

ATTITUDE OF UZBEKISTAN'S YOUTH TOWARDS FAMILY: TRADITIONAL AND MODERN APPROACHES

Mirzakhammadova Odina Mirzokhid qizi
3rd-year student, Department of Sociology,

Faculty of History, Fergana State University

Annotation: This article analyzes the perspectives of Uzbek youth toward family, their views on marriage, and the role of the family institution in the system of values from both traditional and modern approaches. Globalization, technological development, and changes in gender roles are shaping new trends in how young people perceive family life. At the same time, long-standing traditions, customs, and mechanisms of social control continue to play a significant role in Uzbek society. Based on sociological theories, surveys, and observations, the article highlights youth attitudes toward family, the hierarchy of values, and emerging models of modern family structures. Furthermore, the article offers scientifically grounded recommendations for understanding and addressing the issue.

Keywords: youth, family, values, traditionalism, modernity, gender roles, marriage, social change, social institution, sociological perspectives.

Family is the cornerstone of any society, and its stability is a guarantee of societal harmony. In Uzbekistan, the concept of family has been shaped over centuries by values such as family unity, respect for elders, and strong familial responsibilities. However, due to globalization, urbanization, and the growing influence of the internet and social media, youth attitudes toward family are gradually shifting away from conventional norms.

From a sociological standpoint, this shift represents a transformation of social institutions. This article focuses on how young people in Uzbekistan approach family life, considering both traditional and modern perspectives.

In Uzbek society, the family has always been regarded as sacred. Proverbs such as "The family is a small homeland" and "A united family ensures a united nation" reflect the cultural importance of this institution. According to traditional norms, men are viewed as the heads of households, while women are seen as nurturing mothers and loyal spouses. Respect for parents, obedience to elders, early marriage, and having many children are culturally upheld values.

According to sociologist A. Azimova, "The traditional family model continues to dominate the mindset of Uzbek youth, and this is clearly reflected in their attitudes toward marriage" (Azimova, 2021).

While many young people consider marriage a primary life goal, their perceptions and preparedness vary. Youth in rural areas tend to retain traditional values more than their urban counterparts, who are more influenced by contemporary trends.

Recent years have seen the rise of the following modern approaches among young people:

- Delaying marriage in favor of education, career, and personal development;
- Reinterpreting gender roles and promoting equality in family life;
- Beginning relationships through social media platforms;
- Emphasizing deep mutual understanding before marriage;
- Prioritizing personal independence and professional success over having children.

These approaches are more common among urban, higher-educated youth who are familiar with foreign cultures. According to sociologist Ronald Inglehart's "Theory of Value Change," as societies progress economically and culturally, they shift from "survival values" toward "self-expression values"—a framework that helps interpret these transformations in youth consciousness.

Modern youth increasingly envision family relationships as equal partnerships. Women aspire to financial independence and to actively participate in decision-making processes, contributing to the emergence of a new family model based on partnership and mutual respect.

A 2022 study by the United Nations in Uzbekistan found that mutual respect, understanding, social cooperation, and equality are essential for family stability among youth.

According to a 2023 survey conducted by the Youth Sociology Center under Tashkent State University of Law:

- 68% of respondents view family as a key life value;
- 45% do not support early marriage, preferring to focus on education and career first;
- 37% believe that getting to know one's partner well before marriage is important;
- 59% agree that women should have equal rights with men in marital life.

These findings reveal the coexistence of traditional and modern values in the minds of Uzbek youth.

Today, various challenges characterize the attitudes of Uzbek youth toward family, arising from the tension between traditional values and modern trends. Firstly, a significant portion of young people lack sufficient knowledge and experience in matters such as marriage, family management, and psychological readiness. This lack of preparation often leads to misunderstandings, divorces, and social conflicts within family life. The failure to approach family not only as a personal responsibility but also as a form of social preparedness further deepens these issues.

Secondly, a conflict between traditional and modern perspectives is increasingly apparent. On one side, parents and the older generation rely on customs and traditions in marriage processes. On the other side, modern youth desire autonomy, the freedom to make their own choices, and the realization of personal hopes and dreams. This generational gap often results in miscommunication and misunderstandings.

Thirdly, persistent gender stereotypes in society—such as the idea that men must always be leaders and women must be submissive—conflict with the principles of gender equality in modern relationships. These stereotypes can be especially harmful for young women who lack access to education or economic independence, leading to significant negative outcomes in their personal lives.

A fourth major issue involves unrealistic perceptions promoted on social media. The artificial and overly idealized portrayals of “perfect families” by bloggers and celebrities do not reflect the realities of life. As a result, many young people develop misleading stereotypes, which foster distrust, fear, and hesitation toward family life.

To address these challenges effectively, a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is required. First and foremost, special educational programs on family psychology and familial responsibility should be gradually introduced into schools, colleges, and universities. These programs would not only increase young people's readiness for marriage but also help foster a culture of healthy and conscious decision-making among youth.

The attitudes of Uzbek youth toward family reflect a complex social dynamic in which traditional values intersect with modern approaches. While the cultural importance of the family institution remains strong, the priorities, perspectives, and aspirations of the younger generation are rapidly evolving. This shift places a new responsibility on society: to modernize the family institution in a way that ensures its continued stability. Finding a balance between preserving tradition and embracing modernity is essential for ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for today's youth.

References:

1. Azimova, A. “Family Values and Youth Consciousness,” Youth and Society, 2021.
2. Inglehart, R. Cultural Evolution: People's Motivations are Changing, and Reshaping the World, Cambridge University Press, 2018.
3. Youth Sociology Center under the Tashkent State University of Law. Sociological Analysis of Family Values, 2023.
4. United Nations Uzbekistan. Youth and Family in Uzbekistan: Transforming Norms, 2022.
5. Parsons, T. “Family and Socialization: A Functionalist Perspective,” American Sociological Review, 1955.
6. UNESCO. Changing Youth Perspectives in Central Asia, Paris, 2021.
7. Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Revised Edition, 2020.