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Relationships of Spouses in Single-national and Inter-ethnic Russian, Tatar Families

Rezida R. Khusnutdinova¹, Nailya G. Khakimova²

Abstract

This study is interested in the features of family relationship in mono and interethnic families as the factor defining the quality and the contents of real expectations and claims of spouses in spheres of family life. The relationships in the family depend mostly on traditions of communication, economic and social state of society, the participation of spouses in household activities. Moreover, it is necessary to consider the type of the family: families with many or no children, families with different leaders, personal qualities of relatives, and so on.

The article is devoted to the study of family values in single-national and inter-ethnic Russian and Tatar families. Life of spouses can be examined under 5scalesphere: the sphere of professional life, the sphere of training and education, the sphere of family life, the sphere of social life and the sphere of hobbies. By implementing a fieldwork, this study demonstrated significant differences in views on family values in Russian, Tatar and mixed families. The investigation was conducted and completed and its results were analyzed and classified by the authors in accordance with the methods of the terminal values questionnaire of I.G. Senin and A.N. Volkova's methodology "Role expectations and claims in marriage" which will be represented in detail below.

The study involved 120 married couples of one-national and interethnic families of Russians and Tatars (240 people in total). The outcome of the study presented in the article is the description of cross cultural differences in family values, role expectations and claims of spouses in marriage on the basis of analyzing the indicators of coherence of family values in a Russian family. The materials of the article are of practical value for considering some features of the role structure of the modern family, and defining main directions in counseling married couples.

Keywords: Cross-cultural research, Mono-ethnic and interethnic Russians, Tatar families, Family values, Life spheres.

¹ NaberezhnyeChelny State Pedagogical University. E-mail: rezida.81@mail.ru

² NaberezhnyeChelny State Pedagogical University. E-mail: 340268@mail.ru

Introduction

Each person, as a result of its development and socialization in society, develops his own system of values (Sakaev, 2016). What is important to one person may not matter to another. Therefore, when entering into marriage, the future spouses should get to know each other, understand the value orientations of the partner and compare with their own.

Many studies show that the family values of men and women are quite different, as a result of social upbringing. The role of mother and being a housewife role model, is initially predetermined to the woman. Traditionally, girls have been raised according to this role model, helping house works, cooking, cleaning, etc. On the other hand, boys have been taught being protector of the family, earning money, having a career, etc. (Shakhbanova, Zagutin, Kasyanov, Magomedova, Bineeva & Samygin, 2018; Tereshchenko, Zakirova, Khamitova & Frolova, 2016).

Studies indicate that intra-family relationships depend precisely on how consistent the family values of the spouses, what their role expectations in relation to each other (Yusupov, 2014).

We proceeded from the fact that the conflicting relations of spouses in interethnic couples can be manifested not only as a result of the mismatch of the values of spouses and their views, identified at the time of marriage, but also on the basis of their individual characteristics and the specifics of the social order (Stefanenko, 2002). The reason for the destruction of marital relations in mixed marriages can also be the contradictory representations of partners, based on differences in their ethnic traditions and views (Yusupov, 2014).

The relationship in a family depend mostly on traditions of communication, economic and social state of society, family dependence on the society, the participation of spouses in household activities and the type of the family: families with many or no children, the leading position of spouses, personal qualities of relatives (Sakaev, 2016).

All these aspects are connected with the national culture and traditions of every spouse. Russian and Tatar people have lived next to each other for a long time, in modern Russia the both nations have a lot in common in the way of life and in history. However, as numerous surveys show these nations have a rather significant specificity in, mainly, household sphere. This specificity cannot but have impact on family relationship (Yusupov, 2014).

Materials and Methods

The investigation was carried out by the authors of the article with families of Naberezhnye Chelny city in the Republic of Tatarstan in 2018.

The authors have selected diagnostic tools to achieve the objectives of the research. To study the system of values of spouses and life spheres there was used a modified version of the terminal values questionnaire worked out by I.G. Senin (TVQ-2) (Tikhomirov, 2001) and in order to identify role expectations there was applied A.N. Volkova's methods "Role expectations and claims in marriage" (REC) (Volkova, 1990). Then the authors collected information, conducted an investigation, analyzed the results obtained and identified the ethno-psychological features of relationships between spouses in single-national and inter-ethnic marriages.

Respondents were asked to answer the questions of the psychological methodology (TVQ-2) according to a 5-point scale in the following way:

"1" - if personally for you what is written in the statement does not matter at all;

"2" - if it is of little importance to you;

"3" - if personally for you it is important to some extend;

"4" - if it is really important for you;

"5" - if it is very important for you.

Methods of A.N. Volkova "Role expectations and claims in marriage" (REC) contain 36 statements for each variant (male and female) and consist of seven scales. Spouses were asked to familiarize themselves with a set of statements that are related to marriage, family, relations between husband and wife and to express their attitude to each statement, using the following answers:

- I completely agree;
- In general, this is true;
- This is not entirely true;
- This is not true.

The study involved 120 married couples of one-national and interethnic families of Russians and Tatars (240 people in total). Married couples live in Naberezhnye Chelny. The sample was divided into 4 groups of 60 people each as described below.

The first group included 30 Russian mono-ethnic families (husband and wife are Russian). The average married experience of Russian families is 17.6 years. The average age of the wives is 39.5 years. The average age of husbands is 42. Secondary vocational education among women has 17 people, higher education – 10 people, secondary technical education-3 people. Among Russian men, 15 people have secondary vocational education, 9 people have higher education and 6 people have secondary technical education.

The second group included 30 Tatar mono-ethnic families (husband and wife Tatars). The average matrimonial experience is 13.8 years. The average age of women is 39.9 years. The average age of husbands is 37.2 years. Among Tatar women have a secondary education 13 people, the highest - 11 people, secondary technical - 6 people. Among men, Tatars have a secondary special education in 16 people, 12 people have a higher education, and 2 people have a secondary technical education.

The third group included 30 polyethnic families, where the husband is Russian, the wife is Tatar. The average matrimonial experience is 15.7 years. The average age of wives is 37.4 years. The average age of husbands is 39.7 years. Among women, 15 people have a higher education, vocational secondary education - 8 people, secondary technical education - 7 people. Among men, 11 people have higher education, secondary technical education - 5 people, 14 people have secondary special education.

The fourth group included 30 polyethnic families, where the husband is Tatar, the wife is Russian. The average matrimonial experience is 16.1 years. The average age of wives is 38.6 years. The average age of husbands is 38.3 years. Among women, 12 people have a higher education, 9 have a secondary special education, and 9 have secondary technical education. Among men, 13 people have higher education, secondary technical education - 5 people, 12 people have secondary special education.

To study the system of values of spouses and life spheres, a modified version of the questionnaire of terminal values (TVQ-2) was used. The questionnaire contains 5 scales of life spheres: the sphere of professional life, the sphere of training and education, the sphere of family life, the sphere of social life and the sphere of hobbies.

Results and discussions

Significance of life spheres

Indicators and results characterizing the significance of life spheres in the life of the subjects are presented in Figure 1.

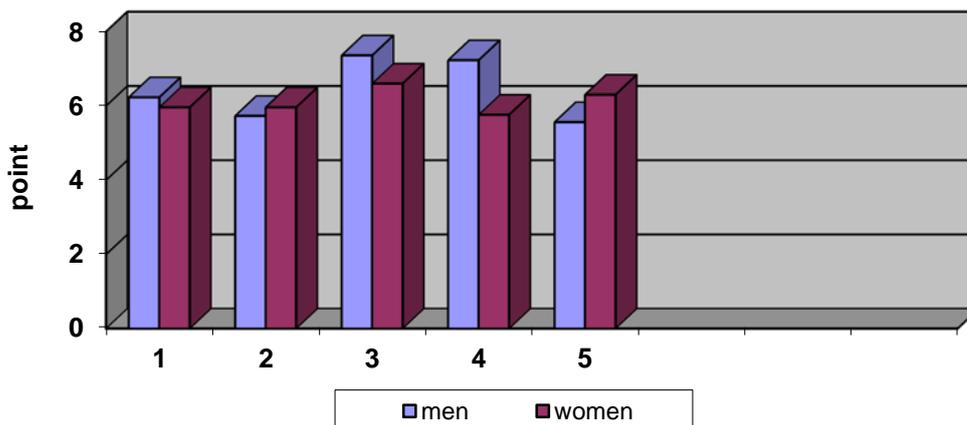


Chart. 1. Indicators of the significance of life spheres in mono-ethnic Russian families

Note: 1 - the sphere of professional life; 2 - the scope of training and education; 3 - the sphere of family life; 4 - the sphere of public life; 5 - sphere of hobbies (chart 1-4)

Data analysis suggests the following, that there are no spheres that would be completely irrelevant in the life of Russian couples. The subjects tend to be equally keen to pay attention to professional, family, and social life, as well as their education and hobbies. However, among the vital spheres, the sphere of family life is the most significant ($p = 0.05$).

We compared the average in the spheres of Russian husbands and Russian wives among themselves. On the basis of statistically compared means using the t-Student test, the following conclusions were made. Husbands, in contrast to wives, attach greater importance to such areas of life as family ($p = 0.01$) and social ($p = 0.01$). For them, everything that is connected with family life and the life of society is more meaningful. They give a lot of time and energy to solving the problems of their family, believing that the most important thing in life is well-being in the family. Men are usually faster and easier to get involved in public and political life. At the same time, for women, their hobbies ($p = 0.05$) become somewhat more important than their husbands. They believe that their interests should not be limited to the family, and, in turn, emphasize their hobbies, they believe that without enthusiasm, a person's life is in many ways incomplete. There were no statistical differences in the remaining scales of life spheres in the indicators of Russian men and women. For both spouses all spheres of family life are equally significant. But at the same time, for men, the sphere of family life is of greater importance, unlike women. Men to a greater extent believe that the interests of the wife should be primarily linked by the family, the care of the family.

The study of such scales (factors) on a sample of Tatar families showed absolute identity in the severity of all indicators: the spouses have similar positions on issues of family roles. The results of the study of the significance for the subjects of life in mono-ethnic Tatar families (see Fig. 2).

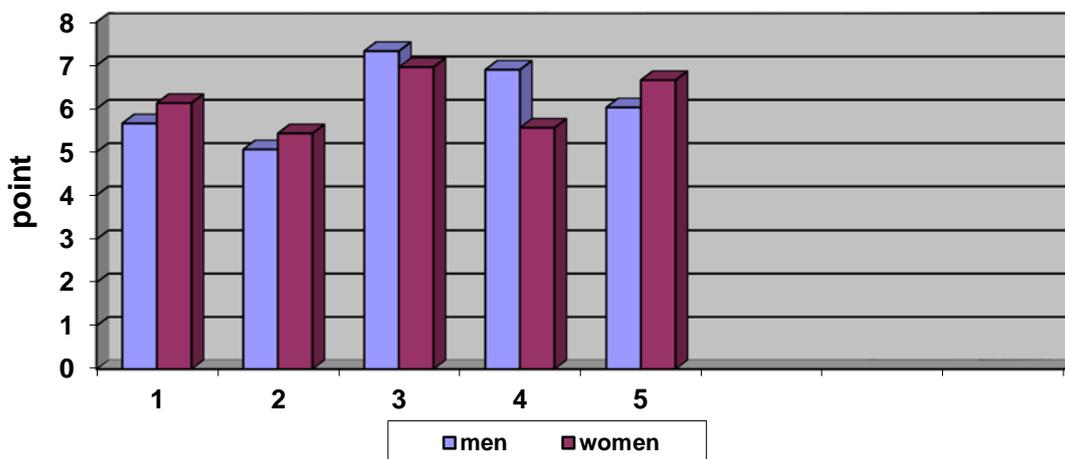


Fig. 2. Indicators of the significance of life spheres in mono-ethnic Tatar families

It should be noted that all indicators are within average values. There were no statistically significant differences between them in the sample of mono-ethnic Tatar families.

Let's compare the average spheres of Tatar husbands and wives among themselves. Women also, unlike men, attach the greatest importance to hobbies. For the remaining scales of life spheres in the indicators of Tatar men and women, no statistical differences were found.

The study of the factors of relationships and values in Russian-Tatar families, the traditions of two national cultures — Russian and Tatar — are more mixed in than those in mono-ethnic families. Here is the "imposition" of roles that are associated with the culture and traditions of a particular nationality, the peculiarities of upbringing in their families.

The data on the significance of individual spheres in the lives of Russian men and Tatar wives are shown in Figure 3.

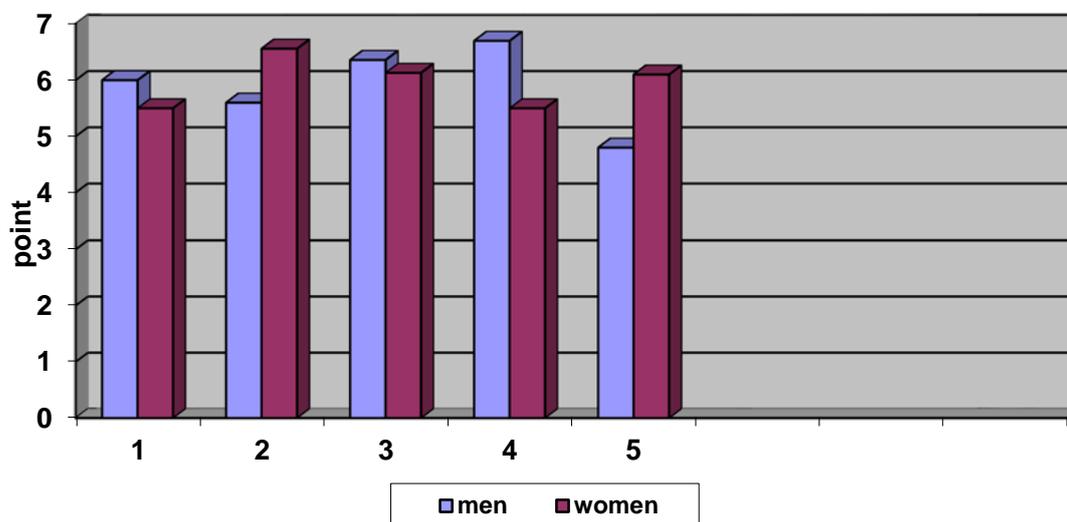


Fig. 3. Indicators of the importance of life spheres in polyethnic families (husband is Russian; wife is Tatar)

The results suggest that in families where the husband is Russian, the wife is Tatar, indicators of the significance of life spheres are within the average and above average values. There were no statistically significant differences in the prevalence of a particular sphere in the subjects lives comparing the average significance of the spheres of Russian husbands and Tatar wives among themselves on the basis of a statistical comparison of averages using t - Student's criterion, we made the following conclusions. Husbands, in contrast to wives, attach the most importance to the sphere of public life ($p = 0.01$). They are

more interested in social and political convictions and problems of the life of society, as a rule, they are more quickly involved in social and political life. Wives, unlike husbands, also attach greater importance to the field of hobbies ($p = 0.001$). For the remaining scales of life spheres in the indicators of men and women, statistical differences were not found.

We analyzed the indicators characterizing the significance of individual spheres in the life of Russian men and Tatar wives. The results are presented in Figure 4.

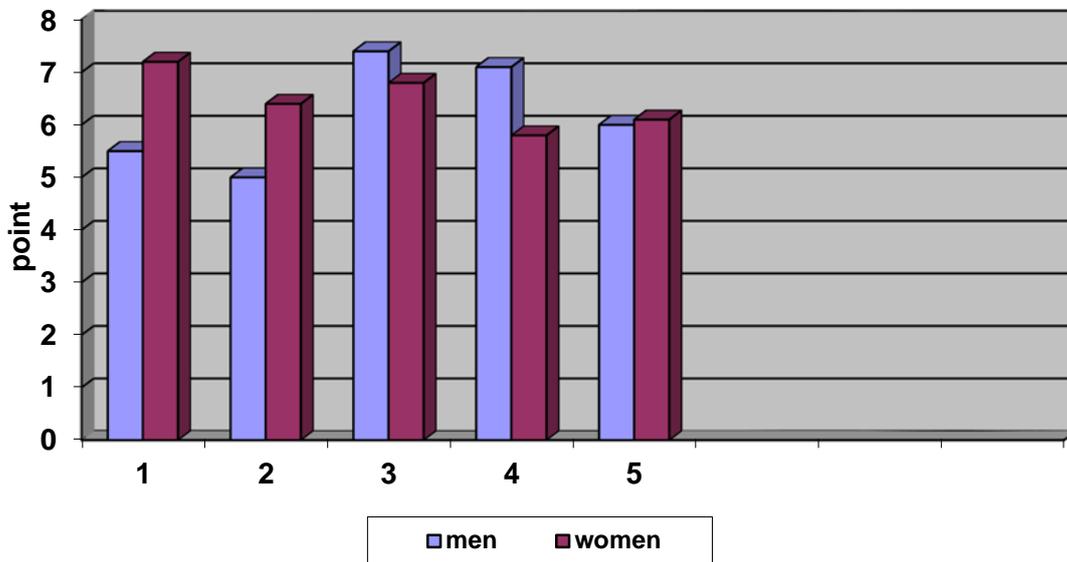


Fig. 4. Indicators of the importance of life spheres in polyethnic families (husband - Tatar, wife - Russian) In families where the husband is a Tatar, the wife is Russian, the indicators of the significance of life spheres are within the average and above average values. There were no statistically significant differences in the prevalence of a particular sphere in the subjects' lives.

They compared the average values of the spheres of Tatar husbands and Russian wives among themselves. Based on a statistical comparison of the mean, significant differences were established in the spheres of professional life ($p = 0.001$), training and education ($p = 0.01$), family life ($p = 0.05$) and social life ($p = 0.001$). Husbands, in contrast to wives, attach greater importance to issues related to the life and well-being of the family, and they are more than wives involved in the upbringing of national self-awareness, while wives mostly convey features of national culture at a meaningful level. They believe that their interests should not be limited to the family.

For women, unlike husbands, the sphere of professional activity is more significant, they give more time to work, strive to increase the level of their education, broaden their horizons.

Role expectations

Let us analyze some indicators gained in the result of studying role expectations and claims in marriage, according to the method REC (Druzhinin, 2002). In Figure 5 there are indicators of significance of family values according to method REC in mono-ethnic Russian families.

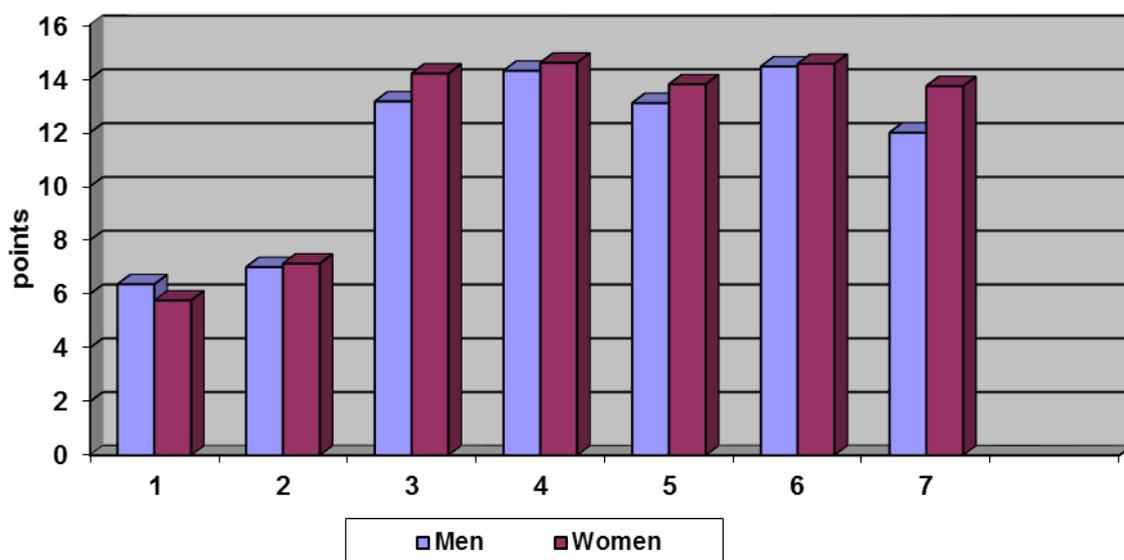


Fig. 5. Indicators showing significance of family values in mono-ethnic Russian families according to method REC

Note: 1 – intimate sexual sphere; 2 – personal identity; 3 – household sphere; 4 – parental and educational sphere; 5 – social activity; 6 – emotional and psychotherapeutic sphere; 7 – external appeal

Statistical differences in indicators of significance of family values between husbands and wives have been revealed on scale "externalappeal" ($p = 0.05$), i.e. attractive look, compliance to standards of fashion, as well as a good-looking partner are more important for women than for men. Women are more willing to look nice and have fashionable clothes. There are no differences revealed on other scales.

Analyzing the indicators, we need to point out that in all spheres of family life there is coherence between role expectations and claims of spouses in marriage, the rates of coherence of family values (CFV) are within 3 points. In this connection in sphere "external appeal" there is a slight disagreement, in comparison with the indicators of CFV of the other spheres ($p = 0.05$).

So, the study of family values, role expectations and claims of spouses in marriage in mono-ethnic Russian families points to the following: husbands, as well as wives appreciate high economic standard of living ($p = 0.05$) and achievements ($p = 0.01$). In contrast to women, men attach great importance to family and social life spheres ($p = 0.01$); unlike men, women attach importance to passion ($p = 0.05$) (Tereshchenko, Zakirova, Khamitova & Frolova, 2016).

Statistical differences in indicators of significance of family values between men and women have been revealed on scale "externalappeal" ($p = 0.05$), i.e. attractive look, compliance to standards of fashion, as well as a good-looking partner are more important for women than for men. Women have more desire to look nice and have fashionable clothes. No other differences between Tatar women and men have been found on the other scales.

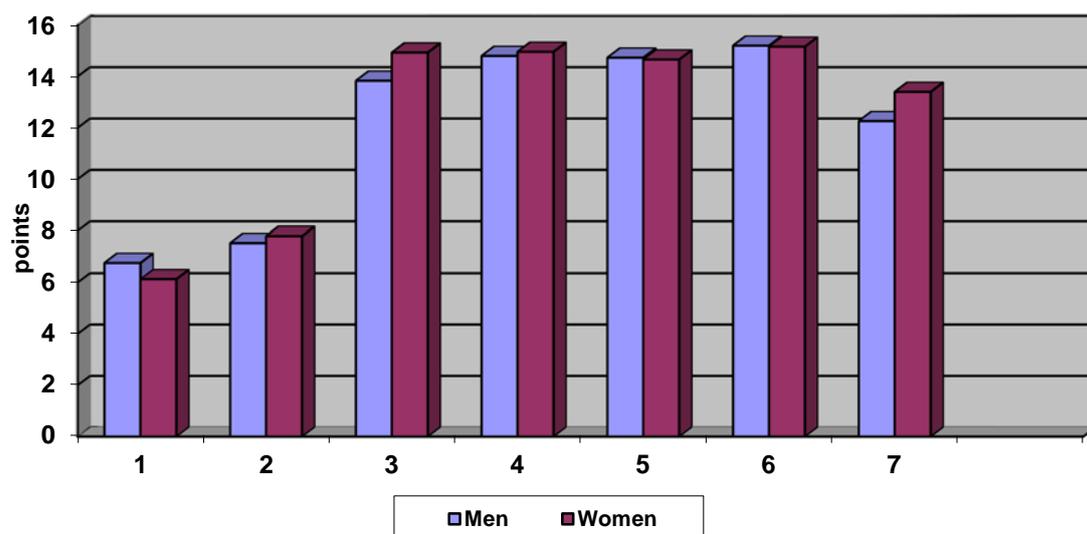


Figure 6. Indicators showing significance of family values in mono-ethnic Tatar families according to method REC

Note: 1 – intimate sexual sphere; 2 – personal identity; 3 – household sphere; 4 – parental and educational sphere; 5 – social activity; 6 – emotional and psychotherapeutic sphere; 7 – external appeal

The coherence of family values is characterized by the difference in the number of points in indicators on scale "family values of the husband" and on scale "family values of the wife". More coherence is observed in terms of spouses' ideas about the most significant spheres of family life. The difference within three points will not cause any problems in relationships; on the contrary, the difference in more than three points signals a rather high degree of conflicts between spouses.

So, the likelihood of the outbreak of conflicts is insignificant in the sphere of social activity, in the intimate sexual sphere, personal identity, the household sphere, the parental and educational sphere, as well as in the emotional psychotherapeutic sphere. Tatar families are likely to have the outbreaks of disagreement and conflict on the basis of spouses' ideas concerning the external appeal of the partner. In this matter the expectations of one of the spouses (mostly husbands) do not coincide with the ideas of the other partner (mostly wives) in terms of his or her appearance. The subject matter is about following the fashion, willingness to have nice and fashionable clothes in order to comply with modern models of appearance.

Let us consider the data gained in the result of studying family values, role expectations and claims in marriage in multinational families according to method REC. In Figure 7 there are indicators for multi-ethnic families (the husband is Russian, whereas the wife is Tatar).

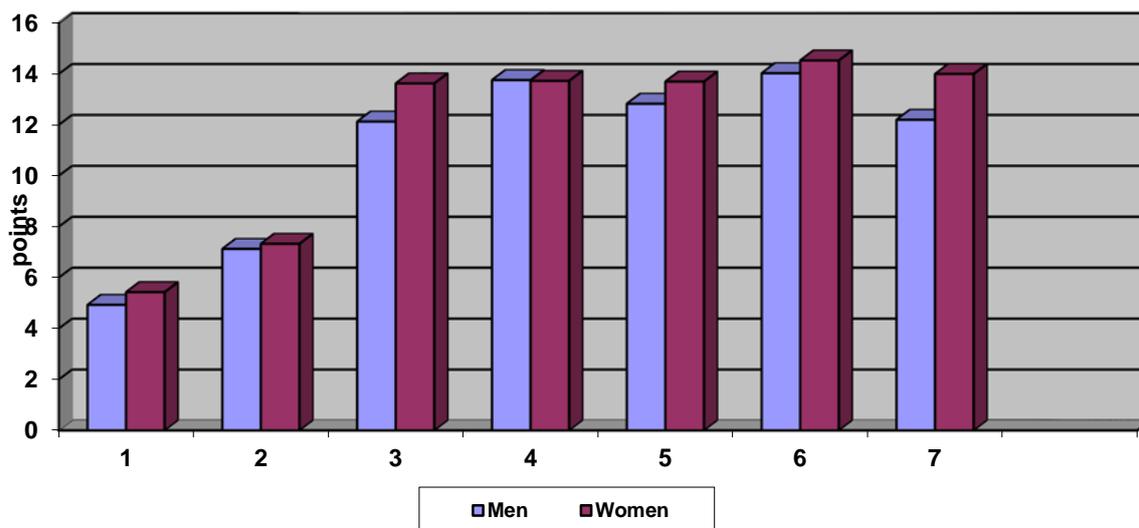


Figure 7. Significance of family values in multi-ethnic families (the husband is Russian, the wife is Tatar
Note: 1 – intimate sexual sphere; 2 – personal identity; 3 – household sphere; 4 – parental and educational sphere; 5 – social activity; 6 – emotional and psychotherapeutic sphere; 7 – external appeal

The statistical analysis of the data conducted with the use of Student's T-test results in the following conclusion. Statistical differences in the indexes of the significance of family values between men and women have been revealed according to the scale "external appeal" ($p = 0.01$) and households sphere ($p = 0.05$). Namely, for Tatar wives their own appearance, compliance to standards of fashion and a good-looking partner are of greater value than for Russian husbands. It's typical for them to have nice and fashionable clothes. Household sphere for women is regarded as the degree of expectation of active fulfilling everyday duties on the part of the partner. Women increasingly make demands on the participation of the spouse in the organization of the welfare, so their partner's skills in household activities are of great importance. Women take a more active part in housekeeping. According to the other scales there are no significant differences that have been found out.

Analyzing the indicators we can point out that in all the spheres of family life there is some coherence between role expectations and claims of spouses in marriage, as the rate of CFV is within three points. Nevertheless, we need to mention that in the sphere of external appeal the average indicator of CFV is 2.9, i.e. it is about to be in the field of disagreement. In this matter there can be some disagreement, irritation and conflict concerning the issues of the spouse's appearance. Expectations of Russian husbands about the appearance of Tatar wives are higher, they want their wives to follow fashion and wear pretty clothes. The main reason for the probable frustration with marriage on the part of Tatar women maybe hidden in emotional dissatisfaction with the level of claims of their spouses, concerning their appearance and a low evaluation of their external appeal.

Let us consider the data gained in the result of studying family values, role expectations and claims in marriage in multi-ethnic families where the husband is Tatar, and the wife is Russian (Figure 8).

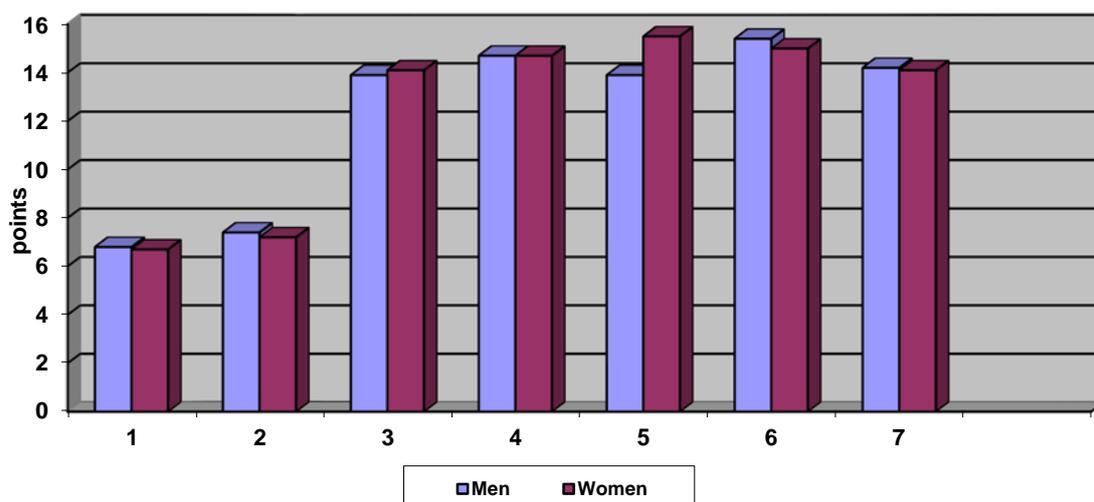


Figure 8. 213 Significance of family values in multi-ethnic families (the husband is Tatar; the wife is Russian) according to method REC

Note: 1 – intimate sexual sphere; 2 – personal identity; 3 – household sphere; 4 – parental and educational sphere; 5 – social activity; 6 – emotional and psychotherapeutic sphere; 7 – external appeal

The statistical analysis of the data conducted with the use of Student's T-test (Figure7) shows some significant differences on scale "social activity" ($p = 0.05$). These differences are connected with the fact that Russian wives are active by themselves, or the expectations addressing their spouse's social (professional) activity are higher. They find professional demands very important for their stable relationships in marriage. On the other scales there are no significant differences in the indicators of family values between men and women.

Conclusion

Summing up the cross-cultural comparison of role expectations and claims of spouses in marriage, we need to point out the following.

In intimate sexual sphere there is a difference between mono- and multi-ethnic families. Sexual harmony is considered to be an important prerequisite for a happy marriage to a greater extent in multi-ethnic families (the husband is Tatar, the wife is Russian) ($p = 0.05$), whereas multi-ethnic families (the husband is Russian and the wife is Tatar) underestimate, to some degree the sexual relationship in marriage, in comparison with the other types of families ($p = 0.05$).

Expectations of a community of interests, demands, values and ways of passing the time are greater in mono-ethnic families ($p = 0.05$), spouses in multi-ethnic families are more likely to have personal autonomy ($p = 0.05$).

Mono-ethnic Tatar families in comparison with the other families are characterized by a high-degree mindset to fulfill household functions of the family ($p = 0.05$), whereas multi-ethnic families (the husband is Russian and the wife is Tatar) have a low degree of willingness regarding housekeeping ($p = 0.05$).

The emotional psychotherapeutic function of marriage is considered to be important for all the families.

Common indicators of coherence of family values and the statistical comparison point to the fact that all the married couples on the whole are rather harmonious. However, in mono-ethnic Tatar and multi-ethnic families (the husband is Russian and the wife is Tatar) there is some disagreement in the aspect of the external appeal of spouses ($p = 0.01$).

Taking into consideration all the mentioned above, we may conclude that there are some cross-cultural differences in terms of family values, role expectations and claims of spouses in marriage.

The outcome of the study presented in the article is the description of cross cultural differences in family values, role expectations and claims of spouses in marriage on the basis of analyzing the indicators of coherence of family values in a Russian family. Thanks to the survey among 240 women and men, aged 25-35 and 40-45, a rather significant specificity, mainly, in the household sphere was revealed and public life.

Within this article it is impossible to reveal all the nuances of a mono-and multi-ethnic family, we only note that there are reliably significant differences to the problems of values, where the man is Russian, and the wife is Tatar, and families, where the husband is Tatar, and the Russian wife. The materials of the article are of practical value for considering some features of the role structure of the modern family, and defining main directions in counseling married couples.

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