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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the study of the attitude to the family among the students youth of the XXI century. The authors noted that in the hierarchy of values, the family from year to year occupies a leading place among the life priorities of student youth. The work focuses on the study of the problem of regulation of behavior in the family and the formation of parenting strategies. The authors studied the attitude of student youth towards types of families and concluded that the leading type of family relations today is the partner type of family. Among the youth, premarital family relationships are widespread, however, young people do not refuse to formalize marriage, they only postpone the official marriage to a later date. The paper notes that the formation of parenting strategies of the younger generation continues to be influenced by the traditional image of a "good mother," but the concept of fatherhood differs in a certain way from the fatherly strategies of previous generations. In the student environment, the ideas about the role of the father in the family and his qualitative characteristics, which have changed in society, have clearly manifested themselves.

Keywords: nuclear family, official marriage, partner type of family, parenting strategies, a family, family typology.

The relevance of the topic: The relevance of the topic of researching family strategies among students is associated with the influence of the youth environment on the preservation of traditional family values in Russia and the possibility of solving the problem of the demographic situation in the country. These circumstances necessitate the identification of ideas about the formation and development of family strategies in the youth environment and make it possible to adjust family relations in the future.

Aim of the article: The purpose of the research presented in the publication is a comparative analysis of the trends in the formation and development of family and parenting strategies in the student environment in the XXI century.

Research methods: The methodological foundations of this study were: a philosophical and cultural approach, a synergetic approach, a systematic approach. The empirical basis of this work was the results of a comparative analysis of the family strategies of student youth, as well as the results of our own sociological research conducted among university students in Belgorod in 2011-2021. Methods of mathematical statistics were used to process the sociological survey (questionnaire, written essay) (n = 910).

Main topics: sociology, social philosophy.

INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the chosen topic is determined by the serious attention of researchers to this issue, which is due to the fact that the family is the most stable social formation, although many researchers talk about the crisis of the family in recent years. The family performs various social functions, ranging from the economic function to

the regulation of sexual relations. In this work, we focus on the study of functions such as regulation of behavior and parenting strategies. The youth family requires special attention as a guarantor of the preservation of traditional family values in Russia, influencing the possibility of solving the socio-demographic problem in the country. These circumstances necessitate the identification of modern trends in the development of family and parenting strategies in the student environment, which determine the increasing risks in this area of human relationships and determine the role of marriage and family in the socio-historical process.

PRESENTATION OF THE MAIN RESEARCH MATERIAL

In the course of our life we become members of various groups: a group of friends, a work collective, a sports team and many others, but only the family remains with us always. Throughout the centuries-old history of mankind, the family has been the most stable social formation, although many researchers talk about the crisis of the family in recent times. Difficulties begin already with the definition of the very concept of this phenomenon. In the scientific literature, there are many definitions of the family, highlighting various aspects of family life. We take as a basis the definition of a family given in the Sociological Dictionary: a family is a "small social group, a community of people based on marital union and family ties, united by a single common family activity and carrying out the reproduction of us, the continuity of family generations, the socialization of children and the maintenance of existence its members" [15, p. 409].

The study of family strategies among student youth is undoubtedly relevant in connection with the problems in the demographic situation, and the influence of the youth environment on the preservation of traditional family values in Russia. This paper uses the results of our own research conducted among students of Belgorod universities in 2011-2021. The family performs various social functions, ranging from the economic function to the regulation of sexual relations. In this work, we focus on the study of functions such as regulation of behavior and parenting strategies.

Before characterizing the family's performance of the function of regulating behavior, we need to determine the level of significance of family relations for modern youth. A family can only influence the behavior of its members if it is highly valued by them. Our research of Belgorod students destroyed the myth of the collapse of the value attitude towards the family among young people. In the hierarchy of values, the family from year to year occupies a leading place among the life priorities of student youth (2011 - 59% of respondents, and in 2021 - 63% of respondents), ahead of such values as education, love, career, which even in total do not overlap priority of family.

The growing value of family relations is manifested in the expansion of young people's interest in the history of their family. The regulation of the behavior of family members is associated with the implementation of primary social control over the preservation of traditions, primarily the history of the family. Today the family historical memory is deepening. The importance of this tendency was mentioned by all interviewed respondents, recalling the many thousands of processions of the "immortal regiment" at the celebration of May 9, when children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren carry portraits of those members of their family who fought for the independence of our homeland. A study conducted among student youth showed that 68% of respondents know the history of their family up to the third generation (great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers), and 12% of respondents know the history of their family up to the fourth generation or more.

Respect and love for the older generation of the family does not prevent young people from planning their separate residence from their parents, 89% of respondents said this in 2021, against 70% of respondents in 2011. In modern Russia, in contrast to Europe (for example, Spain), the nuclear family is growing. The nuclear family is a consanguineous group consisting of two generations: parents and children [14]. Matured children are separated from their parents, create their own families and they have their own children ... We see that today the priority of the nuclear family in our youth environment continues to develop, and the role of the extended family, when two or three generations live together, decreases. In the opinion of modern youth, the state social policy in relation to young families should primarily be aimed at solving the housing problem (87% of respondents).

Back in the middle of the XX century, premarital family relationships were not advertised. In the modern youth environment, they are widespread and cannot be concealed. Among the students surveyed, 94% of the respondents justify their existence. In the opinion of young people, premarital family relationships act as a litmus test, checking the "similarities of characters" and feelings of each other. It may seem that the tradition of formal marriage is becoming obsolete, but our observations do not confirm this trend. More than half of the respondents (87%) plan to officially register their family relations in the future.

To the question: "When is it better to start an official family life?" 68% of the respondents answered that they expect to create an official family after graduation, when they will have a good job and a steady income. Thus, the age of formal marriage is postponed by the bulk of student youth by the age of 23-26. The answers of the rest of the students are less certain: 22% of the respondents will officially start a family when they have such a desire, 10% of the respondents did not think about this question.

The motives for entering into an official marriage are different: 67% of respondents talk about the psychological motivation for entering into a marriage (for example, love or desire is next to a loved one), 25% of respondents in marriage want to realize their personal ambitions and their own solvency, 8% of respondents see the need to create an official family as the consequence of “conceiving a child” (diagram №1).

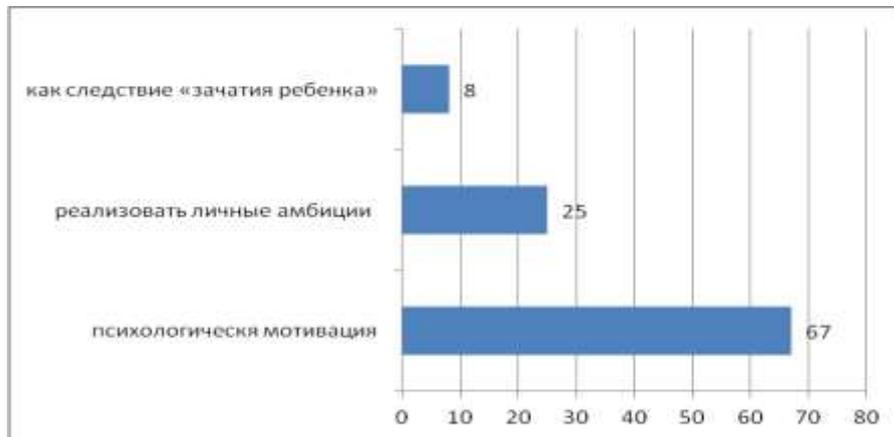


Fig.1: Motives for entering into an official marriage

The data of our research show that love remains the main argument for marriage among young people and “love is determined not by the content of sensory experience, which is always random, but by the development of the human qualities of a loving” [16].

The trend, which began in the XX century, from marriage of convenience to marriage of love, continues into the XXI century. One can agree with the opinion of I.S. Kon, that marriages for love, on the one hand, are a great achievement of mankind, and on the other hand, involve the frequent dissolution of marriages for psychological reasons. The increase in the number of divorces for psychological reasons does not mean that family relations have depreciated, but rather that value orientations have changed in the youth environment. Family relationships remain valuable if they help the further development of the individual. The central figure is not the family group, but the individual [9].

At the end of the XX - beginning of the XXI century, a "fashion" for church marriage appeared among the youth, when, after the official marriage, the newly-minted family went to get married in the church. In 2011, 29% of respondents assumed mandatory participation in the sacrament of the church wedding, and 55% of respondents considered church wedding as a possible scenario for themselves. In 2021, the number of people wishing to get married has decreased: 19% of respondents plan to participate in the church wedding ceremony for themselves, and 31% of respondents consider church wedding as a possible option. A certain "disappointment" in the rite is due to the fact that a church wedding, as shown by ten years of practice, if it is not connected with the Christian attitudes of young people, does not act as a guarantor of the preservation of the family.

We wanted to know what type of family our students dream about. In modern Russia, the following types of family can be observed: patriarchal, child-centered, partner, incomplete and alternative families. The patriarchal family is characterized by a patriarchal-traditional way of family life and the leading role of the father in the family. Such families dominated Russia until World War II. In the postwar years and until the end of the XX century, the child-centric type of family comes to the fore. The reason of existence of such a family is caring for the younger generation and all resources, both material and spiritual, are aimed at improving the child's life. In the XXI century, emphasis is placed on the partner type of family. It is characterized by equal relations and mutual assistance between a man and a woman, and the stability of a marriage depends on the quality of relations between spouses.

At the turn of the XX-XXI centuries, the number of single-parent families is increasing. The source of an incomplete family is divorce or widowhood of one of the spouses. The source of an incomplete family is also the desire of a woman who, for whatever reason, has not married, to have a child and start a family [4]. Most of these "single mothers" are quite independent, and are able to financially support themselves and the child. They don't want to be alone just because tradition demands it. Alternative families are becoming more and more common, when a man maintains two families: a wife and a mistress (konkubinat), or a husband and wife live in different apartments (Guest marriage).

Due to the change in ideological attitudes at the turn of the XX-XXI centuries, young people have difficulties in identifying the types of family relationships, since imitation of parents in this process is minimal [11]. Our studies of Belgorod students showed that most of them strive to create a partner-type family: in 2011, 68% of respondents supported the partnership type of family relations, and in 2021 - 71% of respondents. The patriarchal type of family is also in demand: in 2011, 22% of respondents voted for it, and in 2011 - 23% of

respondents. But the child-centered family is clearly losing its position in the youth environment: in 2011 - 7% of respondents, and in 2021 - 5% of respondents.

As a rule, the family captures and passes on various values from generation to generation. However, the attitude of young people to the child-centered family falls outside this rule: parents brought up in child-centered families have not passed on to their children a value attitude towards such family relationships. On the face of the formation of psychological egoism: children accustomed to being the center of family relations, becoming parents, leave a central place in the family [3]. On the one hand, this leads to the preservation of patriarchal family relations, especially in the business environment, where the return to the family of the function of accumulating private property and its transfer by inheritance is noted. On the other hand, we are actually seeing a rejection of child-centered family relationships, because only 5% of today's youth dream of such a family.

None of the students we interviewed dreams of an incomplete family, and this is understandable: everyone thinks that loneliness will not affect him in the future. It should be noted that this type of family relations is not viewed by modern students as negative, and the status of a "single mother" is not neglected. An alternative type of family relations was chosen by about 2% of the respondents, and 1% of the respondents declared their unwillingness to start a family.

Reproductive function is one of the main functions of the family [1]. Modern young people see their ideal family only with children; only 2% of respondents do not plan to have children. The number of children in a future family is perceived by our students to be different: 72% of respondents would like to have two children, of which 8% of girls dream of having twins in order to "spend less time on maternity leave", 14% of respondents expressed their readiness to raise only one child, and 12 % of respondents - three children (diagram № 2).

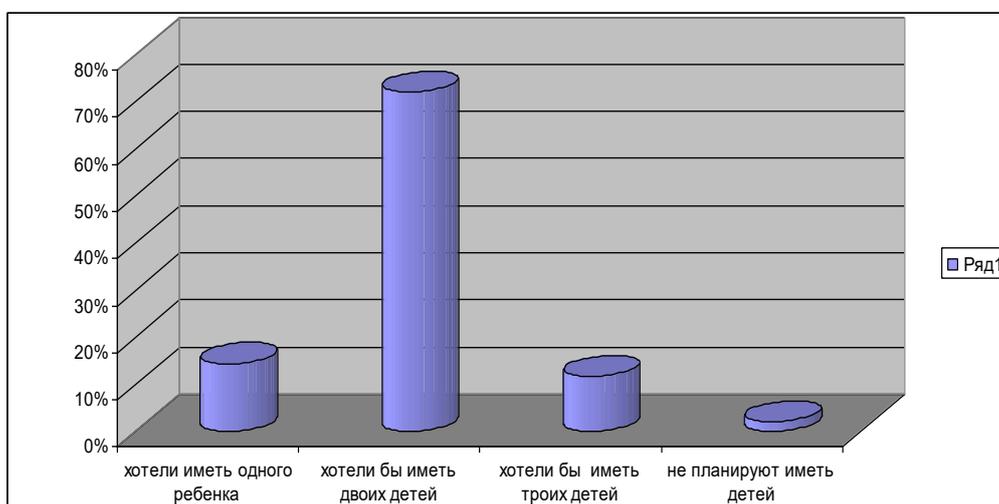


Fig.2: Desired number of children

Dreams about the number of future children are largely determined by the number of the younger generation in today's parental families, 90% of the respondents repeat the traditions of their parents in regards to the regulation of childbirth.

However, it can be assumed that the issue of the number of children in a family may be revised in the future under the influence of the state system of support for motherhood and large families. Commercial advertising has a beneficial effect on increasing the reproductive function of a modern family, replicating the image of a "normal family", where the number of children from one child increased to two, and then three children. Social advertising, placed on the territory of the Belgorod Region, is also aimed at promoting childbirth: "Let me BE BORN - and I will LOVE you"; "Family is invaluable when COMPLETE"; "The main miracle in the world is our children," and so on [6].

Our respondents have determined for themselves the optimal age for the birth of children (meaning the birth of the first child) - in 2011 the age was 21-25 years old, and in 2021 there was a slight increase in the average age to 23-25 years. The situation with future childbirth, presented in our study, coincides with the data of official statistics, which from year to year records an increase in the average age of primiparous mothers. From a demographic point of view, this phenomenon is assessed negatively, since it leads to a reduction in childbearing age and reduces a woman's ability to have a second and third child.

The regulation of the behavior of family members involves the adoption of certain obligations in the relationship between spouses. In the course of our research, the respondents were asked the question: "Who, in your opinion, should support the family financially?" Traditionally, there was an opinion that came to us from a patriarchal family that the material support of the family rests entirely on the shoulders of a man. Today we see that the idea

of gender equality and their equivalence for society has become firmly established in the worldview of modern youth. The opinion of our respondents was divided almost in half: 48% of the respondents (of whom 63% were men and 37% were women) entrusted the provision of the family with material benefits to a man, and 52% (of which 27% were men and 73% were women) of the respondents believe that both spouses should provide the family with material benefits. On the issue of material support for the family, there are both patriarchal and partner types of families.

The desire for a new type of family relations was also manifested in the answers to the question: "Who should be the head of the family?". The overwhelming majority of respondents (70%) prefer this form of family organization when spouses are equal family members and make decisions together, 23.3% of respondents answered that a man should be the head of the family, and 6.7% of respondents considered a woman as the head of the family (diagram № 3).

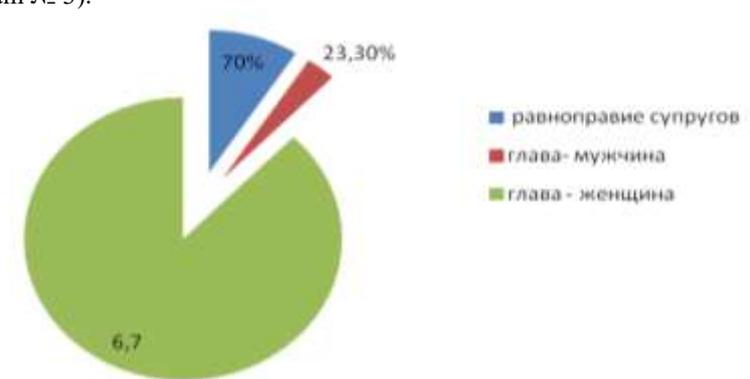


Fig.3: Who should be the head of the family?

Often a young family experiences financial difficulties. It should be noted that 47% of respondents count on material support of the family budget from parents and relatives. Youthful maximalism made 41% of the respondents assume that they would rely "only on themselves" in forming the family budget. It can be assumed that our student youth does not have sufficient skills in the formation of the family budget. And where does it come from if, according to N. B. Gorbacheva, "only a quarter of the interviewed adolescents discuss with their parents the problems of the distribution of the family budget" [5, p. 112].

The analysis of the data obtained showed that the majority of students do not know about the existence of centers for social protection of the population, centers for helping families and children and other state institutions, where they can receive the necessary and, most importantly, qualified assistance in difficult life situations. Among our respondents, only 18% of the students surveyed will seek help in government agencies.

To understand the peculiarity of modern family relations is not possible without studying family strategies. Parenting strategies are an integral part of these strategies. The concept of "parenting strategies" is considered mainly from a psychological and pedagogical point of view. However, in our opinion, this concept should be considered from a sociological point of view, which includes two components: the very concept of "parenting" and the disclosure of the term "strategy".

The concept of "parenting" consists of the institution of motherhood and fatherhood, and also includes the concept of parenting practices, both maternal and paternal. Parenting practices are called "social practices that allow the implementation of parenting functions and are a set of actions traditionally carried out in everyday life when caring for and raising a child" (for example, walking with a child, visiting doctors, dressing, feeding, etc.) [7].

Parenting strategies, from a sociological point of view, represent an ideal model of parenting behavior focused on the implementation of parenting as a value-goal, which is a component of a set of parenting practices that have developed in the perception of a person and are represented by him as the identity "I am a mother" and "I am a father" [8].

Maternal and paternal strategies are key elements of parenting strategies. Within the framework of Soviet ideology, motherhood was viewed as a duty, responsibility, daily work, although the social nature of motherhood was theoretically recognized. Modern scientists distinguish several models of maternal strategies:

- traditional (husband - breadwinner, wife - taking care of family and children);
- modern (working mothers);
- family oriented (the main goal of a woman is children, however, she can earn money);
- career-oriented (combining the functions of a mother and a worker, priority is given to career, work);
- integrated (full combination of functions of mother and worker);
- conscious (a woman consciously and thoughtfully includes motherhood in life strategies, where there are clear ideas about the desired / expected number of children);
- "status" (for a woman, a child is a subject of special pride);
- "a child for herself" (a woman strives to prove her independence);

- "quasi-motherhood" (conscious or forced incomplete motherhood);
- instinctive (the principle of "how life will turn out");
- intensive (full immersion and submission of the woman to the child's care and upbringing).

Based on this classification, we can say that maternal strategies are very diverse, reflecting different models of maternal practices.

In the study of maternal strategies, respondents were asked to write an essay "My future own family." In 12 essays (9% of the total) the subtype "I - will be the best mother" is presented. In these works, the students presented their future responsibilities as follows: "Every morning I smile at my children, and they smile at me. On the way to the private kindergarten, I tell them interesting stories and ask them not to indulge in kindergarten"; "I will teach children to eat wholesome food, always dress them neatly and beautifully"; "I will be considerate of my children and will spend a lot of time with them.". Other student essays presented features of another subtype "I will be the mother of the most gifted child", where our respondents wrote, for example, "I have a son and I will create all the conditions for him: teach computer science, proficiency in foreign languages, talented teachers should work with him.".

Thus, from the point of view of student youth, a good mother is an image that develops mainly on the traditional distribution of gender roles. However, probably due to age characteristics, youth do not fully understand that any type of work requires the investment of time, which is then not enough for career growth and the material well-being of the whole family. Here we see a clear contradiction in the attitudes of our students, which associate the implementation of the reproductive function with the good financial situation of the family. The controversy is that a woman is both going to be successful in her career and to be a good mother. 85% of respondents understand that a child requires material investments from the parents and believe that a woman should solve this problem on an equal basis with a man. They do not think about how to combine maternal strategies and the professional activities of a women-mother.

In the course of our study, the respondents' ideas about maternal strategies were distributed as follows: family-oriented - 16% of students, "status" was chosen by only 9% of female students, career-oriented - 4%, "intensive" - 3%, integrated - 68 % (diagram № 4).

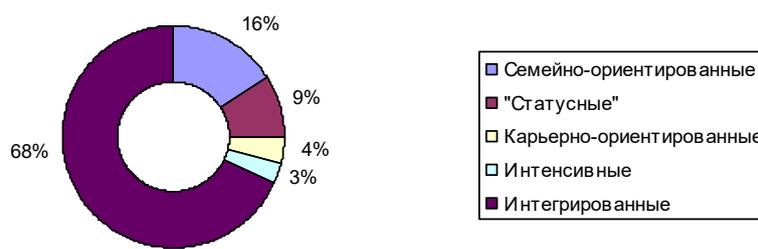


Fig.4: Maternal strategies

The popularity of the latter model, associated with the idea of combining the role of the mother and professional activity, is associated with the focus of the student category of youth on getting an education and subsequent career growth [12].

In the research carried out by the author, the question "A good mother is a mother ..." was posed, where the respondents had to reflect the qualities of a "good mother". The answers were distributed as follows: in the first place was such a mother's character trait as caring - 82% of the respondents, in the second place, life with the interests and needs of the child - 79% of the respondents; third place - "love for your child" was 77% of the respondents. Our research data show that the traditional "good mother" image has a great impact on the young generation.

In more early works, we pointed out that the behavior of a "good mother" is the implementation of socially approved maternal practices that have developed over a long period of time. Modern youth is under the influence of these attitudes, so the ideal mother has "the child is always fed, shod, dressed" (75% of the respondents); she always knows what the child needs (67% of the respondents); look good (43% of respondents) [10].

When identifying the traits of a good mother, the answers in the gender aspect were distributed as follows: for women, a good mother should be benevolent (38% of respondents), fair (78% of respondents), strict (32% of respondents), treats the child with respect (58% of respondents). Men have a different approach in defining the image of the "ideal mother" - patience (64% of respondents), benevolence (50% of respondents), fairness (26% of respondents), strictness (14% of respondents), respect for the child (14% of respondents) (diagram №5).

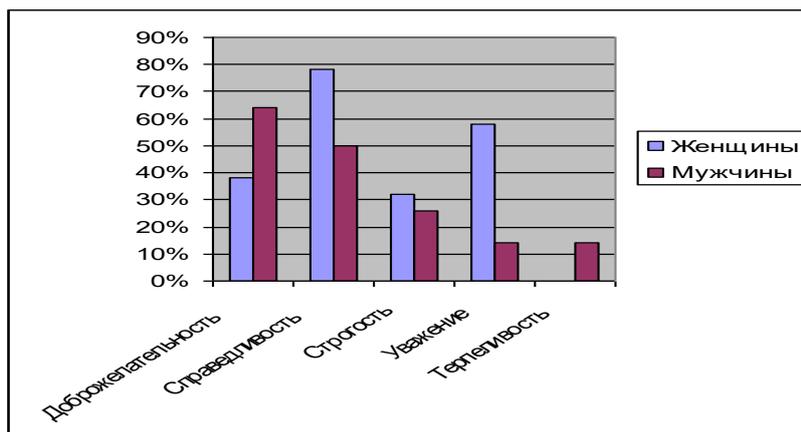


Fig.5: Traits of a good mother

Turning to the typology of paternal strategies, it is necessary to point out that they are divided into two groups: traditional and modern. Traditional parenting includes the “father-breadwinner” model, in which the father’s function is to provide material support. “Absent father” refers to the role of the breadwinner, where the man works but cannot fully provide for the family. The main thing for him is that he works.

According to the classification of O.N. Bezrukova’s traditional paternal strategies also include active-rejecting and passive-rejecting strategies and, to a certain extent, passive-accepting ones [2]. At present, our students assume that they will take an active part in the life of the child, from the moment of conception to the subsequent upbringing and formation of the personality. Such parenting strategies are characterized by modern science as “responsible” or “new” parenting. Our research revealed that 73% of respondents dream of becoming just such fathers in the future.

Realizing that the level of participation of fathers in the daily life of children is less than that of women, our respondents dream of the formation of egalitarian strategies in society, i.e. equal participation of both parents in the upbringing of children. As in maternal strategies, so in paternal strategies, “career-oriented” and “integrated” strategies are distinguished.

The results of a study among students of Belgorod universities revealed that 95% of men, in the future, plan to become parents. They explain their desire for fatherhood in different ways: 89% of the respondents want to continue their kind; 82% of respondents see paternity as an increase in their self-esteem; 78% of respondents dream of receiving support for old age; 63% of respondents want to strengthen their relationship with their beloved woman with the help of a child; 42% of respondents believe that having a child will allow them to be no worse than others; and 36% of respondents see children as an opportunity to improve the housing and financial situation of the family, using the support of state programs (diagram №6).

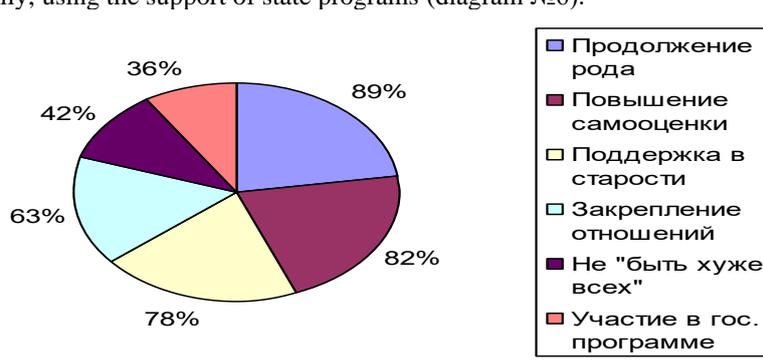


Fig.6: Motives of becoming fathers

The answer to this question clearly shows the idea of young people about the main purpose of paternal strategies and their direction, as well as to carry out a conditional division into groups of traditional and modern paternal strategies. We can say that those respondents who see the meaning of fatherhood in “procreation”, “support in old age”, “realization of the desire to have a child”, “to be no worse than everyone else” adhere to traditional values, and the motives “increase self-esteem”, “strengthen relationships with the woman he loves” characterize modern fatherly strategies.

However, while preserving to a greater extent traditional views on the place of men in the family, modern youth represent their behavior as a father somewhat differently. We asked the question “Which of the following will

you do when you become a father?". The answers were distributed as follows: with a great desire they will communicate and play with children (94% of respondents), play sports and dance with them (87% of respondents), help in preparing for training sessions (84% of respondents), and those who want to feed, bathe the baby only 57% of respondents are ready). When asking a clarifying question, they explained that they were afraid to harm the child (diagram №7).

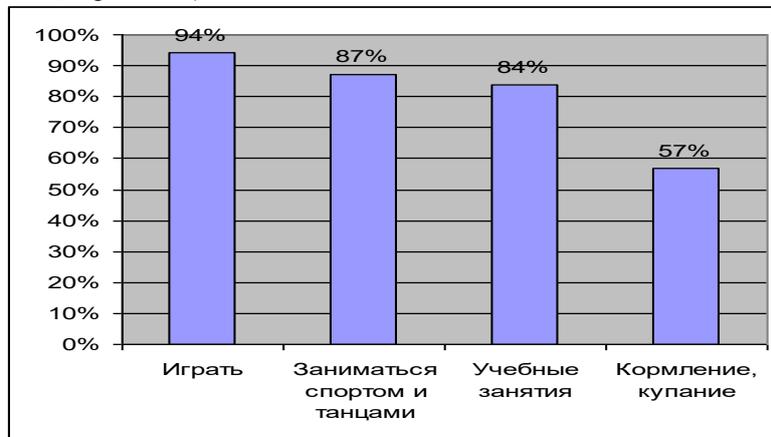


Fig.7: Which of the following will you do when you become a father?

Not all modern men often visit museums and theaters, however, 52% of respondents are ready for these events with future children. Only 43% of respondents are ready to attend parent meetings in kindergartens and schools in the future. Apparently, this is due to the negative experience of their parents attending such events. The data obtained show that youth admit the use of new paternal practices that are not inherent in the traditional type of paternity.

Among the most important qualities of an ideal father, the respondents named caring - 88% of the students surveyed. This is followed by exactingness - 80% of the surveyed students, while sympathy and responsiveness scored 67% and 57%, respectively. Indicating strictness as an important paternal trait (67% of respondents), they indicated a trait of a father of the traditional type. This type is also characterized by "firmness of character" (60% of respondents) (diagram №8).

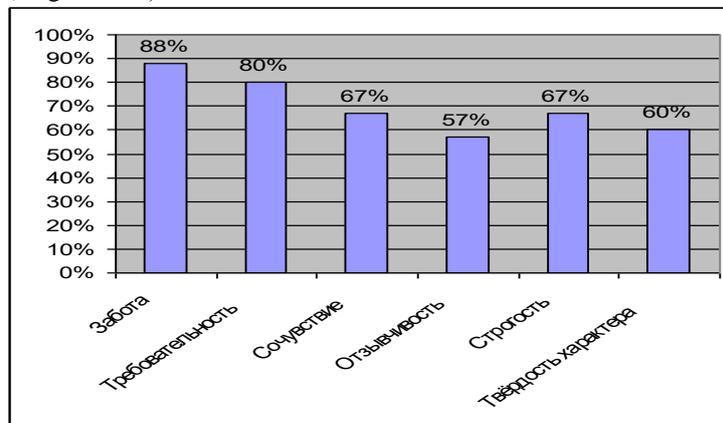


Fig.8: The qualities of an ideal father

Based on the foregoing, we can conclude that modern youth are consciously approaching the understanding of their future fatherly strategies. However, their concept of fatherhood differs in a certain way from the parenting strategies of previous generations. In the student environment, the ideas about the role of the father in the family and his qualitative characteristics, which have changed in society, have clearly manifested themselves. It should be noted that the process of transformations of these changes is not completed today, therefore, three catchy groups of paternal strategies coexist in society: traditional, transitional and modern. In addition, based on the definition of the main life orientation and life values, two main models of paternal strategies of student youth can be distinguished: career-oriented and integrated.

CONCLUSION

Summing up the results of the study, we can say that modern students highly appreciate the importance of the institution of the family. The ideal family in their views is an officially registered married couple who have

tested themselves in premarital relationships. Such a family lives separately from the parents and can be characterized as a partner type. It is characterized by equal relations, mutual assistance, joint solution of material problems. Modern students see their ideal family only with children, and most of the respondents would like to have two children. Student youth consciously approaches the understanding of their future maternal and paternal strategies. The study made it possible to obtain a comprehensive understanding of family and marriage relations in youth environment. The research materials can be used to optimize the processes of the formation of marriage and family relations.

In modern Russia, you can see the transformation processes taking place in the interaction of society, family and individual. Many researchers talk about the existence of an inverted pyramid. If earlier the individual was at its foundation, and society was at the top, today they have changed places, which is confirmed by our research. The family has retained its middle position in this hierarchy and is still the main means of resolving the contradiction between the individual and society, and this is its main significance.

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