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## PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE PHENOMENON OF LARGE FAMILY

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**ABSTRACT:** A large family most fully reflects both positive and negative changes in society. Under favorable conditions, a large family maximally realizes its social and educational potential in solving the issues of children’s upbringing. Consequently, in the formation of a sustainable society it is necessary to pay special attention to the large family, its preservation and development. The article analyzes the phenomenon of large families from a psychological point of view and the psychological characteristics of large families.

**KEYWORDS:** Large family, siblings, society, socio-moral norms, psychological climate, relationship.

### INTRODUCTION

The attitude towards large families in society is ambivalent. In the public perception, such a phenomenon is currently considered either the only means of preserving, maintaining and transmitting traditional socio-moral norms and values, or an unjustified whim, exoticism and manifestation of marginal approaches to the organization of family life. In the eyes of the public and state institutions, a large family is often considered a potential risk group in terms of social and economic indicators. In society, it is still treated with extreme caution, up to social disapproval and even rejection. This attitude is expressed in the perception of members of a large family either as social dependents or as a risk group by the criterion of adaptability and poverty. The potential or actual disadvantage of a fairly significant part of large families in society becomes the reason for negative attitudes towards them in general.

The viewpoint of the previous era that a large family cannot provide a subsistence level for its members, that members of a large family have reduced opportunities to meet both basic and spiritual needs, that children are more likely to suffer from physical or mental illnesses, are prone to deviations, and have minimal levels of education and professional qualifications is still quite stable today. A large family forms a specific subculture. This becomes possible due to the fact that the family is a special socio-psychological system that implements specific functional-role strategies and has an extended system of sibling strata. The subculture of a large family is characterized by a special, different from other social communities picture of the world, system of values, life attitudes, behavioral strategies. Its specific way of life together forms the psychological basis of family existence and allows us to talk about the presence of a special cultural component.

The structural components of the subculture of a large family are peculiarities of parental motivation, specifics of family functional realization, strategies of family interaction and communication, and psychological climate. The peculiarities of the subculture of large families are determined by a number of factors: cultural and socio-economic status of the family, psychological climate, communicative strategies of interaction, specifics of psychological motivation to have many children, strategies of upbringing, management and influence at the level of vertical and horizontal subsystems, extended transactions in the sibling subsystem.

Dynamic processes leading to significant changes in the structure, functionality and role attitudes of the family occur latently, but constantly and steadily. We are witnessing the era of the nuclear small child-centered family, which is a certain normative model accepted in modern society and acts as a social reference point, as a specific scenario for the implementation of life strategies of new generations.

Family as a social institution, as a small group and psychological and pedagogical phenomenon is a unique phenomenon. Solovyov N.Y. writes: "Family is a cell (small social group) of society, the most important form of organization of personal life, based on personal union and kinship ties, i.e. the relationship between husband and wife, parents and children, brothers and sisters, and other relatives living together and maintaining a common household" [1]. The peculiarities of family development depend on the most important characteristics and indicators, to which researchers include the following: family structure, its functions and dynamics of development. To reveal the phenomenon of the family, it is necessary to consider the content of all the above parameters.

One of the important parameters determining the peculiarities of the family is the parameter that characterizes the life activity aimed at satisfying needs, at achieving goals; the parameter that also determines the general orientation of the family not only in the individual, personal form, but also in the social format. This parameter is the function of the family. Solovyov N.Y. pointed out that each family has so many functions, how many needs it satisfies, how many tasks it solves, which are important not only for family members, but also for society as a whole [2].

The realization of the main functions of the family (educational, household, emotional, spiritual, reproductive, sexual and erotic, etc.), its features and characteristics depend on another important parameter of the family - its structure. Proceeding from this parameter it is necessary to consider such characteristics of a family as: family composition, number of members and relations which are formed in a family depending on it. Depending on the number of family members, on generations, on the nature of "leadership" in each family a special structure of relationships between members is distinguished. Based on these parameters, there are: patriarchal, child-centered and conjugal families [3]. Depending on the composition of the family, the following types of families are distinguished: nuclear, when the family consists of children and parents; extended, when other relatives live together with the young family; incomplete, when the child lives with one of the parents.

One of the important characteristics affecting the family, determining its structure and the nature of relationships between members is the presence of children in the family. The number of children in a family is an important parameter [5]. Depending on the number of children, families

are classified into the following types: infertile family - a family without children; one-child family - a family with one child; small family - a family with two children; medium-child family - a family with 3-4 children; large family - a family with five or more children.

Family dynamics is one of the important parameters determining the peculiarities of the family, as the stage of family development, the period of life activity as a social group directly affects the functions and structure of the family, thus creating a unique image of each family [4]. A large family is defined by the number of children from 5 and more. A large family is a special kind of family with its own specific features and characteristics. A family with a large number of children is characterized by great cohesion of spouses, divorces in such families are quite rare and occur mainly due to the failure of husbands to bring up children and to fulfill other family and household duties. In large families, as a rule, a children's group of different ages and sexes is formed, with leadership of the elders, with many interpersonal relations and emotional ties oriented towards mutual understanding and mutual assistance. Children take care of household chores, solve family problems of minor complexity, and have their own household responsibilities.

The large family space, being a specific environment, influences the process of a child's socialization, the formation of personal qualities and properties, determines the nature of communication and interaction of the child in society. A significant factor determining the vector of socialization is its social status, material and spiritual and moral well-being of a large family, which differently affects the formation of personality of each family member.

The psychological climate of the family is an important factor that all researchers of the family as a scientific phenomenon and social phenomenon point out. Psychological climate is a dynamic phenomenon, the creation and preservation of which depends on each family member, on efforts and work on it. Psychology identifies three types of psychological climate of the family: favorable, unfavorable and contradictory. Long-term observations of sociologists and psychologists show that a significant part of families have a contradictory psychological climate.

I.V. Grebennikov writes: "A favorable climate of a large family is characterized by the following features: cohesion, a sense of security and emotional satisfaction, mutual understanding, pride in belonging to one's family. At the same time, self-criticism, benevolent criticism towards any other family member, mutual patience and correctness in cases of mismatch of opinions are well developed" [6]. Favorable psychological climate of a large family depends on many factors. Marital compatibility built on the commonality of spiritual, value and moral views of husband and wife is the main basis for a favorable psychological climate in the family.

Contradictory is also the point of view of researchers on the issue of psychological climate in a large family. Here the opinions of theorists and practitioners are also diametrically opposed: from "the atmosphere of many children" with a positive sign, consisting in cooperation, mutual support and help, community, love and friendship to "the atmosphere of rivalry" with a negative sign, manifested in nervousness and overstrain, rivalry and alienation between members of a large family. Nevertheless, in a large family, as in any other kind of family, family members (parents, children, relatives) should develop, grow, improve, accumulating experience (marital, parental), objectively treating and solving family problems, including financial ones [8].

A large family has a specific system of value orientations, needs, laws and norms of functioning, it is characterized by a special way of life in general. Since the source of subculture can be any social community united by a common culture, the family can be considered as a source of formation of a certain tradition of attitude, interaction, response, which is expressed in specific features of life style, value-meaning attitudes, behavioral strategies [7].

The main reason for the formation of subculture as a specific sphere of socio-cultural and socio-psychological life structure of the family is dissatisfaction with the generally accepted system of value orientations and divergence from the traditional hierarchy of moral values. In this regard, the allocation of the subculture of a large family as a separate phenomenon is primarily due to objective reasons, namely those social changes that have been taking place in recent decades with the institution of the family and the already established social attitudes towards a large family.

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