    | 100.0                 | 100.0                              | 100.0   | 100.0         |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> ) | 0.9758                | 0.9758                             |   |               |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> ) | 0.9470                |                                    | 0.9470  |               |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> ) |                       | 0.9926                             | 0.9926  |               |

Table 2 shows that more than two-thirds (67.4 %) of respondents in the entire sample admitted that the words: "Family is hope and support" are quite fair. About a quarter (25.2 %) of respondents agree that these words are mostly true. Thus, the positive responses regarding the family as hope and support ("Yes, quite fair" and "Mostly, yes, fair") totaled 92.6 % – the overwhelming majority; this is a very convincing indicator!

The share of negative responses regarding the fairness of the words about family as hope and support ("No, completely unfair") is very small in all groups of respondents; across the sample – 0.8 %.

At the same time, the share of confidently positive assessments of the family ("Yes, they are quite fair") among respondents – residents of the megalopolis (Samara city) is significantly less (59.1 %), and among respondents – residents of villages is significantly more (78.8 %) than among other groups of respondents.

What does the comparison of the survey results by groups of respondents in pairs using the correlation coefficient (*r*) show? (See table 2).

The correlation coefficient (*r*):

- In the city of Samara / In the cities of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9758);
- In the city of Samara / In the villages, settlements of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9470);

- In the cities of the Samara region / In the villages, settlements of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9926).

In general, the estimates are very close – the correlation coefficient (*r*) is more than 0.94 for each of the three groups of respondents to the other groups. At the same time, the estimates of the residents of the cities of the Samara region and the residents of the villages of the Samara region are the closest; the estimates of the residents of the megalopolis (the city of Samara) and the residents of the villages of the Samara region are the least close.

**Table 3.** Distribution of answers to the question: "In your opinion, is it right to associate the concept of "happiness" with family and children?" – Percentages of the number of respondents (*N, n*)

| Answers options                          | In the city of Samara | In the cities of the Samara region | In the villages, and settlements of the Samara region | Total         |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | <i>n</i> =252         | <i>n</i> =217                      | <i>n</i> =151   | <i>N</i> =620 |
| Yes, completely true                     | 51.6                  | <b>67.3</b>                        | <b>78.1</b>   | 63.5          |
| In some ways yes, in some ways no        | <b>35.3</b>           | 25.8                               | 18.5  | 27.9          |
| No, wrong                                | <b>7.1</b>            | 4.1                                | 2.6   | 5.0           |
| I find it difficult to answer            | <b>6.0</b>            | 2.8                                | 0.7   | 3.6           |
| Total                                    | 100.0                 | 100.0                              | 100.0   | 100.0         |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> ) | 0.9568                | 0.9568                             |   |               |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> ) | 0.9082                |                                    | 0.9082  |               |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> ) |                       | 0.9906                             | 0.9906  |               |

Table 3 shows that almost two-thirds of respondents (63.5 % of the entire sample) fully agree with the thesis that the concept of "happiness" is correctly associated with family and children. More than a quarter (27.9 %) agree with this thesis in some ways and disagree in some ways. At the same time, the share of confidently positive assessments of the family – that the concept of "happiness" is correctly associated with family and children – among respondents – residents of the megalopolis (Samara city) is significantly less (51,6 %), and among respondents – residents of villages is significantly more (78,1 %) than among other groups of respondents. At the same time, the share of the compromise answer ("In some ways yes, in some ways no") is the largest among the group of respondents – residents of the metropolis (35,3 %), and the smallest share of such answers among the group of respondents – residents of villages (18,5 %).

In another article on the same issue, but to different age-generational groups, the following is noted. The distribution of responses by age groups shows very definite trends: as the age increases, the proportion of positive responses increases ("Yes, completely true"), and the proportion of intermediate responses decreases "

In some ways yes, in some ways no" [4, p. 50]. In other words, as the age of respondents decreases, the proportion of positive responses ("Yes, completely true") decreases and the proportion of intermediate responses ("In some ways yes, in some ways no") increases.

What does the comparison of the survey results by groups of respondents in pairs using the correlation coefficient (*r*) show? (See table 3).

The correlation coefficient (*r*):

- In the city of Samara / In the city of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9568);

- In the city of Samara / In the village, settlement of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9082);

- In the city of the Samara region / In the village, settlement of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9906).

In general, the estimates (opinions) are very close – the correlation coefficient (*r*) is more than 0.9 for each of the three groups of respondents to other groups. At the same time, estimates (opinions) of residents of the cities of the Samara region and residents of villages of the Samara region are the closest; estimates (opinions) of residents of the megalopolis (Samara city) and residents of villages of the Samara region are the least closes.

One of the most important manifestations of people's attitude to the family is the level of marriage, and marital status (table 4).

Table 4 shows that more than two-fifths of respondents (43.5 %) in the entire sample have the status: "Married – the marriage is registered". At the same time, the share of respondents with this status is the largest among residents of the cities of the Samara region (46.6 %), and the smallest share among residents of villages of the Samara region (41.0 %). Among the residents of the megalopolis (Samara city), the proportion of respondents with this status is only slightly higher (42.4 %) than among the residents of the villages of the Samara region.

A third of respondents in the entire sample (33.5 %) have the status: "Single (not married) – was not married". At the same time, the share of respondents with this status is the largest among residents of the megalopolis (37.3 %), and the smallest share is among residents of villages of the Samara region (28.5 %). At the same time, the proportion of those who indicated their status: "Single (not married) – widower/widow" among the residents of villages (9.3 %) is almost the same as the share of those who indicated their status: "Single (not married) – was not married" (10.6 %). Among the residents of the megalopolis (Samara city) and the residents of Samara cities, the share of those with the status: "Single (not married) – widower/widow" is noticeably less than among the residents of villages. It can be said that especially most of the grandparents (especially grandmothers) who have the status: of "Single (not married) – widower/widow" live in villages.

Approximately one in ten respondents indicated their status: "Cohabitation – marriage is not registered" (10.2 %). The share of respondents with this status is the largest among the residents of the megalopolis (12.7 %),

and the smallest share is among the residents of the cities of the Samara region (6.9 %).

**Table 4.** Distribution of answers to the question: "Your marital status?" – Percentages of the number of respondents (N, n).

| Answers options                           | 1. In the city of Samara | 2. In the cities of the Samara region | 3. In the villages, and settlements of the Samara region | Total |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------|
|   | n=252                    | n=217                                 | n=151  | N=620 |
| Married – the marriage is registered      | 42.4                     | <b>46.6</b>                           | 41.0   | 43.5  |
| Single (not married) – was not married    | <b>37.3</b>              | 32.7                                  | 28.5   | 33.5  |
| Cohabitation – marriage is not registered | <b>12.7</b>              | 6.9                                   | 10.6   | 10.2  |
| Single (not married) – divorced           | 6.0                      | 8.3                                   | <b>10.6</b>  | 7.9   |
| Single (not married) – widower/widow      | 1.6                      | 5.5                                   | <b>9.3</b>   | 4.9   |
| Total                                     | 100.0                    | 100.0                                 | 100.0  | 100.0 |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> )  | 0.9665                   | 0.9665                                |  |       |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> )  | 0.9598                   |                                       | 0.9598   |       |
| The correlation coefficient ( <i>r</i> )  |                          | 0.9984                                | 0.9984   |       |

If we sum up those who have the status: "Married – the marriage is registered" and those who have the status: "Cohabitation – marriage is not registered", then more than half of the residents of all forms of settlements find themselves in one form or another of marital and family relations.

What does the comparison of the survey results by groups of respondents in pairs using the correlation coefficient (*r*) show? (See table 4).

The correlation coefficient (*r*):

- In the city of Samara / In the cities of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9665);

- In the city of Samara / In the villages, settlements of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*)=0,9598);

- In the cities of the Samara region / In the villages, settlements of the Samara region (The correlation coefficient (*r*) = 0,9984).

Each of the three groups of respondents to other groups has a correlation coefficient (*r*) equal to more than 0.95. That is, in general, family statuses (their distribution among different groups of respondents) are very close. At the same time, the family statuses of residents of the cities of the Samara region and residents of villages of the Samara region are the closest. However, the family statuses of residents of the megalopolis (Samara city) and residents of villages of the Samara region are the least closes.

### 3 Results and Discussion

It is natural for society and science to discuss the problems of family transformation (transformation of sexuality, intimacy, and family relations) [5; 6]. Evidence of a family crisis, for example, is the spread of extramarital cohabitation (informal marriages) and same-sex marriages [7; 8], and voluntary refusal of childbearing [9]. Prostitution has become widespread, and because of this the proportion of women capable of childbearing and traditional marriage is decreasing; the scale of professionalization of prostitution is significant [10]. Many phenomena in line with the "crisis of the modern family" exist not only in Western countries but also in Russia [11].

Sociological data indicate certain differences between the family (to the thesis that the family is hope and support) and children (to the thesis that the concept of "happiness" is correctly associated with family and children) between residents of different territorial settlement structures.

Residents of villages and cities of the Samara region have a more positive attitude towards the family; residents of the megalopolis (Samara city) have a noticeably less positive attitude towards the family. These differences suggest the need to search for special approaches in socio-economic and socio-cultural policy (including housing construction plans, and provision of social infrastructure facilities to the population) when solving demographic problems in relation to residents of different territorial settlement structures.

Our sociological data confirm that there is a tendency to decrease the importance of the family, the value of the family, and the "universe of family life", in the words of A.I. Antonov [12, p. 98]. This trend is more inherent in large cities (megacities). The existence of such a trend is evidenced by the appearance of "childfree" (that is, voluntarily childless) [9]. At the same time, some studies show that the most approved behaviour model among young people is the traditional one – "to create a full family in which children must necessarily be" [13, p. 588].

Therefore, when determining the goals of social development (planning), it is important to take into account as much as possible the objective needs (requests) of the overwhelming majority of residents not only for favourable living conditions in general but precisely for favourable living conditions for a family lifestyle. This implies, in particular, the presence in settlements (especially in urban settlements and, especially, in the metropolis) of a sufficient number of social facilities for a family lifestyle near the place of residence.

Along with meeting the needs of the population in traditional, familiar types of social infrastructure (schools, kindergartens, sports, and cultural institutions), focused mainly on individuals, it is necessary to develop the social infrastructure to meet the needs of the daily life of small family groups, to meet the family needs of people.

### 4 Conclusion

In general, sociological data show that the overwhelming majority of respondents (residents of various territorial settlement structures) recognize the family as hope and support in life. At the same time, the value of the family in traditional forms is noticeably lower among the residents of the megalopolis than among the residents of villages and cities of the region. The differences in the assessments of the family among different social groups suggest the need to search for special approaches in socio-economic, socio-cultural, and demographic policy in relation to the development of different territorial settlement structures.

The study of people's needs in the family variant of living and the search for options for social planning and management, taking into account the needs of family collectives, can be considered a promising area of scientific research and practical municipal and regional management.

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