Chapter #1

THE RELATIONSHIP OF VALUABLE ORIENTATION AND IDEAS ABOUT MARRIAGE AMONG WOMEN IN EARLY ADULTHOOD

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of marriage is one of the little-studied questions of family psychology. The resolution of the contradiction between the need of modern society to form complete and adequate ideas about the marital role among students and the need to identify socio-psychological factors that influence the development of ideas about marriage determines the problem of research. The purpose of the study is to identify the features of ideas about marriage (Ideal husband, Ideal wife, I am a future wife) depending on the structure of valuable orientations of young women in early adulthood.
The study involved 310 female students in age from 20 to 22. It was found that among young female students 45 people (14.5 %) are focused on the values of professional self-realization, 59 people (19 %) are focused on gnostic and aesthetic values, and 206 people (66.5 %) are focused on the values of personal happiness. The results showed that the concepts of marriage have both common features and specific features due to the influence of the structure of valuable orientations of the respondents. Ideas about marriage are characterized by fragmentary formation of emotional and behavioral components, in some cases the presence of cognitive distortions.

Keywords: ideas about marriage, valuable orientations, early adulthood.

1. INTRODUCTION

Student's youth between the ages of 18 and 23 are classified as "generation Z" or "Internet generation", or "digital people" for whom one of the most important sources of socio-cultural development are information and communication resources of the Internet (Yanitsky et al., 2019). The researchers note the following peculiarities of the "generation Z": thinking clip art, fragmentation of consciousness, switching from one activity to another, the ability to operate in a multitasking, high mobility, non-attachment to the permanent place of residence and the social environment, the virtual nature of interpersonal communication because communication takes place in social networks (Yanitsky et al., 2019). N. Howe and W. Strauss describes this generation as children sitting at home at the computer-home landers (Howe & Strauss, 2007). The exceptional importance of the student period for personal development is determined by the following tasks that require resolution at this stage of ontogenesis:

1. search for identity: students define and redefine themselves, their priorities, and their place in the world;

2. transformation of child-parent relationships, the formation of personal independence which implies taking responsibility for their lives, their place in society;

3. formation of professional self-awareness and learning the basics of the future profession;

4. building a close relationship with the opposite sex and choosing a partner for future family life.

The main psychosocial task at the stage of entering adulthood is to build identity (van Doeselaar, McLean, Meeus, Denissen, & Klimstra, 2020). Currently, the study of the identity of modern youth is at the stage of accumulation of scientific knowledge conducting a large number of studies in narrow areas such as ethnic identity (Umaña-Taylor, Kornienko, Douglass Bayless, & Updegraff, 2018; Wang, & Yip, 2020), religious identity (Sugimura, Matsushima, Hihara, Takahashi, & Crocetti, 2019), personal identity (Albarello, Crocetti, & Rubini, 2018; Lannegrand-Willems, Chevrier, Perchec, & Carrizales 2018), gender identity (Lessard, Watson, & Puhl, 2020; Fish, Moody, Grossman, & Russell, 2019), family self-determination (Merzlyakova, 2019). Studies of the components of the structure, content characteristics, types and socio-psychological factors of family self-determination of modern youth have only recently begun to appear in psychology. In our opinion, the "family self – determination is depending on the specific cultural and historical situation of the multi-stage active and informed design process in the time frame of the family image, based on the structure of the system of valuable orientations, finding the meaning of parent-child and marital relations, development of the capacity for arbitrary regulation and reflection" (Merzlyakova, 2019, pp. 30). Family values, marriage and parenthood are important phenomena of family self-determination of the individual. It has been established that family self-determination is an important age-related neoplasm of youth (Karabanova, & Merzlyakova, 2020).

2. BACKGROUND

The phenomenon of marriage is one of the little-studied questions of family psychology. Relying on P. Ya. Galperin, O. A. Karabanova, E. I. Zakharova's ideas we consider the concept of marriage as a reference point, based on which a person will build their marital behavior in the future (Zakharova, 2012; Zakharova, Karabanova, Starostina, & Dolgikh, 2019). The structure of ideas about marriage includes cognitive, emotional, and behavioral components. The cognitive component is the image of oneself as a spouse and marriage partner, knowledge and understanding of marital functions, awareness of the qualities necessary for mastering marital functions and implementing marital behavior. The emotional component is a positive attitude towards the family, marriage partner, future children, marital rights and responsibilities, and the need for a family lifestyle. The behavioral component is awareness of the ways to implement marital functions, role expectations (setting for the active performance of family duties by the marriage partner) and role claims (readiness and ability to perform family duties). The resolution of the contradiction between the need of modern society to form complete and adequate ideas about the marital role among students and the need to identify socio-psychological factors that influence the development of ideas about marriage determines the problem of research.

In the context of this research we consider valuable orientations as a personal factor in the formation of ideas about marriage among students. There are five main directions are identified in the definition of the concept of "valuable orientations". Valuable orientations are considered as the needs and motives of the personality; the installation of the personality towards life values; the attitude of the personality towards life values; the orientation of the personality to their life values; representation, beliefs of the personality about life values. The analysis and generalization of various approaches to the definition of

the concept under consideration allow us to formulate the following definition: valuable orientations are a relatively stable, socially conditioned orientation of a personality to meaningful life goals and ways to achieve them, determined by intrapersonal formations.

The purpose of the study is to identify the features of ideas about marriage (Ideal husband, Ideal wife, I am a future wife) depending on the structure of valuable orientations of young women in early adulthood.

3. METHODS

To diagnose the structure of valuable orientations we used the questionnaire "A Value and Availability Ratio in Various Vital Spheres Technique" by E. B. Fantalova (2001). To identify the content characteristics in the representations of marriage we used the following psych diagnostic methods: The Method of Semantic Differential, developed by Charles E. Osgood (Solomin, 2001), Projective Technique of "Incomplete Sentences" (Raigorodsky, 2001), the questionnaire "Role Expectations and Claims in Marriage" by A.N. Volkova (Volkova & Trapeznikova, 2012).

During the analytical stage we used mathematical and statistical methods that allowed us to establish the reliability of the research results. All calculations were performed using the IBM SPSS Statistics 21 computer program. The analysis included descriptive statistics, cluster analysis (K-means method), Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for one sample, Shapiro-Wilkes criterion, and correlation analysis.

The study involved 310 female students in age from 20 to 22 (average meaning M = 20.77, standard deviation SD = 0.78) from Astrakhan State University and the Astrakhan Branch of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration. Depending on the marital status, the distribution is as follows: never married-230 people (74.2 %), live together with a partner, but do not register their relationship – 27 people (8.7 %), are in the first registered marriage – 49 people (15.8 %), divorced – 4 people (1.3 %).

4. RESULTS

Using the questionnaire "A Value and Availability Ratio in Various Vital Spheres Technique" by E. B. Fantalova we determined the hierarchy of values of students. As a result of divisive clustering of the empirical sample there were identified three homogeneous clusters. In the age group of early adulthood 45 people (14.5 %) were identified with an orientation to the values of professional self-realization, 59 people (19 %) with an orientation to gnostic and aesthetic values, and 206 people (66.5 %) with an orientation to the values of personal happiness.

Further, using correlation analysis we identified the content characteristics of ideas about marriage depending on the structure of valuable orientations of young women. For this purpose, we calculated the correlation coefficients between a particular image (Ideal husband, Ideal wife, I am a future wife) and elements of the cognitive, emotional and behavioral components. For quantitative variables whose distribution corresponds to the normal law (established by calculating the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for one sample, the Shapiro-Wilkes test) we calculated the Pearson linear correlation coefficient (r). For ordinal variables and quantitative variables whose distribution significantly differs from the normal law, the Spearman rank correlation coefficient (r_s) is used. For final conclusions we used results at the level of statistical significance $p \leq 0.05$; $p \leq 0.01$. The procedure of ranking by

the value of the correlation coefficient allowed us to determine the hierarchy of content characteristics in representations of marriage from the most important to the least significant.

The objective dependence of ideas about marriage on the formed structure of valuable orientations among young women in early adulthood (from 20 to 22 years) is established. The results of a correlation analysis of ideas about marriage depending on the structure of valuable orientations of young women aged 20 to 22 years (table 1).

Table 1.
Research of features of representations about Ideal husband depending on the structure of valuable orientations of female students aged from 20 to 22 years.

Content characteristics	Orientation on the values of professional self-realization	Orientation to gnostic and aesthetic values	Orientation on the values of personal life
Cognitive component			
My father	$r_s = 0,079$	$r = 0,250$	$r_s = 0,378^{**}$
Performance of duties	$r_s = 0,319^* (8)$	$r = 0,373^{**} (7)$	$r_s = 0,257^{**} (11)$
Caring	$r_s = 0,413^{**} (5)$	$r = 0,631^{**} (1)$	$r_s = 0,587^{**} (1)$
Personal independence	$r_s = 0,476^{**} (2)$	$r = 0,418^{**} (6)$	$r_s = 0,453^{**} (4)$
Responsibility	$r_s = 0,317^* (9)$	$r = 0,238$	$r_s = 0,358^{**}(6)$
Sexuality	$r_s = 0,449^{**} (3)$	$r = 0,537^{**} (3)$	$r_s = 0,458^{**} (3)$
Patience	$r_s = 0,397^{**} (7)$	$r = 0,308^* (9)$	$r_s = 0,339^{**} (8)$
Industriousness	$r_s = 0,499^{**} (1)$	$r = 0,497^{**} (4)$	$r_s = 0,340^{**} (7)$
Respect for other people	$r_s = 0,403^{**} (6)$	$r = 0,593^{**} (2)$	$r_s = 0,479^{**} (2)$
Balance	$r_s = 0,262$	$r = 0,262^* (10)$	$r_s = 0,408^{**} (5)$
Successfulness	$r_s = 0,425^{**} (4)$	$r = 0,343^{**} (8)$	$r_s = 0,358^{**} (6)$
Empathy	$r_s = 0,276$	$r = 0,421^{**}(5)$	$r_s = 0,216^{**} (13)$
Emotional component			
Attitude towards family as a social institution	$r_s = 0,163$	$r_s = -0,129$	$r_s = 0,209^{**} (14)$
Attitude towards one's own family	$r_s = -0,005$	$r_s = -0,070$	$r_s = 0,263^{**} (10)$
Attitude towards future marriage partner	$r_s = 0,252$	$r_s = 0,042$	$r_s = 0,180^* (15)$
Attitude towards love of the romantic type	$r_s = 0,037$	$r_s = 0,109$	$r_s = 0,236^{**} (12)$
Attitude towards conflicts	$r_s = -0,354^* (10)$	$r_s = -0,046$	$r_s = -0,028$
Behavioral component			
External attractiveness (role expectations)	$r_s = 0,240$	$r = 0,191$	$r_s = 0,325^{**} (9)$

Notes: * - correlation is significant at 0.05, * * - correlation is significant at 0.01

The image "Ideal husband" is characterized by a fullness of the elements of the cognitive component, a weak representation of the emotional and behavioral components. Common personal qualities in the image "Ideal husband" are caring, sexuality, respect for

other people, personal independence, industriousness, successfulness, patience, and performance of duties. The image "Ideal husband" for young women who are focused on the values of professional self-realization acquires more masculine features is supplemented by responsibility, a negative attitude towards family conflicts. In early adulthood young women focused on gnostic and aesthetic values the image "Ideal husband" includes such qualities as balance, empathy. The image "Ideal husband" for young women who are focused on the values of personal life is supplemented with elements of cognitive (responsibility, balance, empathy), emotional (positive attitude towards family as a social institution, towards their own family, towards the future marriage partner, towards love of the romantic type), behavioral (external attractiveness) components. The image of their own father is a guide in the formation of ideas about ideal husband only for young women who are focused on the values of personal life. A comparative analysis with our data obtained in an earlier study on a sample of young students (Merzlyakova, Golubeva, & Bibarsova, 2020) indicates that the content characteristics of the "Ideal Husband" image do not coincide among young men and women who are focused on the values of professional self-realization and the values of personal life. Other authors obtained the similar results in their studies: they recorded gender differences in the ideas of parenthood among high school students (Zakharova et al., 2019).

An invariant characteristic of the image "Ideal wife" among young women in early adulthood is the formation of the cognitive component of ideas about the marital role (table.2).

Table 2.
Research of features of representations about Ideal wife depending on the structure of valuable orientations of female students aged from 20 to 22 years.

Content characteristics	Orientation on the values of professional self-realization	Orientation to gnostic and aesthetic values	Orientation on the values of personal life
Cognitive component			
My mother	$r_s = 0,325^*$	$r = 0,466^{**}$	$r_s = 0,430^{**}$
Performance of duties	$r_s = 0,396^{**}$ (7)	$r = 0,471^{**}$ (8)	$r_s = 0,354^{**}$ (11)
Caring	$r_s = 0,661^{**}$ (1)	$r = 0,712^{**}$ (2)	$r_s = 0,597^{**}$ (1)
Personal independence	$r_s = 0,562^{**}$ (4)	$r = 0,530^{**}$ (4)	$r_s = 0,530^{**}$ (3)
Responsibility	$r_s = 0,323^*$ (11)	$r = 0,366^{**}$ (10)	$r_s = 0,377^{**}$ (10)
Sexuality	$r_s = 0,469^{**}$ (5)	$r = 0,490^{**}$ (6)	$r_s = 0,496^{**}$ (4)
Patience	$r_s = 0,444^{**}$ (6)	$r = 0,278^*$ (11)	$r_s = 0,392^{**}$ (7)
Industriousness	$r_s = 0,573^{**}$ (3)	$r = 0,719^{**}$ (1)	$r_s = 0,459^{**}$ (5)
Respect for other people	$r_s = 0,611^{**}$ (2)	$r = 0,614^{**}$ (3)	$r_s = 0,551^{**}$ (2)
Balance	$r_s = 0,339^*$ (9)	$r = 0,376^{**}$ (9)	$r_s = 0,386^{**}$ (8)
Successfulness	$r_s = 0,338^*$ (10)	$r = 0,485^{**}$ (7)	$r_s = 0,404^{**}$ (6)
Empathy	$r_s = 0,358^*$ (8)	$r = 0,501^{**}$ (5)	$r_s = 0,384^{**}$ (9)
Emotional component			
Attitude towards family as a social institution	$r_s = 0,046$	$r_s = -0,302^*$ (12)	$r_s = 0,222^{**}$ (14)
Attitude towards one's own family	$r_s = 0,001$	$r_s = -0,096$	$r_s = 0,184^*$ (17)

Attitude towards future marriage partner	$r_s = 0{,}077$	$r_s = 0{,}001$	***$r_s = 0{,}217^{**}$ (15)***
Attitude towards love of the romantic type	$r_s = -0{,}171$	$r_s = 0{,}016$	***$r_s = 0{,}272^{**}$ (12)***
Attitude towards conflicts	$r_s = -0{,}034$	$r_s = -0{,}020$	***$r_s = -0{,}163^{*}$ (18)***
Attitude towards family recreation and leisure	$r_s = -0{,}220$	$r_s = -0{,}125$	***$r_s = 0{,}203^{*}$ (16)***
Behavioral component			
Parent-educational sphere (role claims)	$r_s = 0{,}173$	***$r = -0{,}505^{**}$ (13)***	$r_s = 0{,}050$
External attractiveness (role claims)	$r_s = -0{,}120$	$r = -0{,}014$	***$0{,}268^{**}$ (13)***

Notes: * - correlation is significant at 0.05, * * - correlation is significant at 0.01

Common personal qualities in the image "Ideal wife" are: caring, respect for other people, industriousness, personal independence, sexuality, empathy, successfulness, patience, balance, performance of duties, responsibility. Among young women's ideas about ideal wife the importance of respect for other people, sexuality, and empathy increases. When developing ideas about ideal wife young women continue to focus on the image of their own mother. The image "Ideal wife" among young women who are focused on gnostic and aesthetic values is characterized by the presence of cognitive distortions which are manifested in a negative attitude towards family as a social institution, the low importance of parental and educational functions and the role of the mother. Young women who are focused on the values of personal life in the image "Ideal wife" there are additional elements of emotional (positive attitude towards family as a social institution, towards their own family, towards the future marriage partner, towards romantic love, towards family recreation and leisure, negative attitude towards family conflicts) and behavioral components (external attractiveness). A comparison of the data obtained with the results of an earlier empirical study of the ideas about marriage among young men (Merzlyakova, Golubeva, & Bibarsova, 2020) indicates that the content and hierarchy of qualities of the image of an ideal wife among young men and young women with the same structure of valuable orientations do not coincide.

In early adulthood the content-structural characteristics in the images "Ideal wife" and "I am a future wife" largely coincide (table 3). In the image "I am a future wife" the invariant characteristic is the elements of the cognitive component of ideas about the marital role: caring, personal independence, respect for other people, successfulness, balance, patience, industriousness, sexuality, performance of duties, empathy. Features of the hierarchical structure of the image "I am a future wife" are due to the influence of the structure of valuable orientations. In early adulthood young women still tend to idealize the image "I am a future wife". Among young women with a focus on the values of professional self-realization, the idea of a future marital role is supplemented by elements of a cognitive (responsibility) and emotional component (positive attitude towards oneself). Young women who are focused on gnostic and aesthetic values have cognitive distortions in the image "I am a future wife" (low significance of parental and educational functions and the role of mother), which may be prerequisites for the development of the phenomenon of "childfree" (conscious rejection of motherhood) in modern society. Among young women with a focus on the values of personal life the image "I am a future wife" is characterized by the presence of responsibility, a positive attitude towards family as a social

institution, towards their own family, towards romantic love, and a negative attitude towards family conflicts. Young women with a focus on gnostic-aesthetic values or values of personal life when forming ideas about the future marital role are guided by the image of their own mother. In early adulthood young women are more dominated by attitudes, role claims and requirements for themselves than for the future marriage partner, since there are fewer meaningful characteristics in the ideas of the ideal husband compared to the ideas of the marital role of the wife (Ideal wife, I am a future wife).

Table 3.
Research of features of representations about I am a future wife depending on the structure of valuable orientations of female students aged from 20 to 22 years.

Content characteristics	Orientation on the values of professional self-realization	Orientation to gnostic and aesthetic values	Orientation on the values of personal life
Cognitive component			
Ideal wife	$r_s = 0,620^{**}$	$r_s = 0,688^{**}$	$r_s = 0,630^{**}$
My mother	$r_s = 0,265$	$r_s = 0,458^{**}$	$r_s = 0,502^{**}$
Performance of duties	$r_s = 0,424^{**}$ (9)	$r_s = 0,553^{**}$ (3)	$r_s = 0,375^{**}$ (10)
Caring	$r_s = 0,573^{**}$ (3)	$r_s = 0,507^{**}$ (4)	$r_s = 0,627^{**}$ (1)
Personal independence	$r_s = 0,478^{**}$ (5)	$r_s = 0,610^{**}$ (1)	$r_s = 0,505^{**}$ (3)
Responsibility	$r_s = 0,423^{**}$ (10)	$r_s = 0,218$	$r_s = 0,391^{**}$ (9)
Sexuality	$r_s = 0,388^{**}$ (11)	$r_s = 0,487^{**}$ (5)	$r_s = 0,463^{**}$ (5)
Patience	$r_s = 0,582^{**}$ (2)	$r_s = 0,411^{**}$ (9)	$r_s = 0,447^{**}$ (8)
Industriousness	$r_s = 0,452^{**}$ (7)	$r_s = 0,472^{**}$ (7)	$r_s = 0,450^{**}$ (6)
Respect for other people	$r_s = 0,459^{**}$ (6)	$r_s = 0,554^{**}$ (2)	$r_s = 0,512^{**}$ (2)
Balance	$r_s = 0,618^{**}$ (1)	$r_s = 0,306^{*}$ (10)	$r_s = 0,448^{**}$ (7)
Successfulness	$r_s = 0,479^{**}$ (4)	$r_s = 0,439^{**}$ (8)	$r_s = 0,464^{**}$ (4)
Empathy	$r_s = 0,449^{**}$ (8)	$r_s = 0,486^{**}$ (6)	$r_s = 0,336^{**}$ (11)
Emotional component			
Attitude towards family as a social institution	$r_s = 0,153$	$r_s = -0,212$	$r_s = 0,193^{*}$ (14)
Attitude towards one's own family	$r_s = 0,003$	$r_s = -0,006$	$r_s = 0,238^{**}$ (13)
Attitude towards oneself	$r_s = 0,384^{*}$ (12)	$r_s = 0,051$	$r_s = 0,096$
Attitude towards love of the romantic type	$r_s = 0,101$	$r_s = 0,059$	$r_s = 0,291^{**}$ (12)
Attitude towards conflicts	$r_s = 0,181$	$r_s = 0,080$	$r_s = -0,158^{*}$ (15)
Behavioral component			
Parent-educational sphere (role claims)	$r_s = 0,201$	$r_s = -0,572^{**}$ (11)	$r_s = -0,003$

Notes: * - correlation is significant at 0.05, * * - correlation is significant at 0.01

5. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

We see the prospects for further research in this direction in the study of ideas about marriage, depending on the structure of value orientations in adolescence (from 17 to 19 years) in order to identify the sensitive period of the formation of marriage and family ideas among young women. The identification of the age-psychological specifics of the development of ideas about marriage through the restructuring of the system of value orientations among young men and women will allow us to develop practice-oriented technologies for the implementation of reasoned psychological and pedagogical support for the process of family self-determination among youth.

6. CONCLUSION

So, the obtained results show that the structure of valuable orientations is associated with the content characteristics of ideas about marriage among young women in early adulthood. The results of the study are consistent with our data obtained in an earlier study on a sample of young students, which shows that the structure of valuable orientations determines the peculiarities of ideas about marriage among young men in adolescence and early adulthood (Merzlyakova, Golubeva, & Bibarsova, 2020). However, a comparative analysis shows that the ideas of an ideal husband and an ideal wife do not coincide among young men and young women with the same structure of valuable orientations. The recorded gender differences among students' ideas about marriage are consistent with the assessments of ideas about parenthood in adolescence and early adulthood (Zakharova et al., 2019).

The dynamics of ideas about marriage is characterized by heterochronous formation of cognitive, emotional and behavioral components. Ideas about the social role of the spouse (Ideal husband, Ideal wife, I am a future wife) are considered as reference points based on which young women will build their own marital behavior in the future. Ideas about marriage have both common features and specific features due to the structure of the valuable orientations of young women. Due to the lack of purposeful work on formation of the younger generation readiness for marital views about marriage are characterized by fragmentation of formation of emotional and behavioral component, in some cases, the presence of cognitive distortion (the image "Ideal wife" young women with a focus on the gnostic and aesthetic value in early adulthood). The obtained results make it possible to predict positive and negative trends in the development of marriage and family ideas among modern female students, actualize the importance and necessity of psychological and pedagogical support for the process of self-determination in the marriage and family sphere among students, the formation of complete and harmonious ideas about the marital role and readiness for family life.

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