

The Problems of a Young Armenian Family in the Disaster Zone

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Հայ երիտասարդ ընտանիքի հիմնախնդիրները աղետի գոտում

Մարկոսյան Մարիամ Մ.

ՀՀ ԳԱԱ Փիլիսոփայության, սոցիոլոգիայի և իրավունքի ինստիտուտի հայցորդ (Երևան, ՀՀ)

Անփոփազիր. Ժամանակակից աշխարհի սոցիալ-մշակութային զարգացումը իր ուրույն հետքն է թողնում ընտանեկան ինստիտուտի, հատկապես երիտասարդ ընտանիքի զարգացման վրա: Պետական աջակցության կարիքը այժմ ամենաշատն ունեն երիտասարդ ընտանիքները: Դրա մասին է վկայում վիճակագրությունը՝ ամուսնությունների թվի նվազում, ամուսնալուծությունների աճ, ծնելիության ցածր մակարդակ, սոցիալ-տնտեսական վատ պայմաններ, բնակարանային խնդիրներ և այլն: Այս պատկերը առավել ցայտուն է արտահայտված մարզերում, հատկապես աղետի գոտում (Շիրակ և Լոռի): Խնդիրները տարբեր են, բայց միևնույն ժամանակ խիստ փոխկապակցված:

Հոդվածում հեղինակը նկարագրում է ՀՀ աղետի գոտում գտնվող երիտասարդ ընտանիքները և նրանց հիմնախնդիրների առանձնահատկությունները, միաժամանակ համադրելով սոցիոլոգիական մեթոդները փորձում է ցույց տալ բոլոր այն կարևորագույն քայլերը, որոնք հրատապ են այդ խնդիրները լուծելու համար:

Հանգուցաբառեր՝ ընտանիք, երիտասարդ ընտանիք, երիտասարդություն, ամուսնական հարաբերություններ, ամուսնության որակ, ընտանեկան դաստիարակություն, կոնֆլիկտ:

Проблемы молодой армянской семьи в зоне бедствия

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Аннотация. Социально-культурное развитие современного мира накладывает отпечаток на развитие института семьи, особенно молодой семьи. Молодые семьи больше всего нуждаются в государственной поддержке. Об этом свидетельствует статистика: снижение числа браков, увеличение числа разводов, низкая рождаемость, плохие социально-экономические условия, жилищные проблемы и др. Эта картина более выражено проявляется в регионах, особенно в зоне бедствия (Лори и Ширак). Проблемы разные, но в то же время взаимосвязанные.

В статье автор описывает молодую семью в зоне бедствия Республике Армения, особенно выделяя проблемы молодых семей, чтобы показать специфику проблем и с помощью социологических методов пытается показать реальную картину и все шаги, которые должны быть предприняты для решения этих проблем.

Ключевые слова: семья, молодая семья, молодежь, супружеские отношения, качество брака, семейное воспитание, конфликт.

A young family is important for every society. The importance of the topic is conditioned by the modernity of the issues of the creation and maintenance of young families in the Republic of Armenia and in the cities transformed from the disaster zone to the developing zone. It is also a big problem that young people are not ready to have a family, which is the reason for the breakdown of many newly created families, and all this poses a new problem for parents, so that they properly instill in their children the performance of the function of family reproduction, and finally, prepare them for a new married life in order to create a strong family. Therefore, it becomes urgent to reveal the logic of

the historical development of the institution of the family, as well as to develop recommendations for the transformation of the young family in the Republic of Armenia and the solution and improvement of the main problems based on advanced foreign experience. In accordance with that goal, we put forward the following issues:

Find out the main factors affecting the current situation of the young family in Armenia, determine the prospects of its further development, as well as make recommendations for improving the problems of the young family in the Republic of Armenia and the disaster zone and the effectiveness of state policy.

Sometimes newly created couples, not knowing well about the distribution of household responsibilities, vital interests, and age characteristics, face many problems. Taking all this into account, it can be concluded that in a traditional family the greater the parents' interest in maintaining the family is, the more promising the future of young people is.

It should be noted, that the approaches of families in preparing boys and girls for married life in Armenian society are different. In Armenian society, and in general, emphasizing the most sacred role entrusted to a woman in the family is being a mother, who mostly carries out the most responsible functions of the family, therefore, the people of the older generation of the family should support the development of such knowledge and abilities that will be combined with becoming a mother, which in turn will provide the necessary conditions for the health of one's own child, his/her upbringing and the formation of basic vital principles.

Discussing the preparation of young people for family life, in addition to the significant role of parents, it becomes necessary to clarify the question of how young people themselves relate to the process of creating a family and solving the problems that arise. Material, housing, work, physical and psychological health issues are considered a priority for the creation and full functioning of every family.

In connection with the mentioned problem, it is rightly stated in the specialized scientific literature that social support of families cannot be achieved exclusively with material, economic assistance [1, p. 275]. Social support of the family should be understood in a broader sense: support in the realization of other possible requirements. Today, the future of the family institution depends on the status of young families. It is obvious that socio-economic conditions influence the postponement of marriage among young people. Deterioration of socio-economic conditions, disadvantage can later affect the strength of family and marital relations.

In particular, the traditional family has been modified into nuclear family /as a result of the increase of incomplete families, the reduction of the number of children in the family, the weakening of social control in the family/ [2, p. 95]. For example, in RA:

In 2010 17,984 marriages and 2997 divorces were registered.

In 2020 12,179 marriages and 3155 divorces were registered.

It turns out that in 2010 compared to 2020 the number of marriages decreased by 32.3% or 5,805 cases, and divorces, on the contrary, increased by 5% or 158 cases. Generalizing these numbers, it is

estimated that 5,963 families were not created and no longer survived as families.

From 2010 to 2020 divorces decreased in Gegharkunik, Tavush regions, but they are generally not large numbers.

The same picture is in Lori and Shirak disaster zones:

In 2010 and 2020 marriages have the following picture:

1) Lori region - 1398, 839

2) Shirak region-1392, 737 [3]

Based on this sample statistical data of the decrease of marriages and the increase of divorces, the state should take measures to clarify the real reasons for the decrease of marriages, the increase of divorces, try to find out what leads to such statistics. Nowadays, the young family is based on the salary of a married couple, and in regions more often on the basis of the husband's salary, because the woman is mainly engaged in taking care of the child or children, housekeeping.

The reason why women do not work is not only the overload of household chores, but also the lack of jobs. This also leads to other demands related to daily life for young families, organization of entertainment, desire to live a cultural life, etc. It should also be noted that young people also have the problem of socialization, which requires additional costs. And in the event that young couples cover their financial expenses with their own salary, abroad job, benefits and the help of their parents [4, p. 87].

As a result of the implementation of the inquiry in c. Yerevan, RA, it was possible to find out the ways of earning money in Lori and Shirak regions /included total 412 people, from which 200 are males and 212 are females, in the framework of the age of 18 - 35/.

Based on the contacts provided, we were able to conduct the same survey with the above 412 persons through a phone call to find out the problem directly with them. The answers were probably not very different, and the information gained could be referred to the entire community.

In addition to the main characteristics we know about the unity of the people, which are essential to raise the issues of this study, it became necessary to turn to the representative sample to find out another important facts.

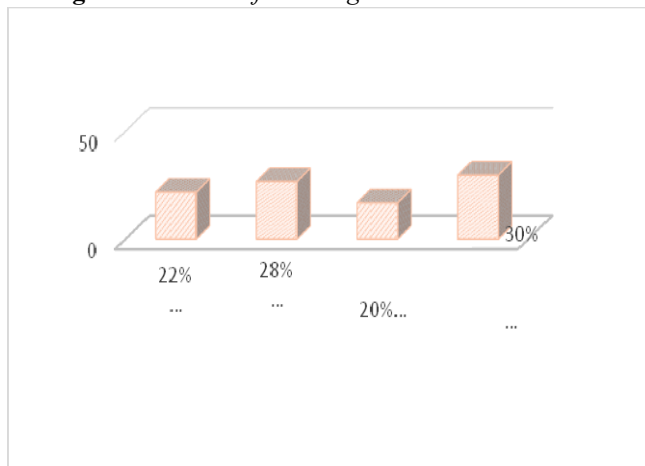
For the family it was important to distinguish the following criteria:

- Young families living in Lori and Shirak regions

- Young families who have been living with their families (parents) in the above regions since 1988, or at least 10 years after that.

- The purpose of distinguishing the 2nd criterion is that it will enable to show the problems in the disaster zone after the devastating earthquake in 1988, especially the problems that were and still are extremely problematic for young couples. Comparing the current family problems of parents and their children can give us a true picture of the existence of problems.

Figure 1. Means of securing the economic basket



As it is visible from Figure 1, young families receive their material support from their parents (30%). But the worrying fact is that the job as a means of earning money, mainly is organized in other countries (28%).

And this in turn leads to other socio-economic and other socio-psychological consequences. This refers to work-related migration, the weakening of the moral and psychological relations between spouses, the birth rate decrease, increase in divorce, etc. Social benefit as a source of earning of the family (20%) indicates the low index of family prosperity, because the beneficiaries are those families that have no members under the age of 18, recorded in the beneficiary system, whose prosperity level unit is higher than the marginal unit set by the RA government for the given year [5].

The income received own through employment is only (22%). As for the housing problem of young families, it continues to be considered one of the most important problems. There are families who even received some compensation from the state in the form of an apartment, but still, the apartment with its surface area is not enough for two or more generations to live together.

Furthermore, there are still families who have not even received their real estate compensation during these 35 years. And the real estate problem leads to the inability of young couples to plan a social-material, prosperous life, as well as to a decrease in the number of births [6].

Table 1. The main indicators of the natural movement of the RA population (birth rate)

1	1990	78.860
2	1995	48.744
3	2000	33.963
4	2010	43.934
5	2015	41.609
6	2020	36.448

It turns out that the post-earthquake years with birth rates are quite worrying. The birth rate in Armenia decreased sharply starting from 1998 to 99, and from 2001 to 2002, it is the lowest: 32,000 births.

One of the main reasons for the increase in the mortality rate/the number of registered deaths per 1000 inhabitants/ in Armenia is the change in the composition of the population - aging. It is accompanied by a decrease in the birth rate. In total, the Committee of Statistics published 35,371 deaths in 2020, which is more by about 35 percent or by 9,185 cases comparing with the previous year.

A higher index, according to official data, was recorded in 1988, when, according to estimated data, only the earthquake took more than 35,000 lives (and according to official information, 25 thousand).

From the same 412 young people interviewed in Lori and Shirak regions live:

Figure 2. Real estate opportunities for the young families

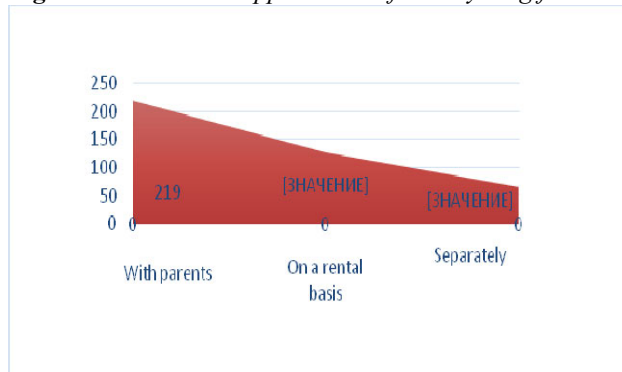


Figure 2 clearly shows that the real estate (housing) problem is a rather acute problem. We will discuss the real estate compensation programs in our next article entitled "State policy towards solving the problems of young families in the disaster zone". Social and real estate (housing) problems, uncertainty about the future of one's own child, as well as the fears of young people, the lack of self-confidence, become the reason for not having children or delaying it in the future. This is characteristic not only of the youth of Armenia but also of other countries of the post-Soviet region [7, p. 80].

Likewise, there are many cases when parents are busy with their own life and career and as a result forget their children. Researchers have come to the conclusion that young parents are unable to engage in child education and there are many reasons for this, including:

- Carrying modern values and moving away from traditional values,
- Overemployment,
- Solving problems at the expense of their own child [8, p. 145].

Maintaining the health and healthy lifestyle of young families is also one of the important problems. And if the length of life and its quality speak of a stable level of social security, then today in our country, physical and psychological diseases, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases, diabetes, suicide attempts, and the increase in mortality among young people have become common in our country and distrust of the country's future and the government.

The main overarching problem of the state should be ensuring the stability of family relations and material conditions [9, p. 98]. The problems of young families have always been in the center of attention of the state and society. This is evidenced by the fact that a systemic approach is being taken to the problems of the youth at present. In particular, we are talking about the concept of state youth policy. The mentioned concept defines the main provisions and directions on the basis of which the state youth policy of the Republic of Armenia is developed and implemented [10].

When supporting young families, the state proceeds from the fact that the preservation of the national gene pool, the spiritual and physical development of the new generation depends on the health, socio-economic and living conditions of the young spouses, the natural and social environment surrounding them.

The state emphasizes the inclusion of issues aimed at the spiritual and physical development of youth in the process of development and adoption of regional and local programs [11]. According to the concept of state youth citizenship, young families are considered subjects of the state youth policy, where at least one of the spouses is young, 16-30 years old (inclusive), and the age of the other does not exceed 35 (inclusive), and the total age of the spouses do not exceed the 65 [12].

As we can see, the issues of social well-being of young adults, their spiritual and physical education are the priority of the state, and this means that solving the problems of young families is also conceptually

important for the government. Support for young families is one of the directions of state

activity aimed at realizing that goal. For this purpose, it is supposed to provide multi-faceted support for young families, starting with real estate construction, social, economic, job, and cultural entertainment, etc.

Speaking about the strategic plans aimed at overcoming the problems of young families in the Republic of Armenia, it is necessary to refer to the state target program "Affordable real estate for young families". The mentioned program is aimed at providing state support to young families in need of improving housing conditions through the implementation of the mechanism [13].

Emphasizing the role and importance of youth in the establishment of our country, the state is trying to adopt a systematic and comprehensive policy for youth. In addition to the real estate problem, the issue of ensuring a healthy moral and psychological atmosphere for the young family is no less important. In this regard, the recommendations that have been proposed in the professional literature in the direction of improving the moral and psychological atmosphere in the family and strengthening the role of the family are also quite valuable and noteworthy.

In particular, the following steps are necessary:

- Multifaceted economic, social, moral and physical assistance from the state to young families, especially those who are on the threshold of creating a family.
- Implementation of photographic work dedicated to the health of the family through mass media,
- Study and warning of genetic diseases of family members
- Information related to the health of new generations in all institutions of socialization [14, p. 102].

The increase in divorces, the decrease in marriages, and the decrease in the birth rate of children indicate that the modern Armenian family is experiencing a deep crisis. Generalizing the above, it can be assumed that the family crisis is caused not only by objective factors. First of all, each of us should change our world view /as Hegel said/ so that the world look at you as you look at it.

In fact, in this ever-changing world, the perceptions and ideals of today's youth play a major role in this or that issue. The questions are many. Maybe the problems that exist now were not considered problems as before, or for example, we, the youth, look at the problems of that time with a different eye, it is not unanimous.

Summarizing the results of statistical data, legal acts and sociological research, we should note that the family was and remains the most important link, on whose full activity the further development of the

entire society depends, and each of its members bear the great sense of responsibility which implies the transmission of national values.

Both the state and individuals should equally participate in the maintenance of national values in modern families. Nation lives and survives as long as its customs and traditions live.

Based on the lifestyle and concerns of modern young families, the following global issues can be separated:

1. Real Estate 2. Employment 3. Socio-economic

However, here we should record an important current reality. If the above-mentioned problems in young families were considered the most important problems requiring solution in recent decades, then the same cannot be said about the post-war period (from 2020 until today).

It is a fact that today's young spouses do not even mention any significant dynamics of their lifestyle, on the contrary, the picture has become more complicated.

Moreover, the fear of safety for one's own life has also been added. By the way, we should also mention that the majority of the interviewed young families expressed their desire to take the path of migration. This is really a big blow to the internal security of our society. And we are sure that this uncertainty will leave negative consequences on various spheres of life. The transition from the disaster zone to the developing zone is in our mindset, and it is not formulated only by budgetary allocations. We need new approach, new projects, new atmosphere in the country. Of course, the words "development" used in 2000 and 2022 cannot have the same content. Today, new challenges, new approaches, new expensive projects should be set, which should not be feared. The state implemented many programs in the disaster zone and solved many acute problems. The point is that many problems still remain not fully resolved. It is obvious that the restoration of the state and disaster zone, in general, is possible only in the logic of a new kind of ideology. The ultimate goal of the existence of state bodies should be to improve the quality of life of the population and solve existing problems.

Monitoring will make it possible to reach the path to the goal. Paying special attention to young people is the goal because they are the future "owners" of our society.

That is why it becomes important to know what young families want and demand.

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