



The Transformation of the Family Institution in the Modern Russian and Mongolian Society: The Structural and Functional Features

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the main trends in the transformation of the social institution of the family in the conditions of modern Russian and Mongolian society from the standpoint of structural-functional approach. The main attention is paid to the social environment characteristic of the factors contributing to changes in the specific functions of the family, first of all, reproductive. The study of this problem was carried out on the basis of an integrative research strategy, including the primary (the results of an empirical study of the regional social welfare and well-being of families living in Primorskiy Krai) and secondary analysis (results of the studies of Russian and Mongolian authors, as well as statistical data). A comprehensive analysis made by us showed that in the Russian and Mongolian society the family acts as a basic value of life. At the same time it was found that Russian and Mongolian families experiencing difficulties of social and economic nature, adversely affecting on the realization of their specific functions, especially reproductive. On the one hand, the effective functioning of the families is difficult under the influence of not very favorable material and domestic living conditions of much of the population of modern Russia and Mongolia. On the other hand, focus on achieving a certain standard of living standards requires considerable resources and economical housekeeping. All this determines a decrease the number of members in the family, since the formation of plants on welfare due to internal material resources leads to a conscious restriction of the number of children.

Keywords: Social Institution, The Family, The Structural and Functional Approach, Reproductive Function, Social Well-Being, Social Transformation, Mongolia

JEL Classifications: I310, I380, Z130

1. INTRODUCTION

Family is one of the basic institutions of society, characterizing a specific system of person social functioning. As a social institution, family is characterized by a set of rules, sanctions, patterns of behavior governing the interaction between spouses, parents and children, other relatives. It is in constant motion, changing under the influence of economic, political and cultural conditions, as well as due to the internal processes of its own development. All this fully applies to the modern Russian and Mongolian families.

Investigation of the structure and functions of the family organization is essential to the understanding of the basic processes in every society, trends and prospects of its development. Family, providing its members with physical, economic, social security, at the same time is an important element of person socialization. It plays a key role in the formation and transmission of the national cultural traditions, values that determine social behavior. Problems of marriage and family are becoming increasingly important in the context of globalization, due to the increasing complexity and accelerating socio-economic and socio-political development.

In addition, the study of the family institution in Mongolia is of interest for several reasons, including because of the presence long history of the relations between the peoples of Russia and Mongolia. Also, a study of this problem allows to think of the main vector of development of Russia's neighbor, its degree of modernization, provides an opportunity to better understand the ongoing reforms, to predict various risks.

Key aspects of the analysis of the transformation processes in today's global society - in general and in Mongolian society - in particular, are considered in the works of both foreign and Russian authors (Bell, 1973; Inglehart, 1990; Drucker, 1994; Sztompka, 1996; Tsetsenbileg, 2002; Graivoronskiy, 2007; Rodionov, 2009). Problems of the transformation and modernization in contemporary Russia are the most fully represented in the works of Zaslavskaja (2004), Yadov (2014), Golenkova (2014).

In general, recognizing the importance of the research and the role of the above-mentioned authors in the development of certain aspects of the chosen theme, it should be noted that the transformation of social institutions in these works is considered comprehensively, in the global context of modernization of modern societies. We focus our attention on the transformation of the family as one of the basic social institutions from the standpoint of structural-functional approach.

Family, anyway, is affected by the fundamental social processes of our time, influence on its ability to perform its many functions. Under the operation of the family we should understand the external manifestation of the properties of the subjects in the system of relations, specific actions to implement the requirements. Functions reflect the relationship of the family group and the society, as well as the focus of its activities. Talking about the functions of the family, it should be remembered that this is a result of life of millions of families which are found at the level of society, have a significant impact and characterize the role of the family as a social institution in a number of other social institutions.

Each of the social institution has the main functions that define its uniqueness and distinguish it from other institutions. The specific and unique feature of the family is a reproductive function. Reproductive function due to the need to continue the human race, which is not only the biological need of specific people, but is also of great importance to maintain the population. In this regard it is important to determine the possibility of the scientific estimate the performance of this function.

2. METHODS

The study of the social institution of the family in modern Russia and Mongolia in the context of the transformation processes taking into account the structural and functional characteristics was made by us on the basis of an integrative research strategy involving the use of primary and secondary analysis of sociological and statistical data. As the basic data for the secondary analysis, we used the results of the study "Impact of objective and subjective factors on the life of the modern Mongolian family," conducted in 2004-2009 on the initiative of the Institute of Philosophy,

Sociology and Law of the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia. The main method in this study was a survey in the form of a questionnaire. The total volume of the sample was 1079 people (Ulaanbaatar - 544 people, Eastern Aimag - 108 persons, East Gobi Aimag - 110 people, Selenge Aimag - 108 people, Bayan-Uleveysky - 107 people, Bayan-Hongorsky aimag - 102 persons). We also relied on the results of the study, implemented under the leadership of Dorzhdagva in 2006-2008. The study was conducted in Ulan Bator, a sociological survey in the form of a questionnaire as the basic method was also used here, the total sample was 450 people, the students of the Mongolian State University and members of their families were the respondents.

In addition, for the secondary analysis we used the data of official statistics, in particular, the information provided in the public domain on the website of the Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat).

The primary analysis we subjected an empirical data set obtained in the course of the author's sociological research. The study has a reconnaissance character. It was conducted in February-March 2013. The primary method of gathering sociological information that we use in the research process was the formalized questionnaire. The subject was full families residing in the Primorskiy Krai. As a subject of the study we examine the opinions and judgments of the spouses about their reproductive plans, financial position and social well-being of their families. The sample is target, quota. As a sign of quota we choose gender and age. The sample set is spatially localized within the municipalities of Primorskiy Krai, such as Vladivostok and Nakhodka city district. The sample size was 300 people.

The use of such a comprehensive approach, including primary and secondary analysis of quantitative data, allows us to more fully describe the structural and functional changes in the modern family in a transformed Mongolian and Russian society, including the regional specifics.

3. RESULTS

3.1. General Trends in the Transformation of the Family Institution in Russia and Mongolia

The family is the only social institution that ensures the reproduction of the population, so the demographic criterion - The birth of more than two children per woman of a childbearing age - is considered as a reliable indicator of the number of children that society is needed to avoid depopulation (Antonov and Sorokin, 2000. p. 49).

At the present time, both in Russia and in Mongolia, there is a decrease in the birth rate. If in Mongolia in the 1980 yy there were near 4.5 children per woman of reproductive age, in the 1990 yy there were 2.5 children. In 2010, the figure was 2.3 (Galiymaa and Batbayar, 2012. p. 408).

In the Russian Federation, fertility rate is much lower. In 1985, the total fertility rate (average number of births per woman of reproductive age) was 2.1. In 1999 this figure was 1.17. During this

period, there was the lowest birth rate in Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the future, the value of the total fertility rate was gradually increased, and now it is 1.7 (Demographics 2015, URL: http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/population/demography).

Thus, there is the formation of a new model of demographic behavior as a result of family adaptation to changing social conditions. There is a shift from many to medium and few children lifestyle. This social phenomenon is caused by the global trends. In the process of improving the sanitary conditions of life and development of health care child and maternal mortality are sharply reduced. Since then, the society ceases to need constant high birth rate and large families that compensated high mortality. The taboo on the use of contraception becomes redundant, resulting a massive expansion of intervention in the reproductive cycle with the use of contraceptives and abortion, as well as eliminates the need for indirect regulation of fertility. In this regard, social norms become soften and no longer apply that prolonged the reproductive period of life through early, continuous and lifelong marriage, premarital and extramarital sexual relations (they are no longer perceived as a deviation) become acceptable, simplifies the process of divorce, etc.

3.2. Features of Family Life in Terms of the Development of Modern Mongolian Society

In support of this argument we can cite the results of the research "Influence of objective and subjective factors on the life of the modern Mongolian family," which showed that, in the opinion of 41.4% of respondents, casual sex on the side is permissible. 65.2% of the respondents consider that the amount of the divorces in the person life can be unlimited. 56.3% of the respondents share the view, according to which the birth of a child from persons who are not married - is normal. Also, 53.8% consider the possible existence of the family, which is based on material interests, i.e., marriage of the convenience (Badaraev et al., 2012. p. 77).

It is also necessary to pay attention to the fact that to a large extent a decrease in the birth rate in Mongolia, with the beginning of the 1990 was due to the dramatic changes in the political and economic sphere of the society, as well as in most of the countries of the former socialist camp. Now on the background of conflicting results of socio-economic reform the process of reducing the strength of the modern Mongolian family continues. It's hard to expect other demographics, while maintaining high levels of poverty, low real incomes.

As the results of research carried out under the direction of Dorzhdagvy, 26% of respondents report that their material well is enough to everything you need; 43% - is only enough for food, shelter and clothing; material wealth is limited only by the cost of food in 27% of the respondents in Mongolia; 4% - not even enough for food. Only 16% of respondents choose good condition of their homes. 43% - satisfactory, 29% of the respondents believe their living conditions disappointing, 12% found it difficult to assess the condition of their homes (Dorzhdagva et al., 2008. p. 89).

By the specialists of the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law of the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia, it was revealed

that unemployment is a major factor in the deterioration of the socio-economic situation of the population in general and the family in particular. The negative role of the unemployment in the implementation of family livelihoods noted 43.8% of citizens and 56.2% of the villagers. It was also recorded that significantly increased the proportion of those who believe that the ability to live on their family negatively affects poverty (from 17.8% in 2004 to 50.1% in 2009), rising prices (from 38.7% in 2004 to 67.1% in 2009), the tax burden (from 34.3% in 2004 to 50.2% in 2009) (Batjargal, 2010. p. 87).

In addition, it is noted that the adult family members who do not work and do not receive social benefits are in the family of 51.3% of Mongolia (Badaraev, 2011. p. 108). The World Bank estimates, the unemployment rate in urban areas of Mongolia is more than 20%, and 36% of the population continues to live below the poverty (Goleman, 2009. p. 65).

3.3. Specificity of Functioning of Modern Russian Families in the Context of Regional Development

As for the Russian society, the standard of living of Russians, i.e., the character of the food and the ability to purchase clothing and durable goods, according to the Federal State Statistics Service in 2014, in 23.4% of the respondents was about the same as in 2013, in 56.2% it decreased and in 20.4% - increased. According to data for 2014 16.4 million Russians lived below the poverty (11.2% of the total population of the Russian Federation) (Inequality and Poverty, 2015, URL: http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_main/rosstat/ru/statistics/population/poverty/). Even more acute becomes the trend of impoverishment of the population, when it is viewed in the regional context. In the view of happened during the last years separation of the regions in the leading regions and depressed regions, the regional differentiation of level and quality of life deepened.

These are the results of our study in the Primorskiy Krai. The study found that a significant number people of Primorye are characterized by a low standard of living, i.e., material and economic issues come to the fore. So, in answering the question: "What would you say about the financial situation of your family?" Only 3% of respondents answered: "We live well, without any material worries." Another 30% said: "We live more or less decently," and the majority - 67% "hardly make ends meet" or "live below the poverty."

Another factor adversely affecting the socio-economic situation of Russian families is unemployment. According to the official data, the number of unemployed in Russia in 2014 amounted to 5.2% of the economically active population, i.e., approximately 3.9 million people. But this information does not take into account the huge scale of the hidden unemployment. With it the real level of unemployment experts estimate at 6.9%. The situation is aggravated by the fact that, according to experts, to provide the real support to the employment is possible with the unemployment rate not exceeding 3% (Human resources. gks.ru: Official website of the Federal State Statistics Service, 2015).

In general, the transformation in the field of socio-economic relations and other areas of public life causes significant changes

in the implementation of the reproductive function of the modern Russian family. In Russia, according to the Federal State Statistics Service on January 1, 2015 the total fertility rate was 1.7. At the same time in most regions of Eastern Siberia, the ratio is slightly higher nationwide, and is in the Republic of Buryatia - 2.0; in the Trans-Baikal region - 1.8; in the Irkutsk region - 1.75. Less favorable situation in this respect is in the Far Eastern Federal District. On average, the overall rate of reproduction of the population (number of births per woman of reproductive age) was 1.5. The lowest fertility rate was registered in the Primorskiy Krai - 1.4 (Evaluation of the resident population, 2015).

This correlates with the results of our research. We have recorded negative trends that determine the social well-being of residents of Primorye, a large part of the population is characterized by high levels of anxiety due to the uncertain life prospects. Stress caused by the poverty, lower incomes and lack of opportunities for their promotion, increased so much that about a third of the respondents were of the view according to which it was expressed the intention to move from Primorskiy Krai to another, more prosperous region. It was also found that 78.6% of respondents have anxiety as to what will be their future life and the lives of their children, 86.1% - do not plan their future or plan to not more than 1 year; 69.7% - believe that they are not proof from the economic disasters. It is noticed that the anxiety and insecurity in tomorrow is inherited in representatives of all segments of the population.

4. DISCUSSION

The presented data illustrate that there is a transformation of the reproductive function of the family in modern Russian and Mongolian families. We believe that these changes are caused due to a number of objective and subjective factors.

State of the family institution always reflects the level of development of a society and depends on the historical context. The most archaic of the known type of the family is a patriarchal family that existed in the feudal era. In the traditional family, which was at that time its main type, dominated the relationships where discernible dependence of wives from their husbands, and children from their parents was clearly enough. This situation is reflected in the basic principles of family interactions - It is the hierarchy and the inequality of the family members. Common interests of the family as they were understood by the elders, not simply dominated, they were a kind of absolute value, and the individual interests of certain members of the family are not taken into account.

In the traditional society family and society have been combined into one production cell. But as the transition from feudal to capitalist relations economic and social changes began, stimulating and changes in family life.

With the emergence and development of the industrial the division of labor in the home and at work has increased, and the value of family has decreased. Since the second half of the XIX century in the most industrialized countries child-centered family was

widespread, this is inherent in the rise of the role of privacy, intimacy and value of children. The custom of having many children gradually exhausts itself, the decision of the number of children is taking by the couple themselves.

It should be noted that the prevalence of child-centered families in modern society is the result of greater involvement of women in productive activities of society and the growth of the educational and qualification level of the population. Moreover, it can be explained by the fact that children are no longer a guarantee of a secure of old age parents. Accordingly, the interest of the family in children is not due to the economic and moral and emotional need. This is manifested in the fact that a positive and not just quantitative (planning conception), but also a qualitative principle of child-center is consciously held. Parents carry on the benefits of cultural investments in children (private preschool groups, prestigious educational institutions, music, language, and other clubs and so on).

At the same time, many authors noted that modern (child-centered) family is undergoing significant changes, which are associated with the transition from an industrial to a postindustrial society. We can say that for the post-modern society in almost any type of activity a manifestation of creative activity becomes characteristic. The development of human capabilities becomes more important, there is a predominance of subject-subject interaction between people, which determines the properties of all the elements of a new social structure.

This statement is quite true in the family of post-industrial society. The most common in the era of post-industrialism (second half of XX - the beginning of XXI centuries.) is a married family. Therefore, the main feature of this type is that the basic family values are formed in the interaction between husband and wife, and only subsequently become a natural base for parent-child and family relationships.

In general, changes in the functioning of the institution of family have a variety of implications for both the family and its members and for society as a whole. A positive trend is the shift in emphasis on marriage, becoming a "family wedding," turning it into the most intimate group that have similar shared sense of solidarity and meets deep, mutually demanding personal needs. At the same time, family changes include some negative for the social reproduction phenomena associated with the gradual reorientation of the population with the values of a family with several children, based on a stable marriage, on the value of non-marital, reflecting the aspirations of people for individual achievements at non-family sphere of life, especially to a status.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, we can conclude that contemporary Russian and Mongolian society are in a state of social and economic discomfort. Thus, the absence of the problem associated with the transformation of the reproductive function of the modern Russian and Mongolian families is that, on the one hand, there is a decrease in the birth rate under the influence of

non-favorable material and domestic living conditions of much of the population. To a large extent this situation is due to a focus on achieving a certain standard of living standards, which requires considerable resources and economical housekeeping. These reasons predetermined the decrease in the strength of the family, since the formation of plants on welfare due to internal material resources leads to a conscious restriction of the number of children.

On the other hand, despite the unfavorable trends in the socio-economic relations, the married couple of the young Mongolian families want to have three or more children (Galiymaa and Batbayar, 2012. p. 409). According to Dorzhdagvy 55% consider it necessary to have a family of three or more children, two - 34%, one child - 4% of the respondents (7% of respondents found it difficult to answer) (Dorzhdagva et al., 2008. p. 91).

Data made on the Russian sample showed that 91.4% of women and 89.2% of male respondent's family is one of the most important values in life, and 19.6% of all respondents put family first. Also, according to the majority of respondents to feel as people taken place in the live, it is needed to create a happy family, have children, and raise their children worthy people.

All this indicates that the Russians and Mongolians still value the family as an integral part of their personal fortune. Consequently, there is still reason to believe that the lowest point of negative changes in the implementation of the reproductive function of the modern Russian and Mongolian families is reached. Time to get a good education, to achieve a high level of qualification and the appropriate material status, to independently and adequately support a family, to educate children, to experience the satisfaction and pleasure from what you have achieved in life lasting social status - These are the basic value priorities, defining stages of the way of life in modern society.

In connection with the identified problem it becomes particularly important to perform special empirical studies to identify the reproductive attitudes of Russian and Mongolian families, primarily young people, and reasons to a focus on the medium children, the degree of its prevalence and factors that may have a positive impact on them. The formation and maintenance in the minds of citizens' installations to maintain and strengthen family life is seemed significant. At the same time the main task of the state and society should be to create a legal, institutional and economic environment conducive to the effective implementation of the reproductive function of the family.

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