

TRADITIONAL AND MODERN RELATIONSHIPS IN UZBEK FAMILIES*Hasanova Nilufar Azzam kizi**Master's Student, 1st Year**Department of Social and Humanitarian Sciences Teaching Methodology (Legal Education)
Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute, Uzbekistan*

Abstract: This article analyzes the formation of traditional and modern relationships within Uzbek families, their mutual influence, and their role in society. It also examines the distinctive characteristics of the Uzbek family and explores kinship relations that have been developing since ancient times.

Keywords: family, society, tradition, value, relationship, kinship, ethics

Introduction

The family is a small social group based on marriage or kinship. Its members are connected by shared household responsibilities, mutual assistance, and moral accountability. The most essential social functions of the family include the continuation of human life, the upbringing of children, and the effective organization of the living conditions and leisure time of its members. Although family relations are considered relatively independent phenomena, they are shaped by and subject to change under the influence of the prevailing social, economic, and ideological relations within society. Accordingly, every society establishes its own model of family structure and familial relationships in line with societal changes.

The family did not always exist throughout human history. In the early stages of the primitive communal system, when people lived in loosely organized groups, there were no specific norms regulating relationships between the sexes. All men and women within a group were considered mutual partners. Initially, sexual relationships were prohibited between parents and children, and later between siblings, which led to the emergence of group families. However, these early families did not yet exhibit stable, monogamous marriage or independent households. At this stage, a natural process was completed: sexual relations began to exclude blood relatives and became confined to the union of one man and one woman (see also: Patriarchal family, Polyandry, Polygamy, Polygyny).

The family is considered the most fundamental unit of society, and the culture, customs, and values of every nation are primarily formed within the family and transmitted from generation to generation. In Uzbek society, family relations have a long historical tradition and are largely rooted in traditional values. However, in recent decades, noticeable changes in familial relationships have occurred under the influence of globalization, urbanization, and technological advancement.

Main Body / Discussion

The essence of the wide-ranging social reforms being implemented in our country lies in protecting the interests of the family, strengthening its role as an important social institution and a cradle for raising a well-rounded generation, supporting its socio-economic and cultural-educational foundations, and promoting family education and reproductive health through

systemic measures. Every individual is born and raised in a family, and it is from families that society is formed. The more happy and prosperous families there are, the more a society develops.

The family is a social space that ensures the continuity of social life, the succession of generations, and the sustainability of upbringing. It influences future generations and shapes the system of values. A family is a primary social unit formed on the basis of legal marriage between a man and a woman, as well as the relationships between parents and children. It is supported by the moral norms and rules of society and serves to preserve and transmit human culture to future generations.

Indeed, the acceleration of globalization processes has also brought to the fore the need to protect family values. Modern trends such as economic integration, the advancement of information and communication technologies, and the global spread of the Internet have begun to affect the culture of familial relationships. These trends have contributed to a decline in traditional practices and have led to the formation of new attitudes among family members toward traditional values.

In Uzbek families, traditional and modern relationships are gradually becoming integrated. Traditional family values such as respect, care for the elderly, and maintaining kinship ties remain of great importance. However, due to modern influences, certain changes in family dynamics are also being observed. Among the younger generation, modern values such as independence, equality, and mutual respect are becoming increasingly widespread.

Features of Traditional Relationships in Uzbek Families

- **Respect for elders:** In Uzbek families, showing respect to elders and considering their opinions is of great importance. Fathers, mothers, grandfathers, and grandmothers hold a special place within the family, and their advice is often followed.
- **Family unity:** Family members strive to support one another and live in harmony. During difficult times, they help each other and provide mutual assistance.
- **Kinship ties:** Relationships among relatives are strong. Family members support one another during major life events such as weddings, funerals, and other important ceremonies.
- **Roles of men and women:** Traditionally, men are considered the heads of the household, while women are responsible for domestic duties and raising children. However, due to modern influences, these roles are gradually evolving.
- **Family ceremonies:** Events such as weddings, birthdays, circumcision ceremonies, and other traditional gatherings are highly valued and celebrated together by family members.

Features of Modern Relationships in Uzbek Families

- **Youth independence:** Young people are increasingly striving to express their opinions freely and pursue careers of their own choosing. They are also gaining more independence in selecting life partners, often with the consent of their parents.

- **Women's social activity:** Women are now pursuing education and entering the workforce, which has increased their economic independence. Their role in society is steadily growing as a result.
- **Individualism:** There is a rising tendency among youth to focus on their personal interests and ambitions, highlighting the importance of self-development.
- **Equality and mutual respect:** Relationships between men and women are becoming more equal, with an emphasis on mutual respect. This shift is significant both within the family and in the broader social context.
- **Interpersonal relationships:** Young people are increasingly respectful of each other's interests in their relationships and are more willing to support one another.

1. Traditional and Modern Family Models: Contrasts and Convergence

● **Characteristics of Traditional Family Relationships**

For many years, Uzbek families have been shaped by the following traditional values and social structures:

- **Hierarchical structure:** The father is regarded as the head of the family, whose word is final. The mother is responsible for managing the household and raising children.
- **Collectivism:** Each family member prioritizes the interests of the family over personal interests.
- **Extended kinship model:** A wide network of relatives provides mutual assistance and advice.
- **Early marriage:** Traditionally, it was believed that young people should marry at an early age.

Although these values ensured social stability and strong intergenerational bonds, in some cases they were viewed as limiting personal freedom and autonomy.

2. Modern Family Model and Its Influencing Factors

In recent decades, modern approaches have increasingly influenced Uzbek family life. This shift has been driven by several factors:

- **Rising education levels:** More parents—especially women—are receiving higher education.
- **The impact of the internet and global culture:** Social networks are expanding worldviews and exposing individuals to diverse lifestyles.
- **Changing role of women:** Women are taking a more active part in public life, entering the workforce, and pursuing leadership roles.
- **Independent thinking and personal choice:** Children increasingly prefer to make their own decisions regarding careers and life partners.

The modern family model emphasizes equality, personal freedom, open communication, and mutual cooperation.

3. Contradiction and Balance

There is a natural tension between traditional and modern approaches to family relationships.

While the older generation tends to preserve traditional values, younger people are more open to change and innovation. However, this contrast should not be viewed as a conflict, but rather as an opportunity to find a balanced coexistence.

Most contemporary Uzbek families strive to integrate modern approaches while preserving core traditional values. For instance, parents may grant their children freedom of choice while still raising them with respect for national identity, language, and cultural customs.

Today, the family, which is considered sacred in our society, functions as a complex social system encompassing various forms of relationships such as “parents and children,” “husband and wife with in-laws,” and “bride and groom with extended kin.” The structure of family life, traditional customs, and values, forms of communication, and adherence to national norms all reflect the ethnocultural characteristics of Uzbek families.

These features play a significant role in shaping the national character, temperament, dreams, desires, pride, dignity, beliefs, values, and historical memory of the people. Mutual respect, reverence for parents, compassion for children, and kindness towards the younger generation—core aspects of Uzbek family life—are crucial for forming morally upright and fully developed individuals. These values contribute to nurturing a person who is ethically sound, spiritually mature, and rich in human qualities.

Importantly, these values are first instilled in the consciousness of children within the family environment. Families in the East—particularly in Uzbekistan—are distinguished by several unique features that reflect deep cultural roots and societal harmony.

Firstly, the dominance of men in the family;

Secondly, the presence of a clearly expressed and strictly followed hierarchy among family members according to age, gender, and family status (grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, son, daughter, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, elder sister-in-law, co-wife, bride, elder brother, younger brother, elder sister, younger sister, etc.);

Thirdly, in traditional families, the high authority of parents, especially the father, over children;

Fourthly, the qualities of having many children, being fond of children, and respecting the elderly are highly expressed;

Fifthly, as observed in nations such as the Abkhaz, Ossetians, and Kabardians, there is a characteristic in many traditional Uzbek families today of not openly expressing affection towards children in front of elders — such as the father not taking the child in his arms, not lifting the child, not playing with the child — which is seen as a way for men to demonstrate emotional stability and the qualities of a true man;

Sixthly, the relationships in the family have a vertical nature, meaning the woman obeys the husband, the children obey the parents, the younger brother obeys the elder brother, and the younger sister obeys the elder sister.

The country's economic capabilities and the growth of the population's material and living standards, in turn, have led to changes in family relations, the formation of new relationships, and the expansion of the circle of blood kinship ties. However, it should be noted that

traditional family and kinship relations still continue to remain dominant. The connection between the family and society is manifested through kinship, neighborhood, and community (mahalla) ties. These ties have been formed over thousands of years, and through them, the family plays an important role in the spiritual life of society. The form, structure, and relationships within the family have been in the focus of researchers as an important object of study for the past 150 years.

Conclusion

While traditional values are preserved in Uzbek families, under the influence of modernity, family relations are gradually changing. These changes are helping to improve the lifestyle of families and to form relationships based on freedom and equality. In Uzbek families, traditional and modern relationships do not contradict each other, but rather can enrich one another. Traditional values ensure stability and unity in society, while modern approaches open the way to personal freedom and prosperity. Therefore, every family should maintain a balance between these two approaches and create a healthy environment for their children, which will serve as the foundation for the development of modern Uzbekistan.

References:

1. Ташбаева Т.Х., Савуров М.Д. Новое и традиционное в быту сельской семьи узбеков. Ташкент, 1989, с. 53-54.
2. Shoumarov G'., Sharqona oila., T.-2012 16-bet
3. Rizouddin ibn Faxriddin, Oila, T., 1991.
4. O`zME. Birinchi jild. Toshkent, 2000-