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VALUES SUCH AS MARRIAGE AND FAMILY AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE²

Summary: The influence of tradition and established values is in decrease under the influence of global and social processes, and causes significant changes in people's everyday life. These processes have consequences on moral development of young people, influence on their system of values, and especially on their understanding of marriage and family. These changes, occurring in every segment of life, inspired us to closely inquire what young people think about marriage and what role marriage and family have nowadays. Study of young people's system of values in today's society, that went through many changes, creates a current problem and offers an answer to many questions. The goal of this research was to examine the system of values and beliefs of young people, concerning marriage, forming a family and to give an insight of student's attitude towards marriage and family in relation to current values. Results of research show that a great deal of survey participants, regardless of gender, still value traditional values such as marriage and family, but the age for getting married and forming a family has changed. Results, also, show that men and women perceive marriage and family differently, than as it was the case in previous years. The main goal of marriage education is to prepare young people for marriage and to develop a certain amount of values. In fact, this paper is only a small step in reaching this goal.

Key words: family, marriage, system of values, young people.

To begin with, every social and cultural society is based on certain system of values. It could be said with certainty that values significantly affect our life, and without them life would be impossible. The interest for values could be assigned to importance that values have when explaining social phenomena. Changes occurring rapidly in all segments of life, have consequences on moral development of young people. We couldn't help but wonder: What place does family and marriage take according to moral development of young people, today? Since first written documents in history up until today, many pages have been written about marriage. In fact, marriage and family are common themes of contemporary research."Kamenarac" (2006), as well says that the main reasons of increasing interest for this topic are changes occurring in this area of life. Significant changes which affect present society whether they are positive or negative most definitely leave permanent mark on the system of values. Therefore, study of young

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people's system of values in today's society, that underwent many changes, creates a current problem and offers an answer to many questions.

According to changes in society, marriage, family and family relations are prone to change because they represent variable historical category. Naturally, they depend on development of productive forces and socio-economic relations. Also, many authors write about changes affecting family of a new age. Pašalic-Kreso (2004) is of the opinion that the family has gone through the biggest and the fastest transition over the last century whereas family system has dramatically changed over the last couple of decades. Also, Grandić (2007) indicates that the structure of family faces constant changes. Even though patriarchal family still exists it loses its importance and it is slowly being replaced by contemporary family.

Women were granted the right to participate in all areas of life and there was a huge need for equality between sexes. Also, a big flexibility in the choice of a spouse is currently present. Today, a great deal of couples does not follow the traditional form of marriage. According to young people, the big emphasis is put on the quality of couple's relationship rather than the forms in which this relationship is created. But, transformation of marriage and family does not necessarily lead to its disappearance and degradation. Vilić (2011) puts an emphasis on the fact that the content of marriage and family are notably transformed. However, marriage as an institution hasn't lost its meaning, function and duty. Undoubtedly, the importance of marriage as an institution isn't as important as it used to be. However, marriage as well as traditional family is still the most common type of commitment in Serbia. On the other hand, alternative types of marriages are not that common.

As a result of these changes, we were inspired to do a research on the opinion of young people towards marriage. Also, the topic of this research was: what role does family and marriage have according to moral development of young people, today? Since we live in the age of degradation of human values, in the time when young people reluctantly decide to get married and when the number of divorces is bigger than the number of marriages, it is essential to examine this topic thoroughly.

According to humanistic pedagogy, one of the basic human needs is that of love and belonging, and marriage still serves the purpose of fulfilling this function. Various authors (Grandić, Knežević-Florić and Milutinović, 2004) believe that we live in the time of humanization among genders. As a result, it is essential to put emphasis on the integrity and humanity of young people, rather than differences that occur between genders.

Topic of research: young people's understanding of marriage and family as a system of values.

Problem of research: how young people understand marriage and the notion of forming a family, according to gender.

Goal of research: analyze the opinion of young people towards marriage and family as well as whether there are differences present according to gender.

According to the task of research the following *assignments* have been concretized:

1. Examine whether there are differences in the system of values according to gender.
2. Examine the system of values of young people towards spousal relationship and marriage in general according to gender.
3. Examine the willingness of young people to get married as well the process of forming a family according to gender. Also, it is important to determine the best appropriate age for young people to get married.
4. Examine whether there are differences in the opinion of young people towards motifs for marriage as well as the choice of a spouse.
5. According to gender, our goal is to examine if there are differences in the case of conditions which are necessary for a successful marriage as well as the question of divorce.
6. Again, according to gender, whether young people are aware of responsibility that marriage requires as well as what message they need to transmit.

General hypothesis: Vast majority of young people values marriage and family as preferable way of life. Precisely, marriage and family have the highest position on their list of life achievements.

Specific hypotheses:

1. There is no significant difference regarding the importance of values, regardless of gender.
2. There is no statistic difference regarding values and attitudes of young people towards marriage, according to gender of participants.
3. There is no statistic difference in willingness of young people towards marriage and the process of forming the family as well as the appropriate age for getting married.
4. There is no statistic difference regarding motifs for getting married and choosing a life partner, according to gender of survey participants.
5. There is no statistic difference regarding necessary conditions for successful marriage, and understanding of divorce, according to gender of survey participants.
6. There is no statistic difference when it comes to people's responsibility in transmitting the values associated with family and marriage.

Independent variable in this research is gender. *Dependent variables* in this thesis are values of young people towards marriage, marriage life and process of forming a family.

Descriptive method has been used due to the nature of problem that has been analyzed. According to the chosen method the *technique of ranking* has been applied. *Five-level scale of Likert type*, rank scale and *three-level descriptive scale* has been formed for the purpose of research. All this has been used to compare the importance of family and marriage with respect to other values.

Survey participants are students of senior year and master students of Novi Sad University. Among 100 students, there were 50 young men and 50 young women aged 23-25. Gathered data has been processed by usage of statistical procedures without parameters and Xi square test.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

This research includes system of values and attitudes of young people towards marriage, willingness to spend life with someone, motifs for forming a family, choice of a life partner, conditions for marriage as well as the influence of family on forming the moral values of young people. Differences in the opinion of young people have been closely observed and the main factor was gender of survey participants. Results of this research will confirm or deny these hypotheses that claim that there is no statistic difference between women's and men's opinion about certain themes in the field of marriage and family. The results are observed from the angle of humanistic pedagogy.

First hypothesis: "There is no statistic difference in the system of values according gender of survey participants". Furthermore, participants in the survey ranked offered values from one to six in the purpose of confirming this hypothesis (love, money, career, children and health), (Table 1 and 2). In addition, three-level descriptive scale with following arguments has also been offered (Table 3):

It is important to:

1. Educate children properly and make them capable for life.
2. Have enough time for your interests and yourself .
3. Have enough time for a spouse.
4. Have a professional career and enough money.

Table 1 – Importance of family, marriage and other values according to women

Rank	Values					
	Love	Money	Career	Marriage	Children	Health
1	7 (14%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	7 (14%)	32 (64%)
2	26 (52%)	1 (2%)	4 (8%)	3 (6%)	8 (16%)	10 (20%)
3	10 (20%)	3 (6%)	9 (18%)	16 (32%)	14 (28%)	1 (2%)
4	4 (8%)	8 (16%)	10 (20%)	12 (24%)	11 (22%)	5 (10%)
5	3 (6%)	12 (24%)	17 (34%)	10 (20%)	7 (14%)	0 (0%)
6	0 (0%)	23 (46%)	10 (20%)	8 (16%)	3 (6%)	2 (4%)
In total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

Table 2- Importance of family, marriage and other values according to men

Rank	Values					
	Love	Money	Career	Marriage	Children	Health
1	8 (16%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	2 (4%)	6 (12%)	31 (62%)
2	13 (26%)	5 (10%)	5 (10%)	5 (10%)	16 (32%)	5 (10%)
3	17 (34%)	6 (12%)	4 (8%)	7 (4%)	11 (22%)	5 (10%)
4	10 (20%)	6 (12%)	8 (16%)	21 (42%)	5 (10%)	2 (4%)
5	2 (4%)	10 (20%)	21 (42%)	10 (20%)	5 (10%)	0 (0%)
6	0 (0%)	21 (42%)	12 (24%)	5 (10%)	7 (14%)	7 (14%)
In total	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)	50 (100%)

According to results shown in Table 1 and Table 2 it is evident that there is no significant difference in the answers of men and women. The most important value for both genders is health. 32 (64%) women and 31 (62%) men ranked health as a number one priority. According to 26 (52%) women, love takes the second place, whereas 17 (34%) men put love on the third position. Also, 7 (14%) women and 8 (16%) put love on first position, whereas no one put love on the last place. 16 (32%) men put children on the second place, whereas 14 (28%) women put children on the third place. Moreover, 7 (14%) women and 6 (12%) men believe that children are first in order of importance compared to other values. 16 (32%) women put marriage on the third place whereas 21 (42%) men put marriage on the fourth place. 21 men (42%) and 17 women (34%) put career on the fifth place. The least important value for both, 21 men (42%) and 23 women (46%) is money and takes the last place. Only 3 (6%) women and 2 (4%) men think of money as the most important value and put it on the first place.

We came to the conclusion that there are no differences when it comes to values of marriage and family according to gender of survey participants. The most important values for young people are love, children and marriage and only then come career and money. This shows that young people still appreciate traditional values that are reputable in our culture. Health is put on the first place according to both men and women which indicates the progress of young people's health culture. Values of young people differ depending on family conditions, environmental and other factors that can have an influence on evaluations of certain values. If these results are to be compared to results in other cities, there is a big chance that some other values could be appreciated more.

Table 3 – Assessment of values according to gender of participants

No.	It is important....	Gender	Very important	Moderately important	Unimportant	In total
1	Educate children properly and make them capable for life.	Men	49 (98%)	1 (2%)	0 (%)	50 (100%)
		Women	50 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (%)	50 (100%)
2	Have enough time for your interests and yourself.	Men	21 (42%)	29 (58%)	0 (%)	50 (100%)
		Women	30 (60%)	20 (40%)	0 (%)	50 (100%)
3	Have enough time for a spouse.	Men	32 (64%)	18 (36%)	0 (%)	50 (100%)
		Women	37 (74%)	13 (26%)	0 (%)	50 (100%)
4	Have a professional career and enough money.	Men	9 (18%)	38 (76%)	3 (6%)	50 (100%)
		Women	23 (46%)	27 (54%)	0 (%)	50 (100%)

Participants were asked to evaluate the importance of given values for them (very important, moderately important, unimportant). As Table 3 shows, the most important value for both, men and women is "educate children properly and make them capable for life". 49 (98%) men and 50 (100%) women consider this as something very important. Only 1 (2%) man claims that this is moderately important, whereas no one puts it in the category of unimportant. As for the second value, "have enough time for your interests and yourself" 21 (42%) men and 32 (64%) women label it as very important while everybody else, 29 (58%) men and 20 (40%) women label it as moderately important. Among these values in the table, "have enough time for a spouse" is of high importance. 32 (64%) men and 37 (74%) women consider it very important while everyone else label it as moderately important. The last claim, "have a professional career and enough money", 9 (18%) men and 23 (46%) women put it as very important while 38 (76%) men and 27 (54%) women label it as moderately important. Only 3 (6%) men think of it as unimportant. A slight difference between men and women could be noticed from these results. Some individualistic values such as ("have enough time for your interests and yourself" and "have a professional career and enough money") are of high importance for women. This could tell us a lot about progress of individualistic values among women. However, these differences are not so colossal due to the fact that both genders evaluate these claims as very important, or moderately important.

By analyzing these two groups, the goal was to confirm the first hypothesis which claims that there is no statistic difference of values according to gender of survey participants. Final results confirm the fact that young people are well aware of preservation of values such as marriage and family. Mentioned above, analyzing the first group of values demonstrates that young people still highly appreciate traditional values that are of high importance in our culture. Therefore, there is no statistic difference as far as values are concerned, according to gender of survey participants.

Second hypothesis: *"There is no statistic difference in the opinion and attitude of young people towards marriage, according to gender of survey participants."* In order to check this assumption, the following assertions have been offered to survey participants:

1. I believe that marriage is one of the most important things in life.
2. I would rather be married than live illegitimately because marriage offers much more safety.
3. The quality of relationship of spouses is more important than the conditions they live in.
4. Marital duties and responsibilities are shared equally among spouses.

Table 4 – Understanding of marriage in general, according to gender of participants

Assertion	Gender	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	In total
1.	Men	14 (28%)	26 (52%)	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	3 (6%)	50 (100%)
	Women	22 (44%)	15 (30%)	6 (12%)	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)
2	Men	14 (28%)	21 (42%)	4 (8%)	5 (10%)	6 (12%)	50 (100%)
	Women	15 (30%)	15 (30%)	4 (8%)	5 (10%)	11 (22%)	50 (100%)
3	Men	29 (58%)	13 (26%)	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	1 (2%)	50 (100%)
	Women	34 (68%)	13 (26%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	50 (100%)
4	Men	24 (48%)	22 (44%)	1 (2%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)	50 (100%)
	Women	37 (74%)	12 (24%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)

According to results in the Table above (Table 4), we can notice that both men and women agree with given assertion: "I believe that marriage is one of the most important things in life." Also, their choices are primarily on the positive side of the Table and there are no colossal differences of the opinion of men and women. 14 (28%) men and 22(44%) women strongly agree with the assertion. 26(52%) men and 15(30%) women agree. Next, 3(6%) men and 6(12%) women are neutral. 4(8%) men and 3(6%) women disagree whereas 3(6%) men and 4(8%) women strongly disagree with this assertion. There is no statistically important difference based on the gender of survey participants, as represented by calculated Xi square, which has the value of $X^2=5,984$, which is far below the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance ranging from 0,05 to 0,01. With a certain amount of flexibility, borderline values of $df=4$ are 0.05-9.488 and 0.01-13.277. A great number of poll participants, regardless of gender, believe that marriage is one of the most important things in life. Although, this research is limited to a small group of people, this data shows that young people have surprisingly positive attitudes towards marriage. A great deal of survey participants of both genders agree with the assertion: "I would rather be married than live illegitimately because marriage offers much more safety." (Table 4) As well as in the previous survey, it is visible again that there are no crucial differences in the attitudes among participants according to gender. 14 (28%) men and 15 (30%) women strongly agree with the assertion mentioned above. 21(42%) men and 15 (30%) women agree. Equal number of men and women, 4 of them (8%) are neutral. Similarly, the same number of men and women, 5 (10%) disagree. Lastly, 6 (12%) men and 11(22%) women strongly disagree with the given assertion. Xi square, which in this case has the value of $X^2=2,494$, again shows that statistic difference in the opinion does not exist. Vast majority of young people agree with this assertion, which again indicates that marriage and family stand on a very high position among all other values. Hence, young people, or in this case students, find marriage much more safer than illegitimate communities. For a long period of time, marriage has been much more appreciated than illegitimate way of

life. However, having in mind the changes happening so quickly the understanding of marriage is slowly starting to change.

As far as the assertion: "*The quality of relationship of spousal is more important than conditions they live in*" (Table 4), is concerned, most of the participants agree with. Again, the results indicate that there is no crucial difference in the opinion of men and women. 29(58%) men and 34(68%) women strongly agree with assertion mentioned above. 13(26%) women and also 13(26%) men agree. 3(6%) men and 1 (2%) woman are in the category of neutral. 4(8%) men and 1 (2%) woman disagree whereas 1(2%) man and 1 (2%) woman strongly disagree. According to final results, it is clear that the majority of people agree with the given assertion. On the other hand, there are not many people in the category of: "neutral", "agree" and "strongly agree". In the 50s people were mostly focused on providing for a family, while nowadays the focus is on self-searching for one's own identity.

Results shown in the Table 4 indicate that majority of participants have positive attitude towards the following assertion: "*Marital duties and responsibilities are shared equally among spouses*". Also, the results indicate that there are no major differences in attitudes of men and women. 24(48%) men and 37(74%) women strongly agree with assertion above. 22(44%) men and 12(24%) women agree. 1(2%) man is neutral. Next, 2(4%) men disagree. Lastly, 1(2%) man strongly disagrees. According to final results, it is relevant to say that there are no major differences in the attitude of men and women towards this assertion. Moreover, most of participants have positive attitude towards assertion and their answers are primarily on the positive side of the Table, whereas small number of participants have the attitude "disagree" and "strongly disagree".

According to this analysis, we have confirmed the *second hypothesis*. Even though this research is limited to a small group of people, this data shows that young people have surprisingly positive feelings about marriage. The answers that received from survey participants were justified from the point of humanist pedagogy. According to it, one of the basic human needs is the need to be loved and the most common way for people to achieve this sense of belonging is marriage. Moreover, we live in age when gender relations are much more sophisticated. Studies have shown that the majority of young people believe that spouses have equal rights and responsibilities. More precisely, young people have a tendency towards balancing responsibilities between spouses.

Third hypothesis: "*There is no statistic difference in willingness of young people towards marriage and the process of forming the family as well as the appropriate age for getting married*". In order to confirm this hypothesis the survey participants were given the following statements:

1. It would not be hard to adjust to life in marriage.
2. I already have enough knowledge about life in marriage.
3. The best time to get married and form a family is at the age of 20 to 25.
4. The best time to get married and form a family is at the age of 25 to 30.
5. The best time to get married and form a family is after the age of 30.

Table 5- Willingness for marriage and the best time to get married according to gender of survey participants

No.	Gender	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	In total
1	Men	9 (18%)	23 (46%)	10 (20%)	7 (14%)	1 (2%)	50 (100%)
	Women	16 (32%)	26 (52%)	5 (10%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
2	Men	4 (8%)	20 (40%)	6 (12%)	12 (24%)	8 (16%)	50 (100%)
	Women	8 (16%)	19 (38%)	9 (18%)	9 (18%)	5 (10%)	50 (100%)
3	Men	1 (2%)	7 (14%)	5 (10%)	20 (40%)	17 (34%)	50 (100%)
	Women	5 (10%)	9 (18%)	6 (12%)	15 (30%)	15 (30%)	50 (100%)
4	Men	23 (46%)	15 (30%)	8 (16%)	2 (4%)	2 (4%)	50 (100%)
	Women	28 (56%)	12 (24%)	3 (6%)	3 (6%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)
5	Men	5 (10%)	6 (12%)	8 (16%)	22 (44%)	9 (18%)	50 (100%)
	Women	2 (4%)	6 (12%)	5 (10%)	18 (36%)	19 (38%)	50 (100%)

As for the statement: "It would not be hard to adjust to life in marriage" (Table 5), results have shown that 9 (18%) young men and 16 (32%) women strongly agree with this statement. As for 23 (46%) men and 26 (52%) women agree. 10 (20%) men and 5 (10%) women are neutral. 7 (14%) young men and 3 (6%) women mostly disagree, whereas 1 (2%) man and not a single woman completely disagrees. From the results presented we came to a conclusion that majority of both, men and women strongly agree, and that the number of those who are neutral or disagree is very low. Statistically, there is no difference between men and women which is confirmed by Chi square test, where $\chi^2=6,402$ is less than borderline value of 0.05 and 0.01 with a corresponding degree of freedom $df=4$. Again, there are no statistical differences in the attitude of men and women when it comes to this assertion, which is proven by Chi square test. The final result is $\chi^2=6,402$ which is under the borderline value of 0,05 and 0,01 level of importance with a corresponding degree of freedom $df=4$.

If we look at the assertion "I already have enough knowledge about life in marriage" (Table 5), we can easily notice that 4 (8%) men and 8 (16%) women strongly agree. 20 (40%) men and 19 (38%) women agree. 6 (12%) men and 9 (18%) women are neutral. 12 (24%) men and 9 (18%) women disagree, whereas 8 (16%) men and 5 (10%) women strongly disagree with the assertion. Although there are some disagreements among participants, most of them do agree with the given assertion. Also, it is clear that answers do not differ as much as they should, having in mind the difference in gender. Chi square only confirms this claim with the result $\chi^2=3,04$ being under the borderline value of 0,05 and 0,01 level of importance.

Most of the participants disagree with the assertion "The best time to get married and form a family is at the age of 20 to 25." (Table 5). Also, it is clear that there are no differences in the opinion of men and women towards this claim. 1 (2%) man and 5 (10%) women strongly agree with this assertion. 7 (14%) men and 9 (18%) women agree. 5 (10%) men and 6 (12%) women are neutral. 20 (40%) men and 15 (30%) women disagree, whereas 17 (34%) men and 15 (30%) women strongly disagree. Chi square, whose value is $\chi^2= 3, 16$ and is under the borderline value of 0,05 and 0,01 level of importance, again confirms that there are no statistical differences in the opinion of men and women as far as this assertion

is concerned. Most of young people disagree with this assertion. Main reasons for this could be associated with the inability to find employment after finishing University, extension of University studies or even intentionally reaching independence later in life.

Identifying the results from Table 5, it is evident that most of the survey participants agree with the following assertion: *“The best time to get married and form a family is at the age of 25 to 30”*. Also, there are no differences in the opinion of men and women towards this claim. 23 (46%) men and 28 (56%) women strongly agree with the assertion above. 15 (30%) men and 12 (24%) women agree. 8 (16%) men and 3 (6%) women are neutral. 2 (4%) men and 3 (6%) women disagree, whereas 2 (4%) men and 4 (8%) women strongly disagree with the assertion. Xi square, whose value is $X^2= 3,92$ being under the borderline value of 0,05 and 0,01 level of importance, again confirms that there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women as far as this assertion is concerned. However, any differences that occurred from the answers of both genders are the case of coincidence.

The last assertion was: *“The best time to get married and form a family is after the age of 30”* (Table 5). It is evident that young people strongly disagree with this assertion but again, there are no differences in the opinion of men and women towards this claim. Most of the participants disagree with this assertion but, on the other hand it is clear that there are no differences in the opinion of men and women towards this claim. 5 (10%) men and 2 (4%) women strongly agree with the assertion mentioned above. Surprisingly, the same number of men and women, 6 (12%) of them agree. 8 (16%) men and 5 (10%) women are neutral. 22 (44%) men and 18 (36%) women disagree, whereas 9 (18%) men and 19 (38%) women strongly disagree with the given assertion. Xi square, whose value is $X^2= 4,92$ and is under the borderline value of 0,05 and 0,01 level of importance with a corresponding degree of freedom $df=4$, again confirms that there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women as far as this assertion is concerned. However, any differences that occurred from the answers of both genders are the case of coincidence.

There were no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women found by analyzing this particular group of assertions, which only confirms the third hypothesis. In accordance with the pace of life today, many young people believe that the most appropriate time for getting married is somewhere between the ages of 25 and 30. Extended schooling and intentionally reaching independence later in life could be supporting reasons for this claim. In fact, a big number of young people decide to get married later in life rather than in their 20s. Another point is that many young people assume that they are ready for marriage. In other words, they claim to have enough precognition about marriage in general and that adjusting to marriage life would not be hard.

IV hypothesis of this paper was: *“There are no statistic differences in the motifs for getting married and choosing a life partner according to gender of survey participants”*. In order to confirm this hypothesis, five assertions have been presented to survey participants:

1. Financial security is an important motif for getting married as well as starting a family and it plays a big role in choosing a spouse.
2. The most important motif for getting married is love.

3. Social status is an important motif for getting married and represents the best criterion for the choice of a spouse.
4. Equal level of education is important while choosing a spouse.
5. Wishes of parents play an important role when choosing a spouse.

Table 6 – Motifs for getting married and choosing a spouse, according to gender of survey participants

No.	Gender	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	In total
1	Men	9 (18%)	16 (32%)	5 (10%)	17 (34%)	3 (6%)	50 (100%)
	Women	8 (16%)	17 (34%)	3 (6%)	18 (36%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)
2	Men	27 (54%)	17 (34%)	3 (6%)	1 (2%)	2 (4%)	50 (100%)
	Women	36 (72%)	12 (24%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
3	Men	1 (2%)	13 (26%)	7 (14%)	22 (44%)	7 (14%)	50 (100%)
	Women	1 (2%)	10 (20%)	4 (8%)	23 (36%)	12 (24%)	50 (100%)
4	Men	2 (4%)	12 (24%)	5 (10%)	17 (34%)	14 (28%)	50 (100%)
	Women	4 (8%)	19 (38%)	7 (14%)	11 (22%)	9 (18%)	50 (100%)
5	Men	0 (0%)	4 (8%)	5 (10%)	19 (38%)	22 (44%)	50 (100%)
	Women	1 (2%)	3 (6%)	7 (14%)	21 (42%)	18 (36%)	50 (100%)

In the case of the assertion: “Financial security is an important motif for getting married as well as starting a family and it plays a big role in choosing a spouse” (Table 6), there is equal number of positive and negative answers. As a result, the given assertion could not be completely confirmed nor denied. We can observe that there is no difference between levels of agreement based on the gender of survey participant. A number of 9 (18%) men and 8(16%) women strongly agree with this statement, 16 (32%) men and 17 (34%) women agree. 5 (10%) men and 3 (6%) women are neutral, 17 (34%) men and 18 (36%) women disagree and finally, 3 (6%) men and 4 (8%) women strongly disagree. When it comes to this statement, there is no statistically important difference based on the gender of survey participants, as represented by calculated Xi square, which has the value of $X^2=1,019$, and is far below the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance 0,05 and 0,01. The difference in the levels of agreement with this statement amongst young people can be justified by the fact that, in our culture, the choice of a spouse is also based on his or her material standing. However, it is not prevalent for the success of marriage. Money is necessary in the sense that it is quite difficult to financially support a family without it. In this sense, it is important, but only as means, and not the ends.

Based on the results shown in Table 6, it was quite obvious that almost all men and women accepted “Love as the main motive of engaging in marriage” statement. A number of 27 (54%) men and 36 (72%) women strongly agree with this statement. 17 (34%) men and 12 (24%) women agree. 3 (6%) men and 2 (4%) women are neutral. 1 (2%) man and not a single woman disagree and finally, 2 (4%) men and not a single woman completely disagree. When it comes to this statement, there is no statistically important difference based on the gender of the survey participant, as represented by calculated Xi square, which has the value of $X^2=4,02$ which is far below the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance 0,05 and 0,01. Based on presented results, we can conclude that even with all the negative influence of this society, young people have inherited the real values and reasons for which one would engage in marriage. We could highlight the

results of a research conducted by Kameranac (2006), which have arrived at the precisely same conclusions, that love is the main factor for getting married.

When it comes to "*Social status is important motive of engaging in marriage and criterion for choice of spouse*" statement (Table 6), the answers are quite diverse. Again, we can, with certainty, claim that there is no important difference based on the gender of survey participants. Only 1(2%) man and 1(2%) woman strongly agrees with this statement. 13 (26%) men and 10(20%) women agree. 7 (14%) men and 4 (8%) women are neutral. 22(44%) men and 23 (46%) women disagree and finally, 7(14%) men and 12(24%) women strongly disagree. Calculated value of $\chi^2=2,48$, which is far below the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance 0,05-9,488 and 0,01-13,277, shows that there is no significant difference based on the gender of the survey participants, with corresponding degree of freedom of $df=4$. The majority of survey participants disagrees with this statement and considers that social status has no importance when it comes to motif for engaging in marriage. However, there is a number of young people who feel differently. There are young people who simply value a different set of virtues, and those who take the social status into equation when looking for a partner.

As for the "*Same level of education is important criterion for the choice of spouse*" (Table 6), statement, the opinion of the young people are divided, however, the majority of them, regardless of their gender, disagree with this statement. A number of 2 (4%) men and 4 (8%) women strongly agree with this statement. 12 (24%) men and 19 (38%) women agree, 5 (10%) men and 7 (14%) women are neutral. 17 (34%) men and 11 (22%) women disagree and finally, 14 (28%) men and 9 (18%) women strongly disagree. When it comes to this statement, there is no statistically important difference based on the gender of survey participants, as represented by calculated χ^2 square, which has the value of $\chi^2=4,96$, which is far below the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance 0,05 and 0,01. Based on the presented results, we can conclude that women agree with this statement more, which can be seen as a result of centuries long perpetuated image of a woman as a subordinate and her low level of education. We can conclude that the majority of men and women find that the spouses do not need to be of the same education degree. If partners know each other well, have love and respect for one another and have common interests, they will not be bothered by the potential difference in the education of their partner. It is often the case that two partners of same education have squabbles and disagreements, so this is not an important prerequisite.

As for the "*Wishes of parents play an important role when choosing a spouse*" statement (Table 6), we can notice that most of survey participants disagree. We can observe that there is no difference between levels of agreement based on the gender of survey participants. Only 1 (2%) woman strongly agrees with this statement, while not a single man does. 4 (8%) men and 3(6%) women agree, 5 (10%) men and 7 (14%) women are neutral, 19 (38%) men and 21 (42%) women disagree and finally, 22 (44%) men and 18 (36%) women strongly disagree. We can observe that there is no difference between levels of agreement based on the gender of survey participants, and that the most survey participants disagree with this statement. In other words, their answers are on the negative side of the scale. Values are changing, whereas it used to be that the parents were the ones who chose the spouses of their sons and daughters, today it is the young

people who make these choices on their own. They consider this choice to be their own, as they have to find someone matching their own preferences, and not to let other people, or chance, make that choice instead of them.

Based on the analysis of this group of statements, we can conclude that the presented results confirmed the fourth hypothesis. If we take into account the decay of values of today's society, and if we notice that young people still consider love the most important, it is commendable to say that men and women of today have a very critical outlook on negative influences.

V hypothesis: “There is no statistic difference regarding necessary conditions for successful marriage, and understanding of divorce, according to gender of survey participants”. In order to confirm this hypothesis, survey participants have been offered with following assertions:

1. Strong love is a necessary condition for a successful marriage and spousal maintenance.
2. Open and honest communication is important for a successful marriage and spousal maintenance.
3. Loyalty, trust and understanding are important factors of successful marriage and spousal maintenance.
4. People are not obliged to stay married if they are not satisfied.

Table 7 – Opinion of young people towards the foundations of successful marriage and divorces according to gender of participants.

No.	Gender	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	In total
1	Men	22 (44%)	18 (36%)	4 (8%)	4 (8%)	2 (4%)	50 (100%)
	Women	35 (70%)	12 (24%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
2	Men	42 (84%)	7 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
	Women	48 (96%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
3	Men	37 (74%)	11 (22%)	0 (0%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
	Women	47 (94%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
4	Men	19 (38%)	18 (36%)	10 (20%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
	Women	30 (60%)	14 (28%)	5 (10%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)

By looking at the results from Table 7, it is evident that most participants agree with the following assertion: “Strong love is a necessary condition for a successful marriage and spousal maintenance”. Also, it is obvious that there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women towards this matter. Moreover, most of the answers are on a positive side of the Table. 35 (70%) women and 22 (44%) men strongly agree with the assertion mentioned above. 18 (36%) men and 12 (24%) women agree. 4 (8%) men and 2 (4%) women are neutral. 4 (8%) men and only 1 (2%) woman disagree, whereas 2 (4%) men strongly disagree. Xi square, whose value is $X^2 = 6,67$ and is under the borderline value of 0,05 and 0,01 level of importance again confirms that there are no statistic differences in

the opinion of men and women as far as this assertion is concerned. According to humanistic pedagogy, a man is in constant process of changing. Humanistic education in relation with psychological legacy puts an emphasis on the quality of relationships and display of affection. Although activities such as reading and dealing with the inner life are traditionally more often associated with women, a great deal of men nowadays share interest for these activities and are much more courageous to ask for a piece of advice.

Most survey participants, regardless of gender, agree with the following assertion from Table 7: *“Open and honest communication is important for a successful marriage and spousal maintenance”*. Again, most of the answers are on the positive side of the Table. In fact, it is obvious that there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women towards this matter. 42 (84%) men and 48 (96%) women strongly agree with the given assertion. 7 (14%) men and 2 (4%) women agree. There are no neutral participants or ones who strongly disagree, whereas only 1 (2%) man belongs to the category of “disagree”. Consequently, it is obvious that everyone except for one man arranged their answers on the positive side of the Table. Similar to most cases, we can notice that there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women towards this assertion. Importantly, men and women equally believe that open and honest communication is important for a successful marriage and spousal maintenance. Of course, communication is of essential importance for a quality marriage. However, if there is lack of communication between spouses it would most probably lead to lack of intimacy as well. When it comes to the following assertion: *“Loyalty, trust and understanding are important factors of successful marriage and spousal maintenance”*, (Table 7), almost all answers are placed on the positive side of the Table. Also, there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women towards this matter. 37 (74%) men and 47 (94%) women strongly agree with the assertion above. 11 (22%) men and 3 (6%) women agree. There are no neutral participants, whereas only 2 (4%) men fit in the category of “disagree”. Obviously, there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women towards this matter and almost all of them agree that loyalty, trust and understanding are important factors of successful marriage and spousal maintenance.

Majority of participants agree with the assertion: *“People are not obliged to stay married if they are not satisfied”*, (Table 7). 19 (38%) men and 30 (60%) women strongly agree with this assertion. 18 (36%) men and 14 (28%) women agree. 10 (20%) men and 5 (10%) women are neutral. 3 (6%) men and only 1 (2%) woman disagree, whereas no one fits in the category of “strongly disagree”. Based on final results, an obvious fact is that there are no differences in the opinion of young people towards this assertion, regardless of gender. Xi square, whose value is $X^2 = 5,62$ and is under the borderline value of 0,05 and 0,01 level of importance again confirms that there are no statistic differences in the opinion of men and women as far as this assertion is concerned. Regardless of gender, young people strongly believe that people should not stay married just for the sake of being married if they are not satisfied.

There is no major difference between these four statements according to gender of survey participants. Thus, *the fifth hypothesis is confirmed*. We came to a conclusion that even though the spiritual and moral standards are plummeting, young people can still inherit proper values. As the pressure of the traditional view of marriage ceases, an

individual may now cancel such a bond, so that one could pursue fulfillment and happiness, which one denied in the past. Society we live in is wide open for all options and activities.

Hypothesis six: "There is no statistic difference when it comes to people's responsibility in transmitting the values associated with family and marriage." In order to confirm this hypothesis, survey participants were given the chance to express their opinion whether they agree or disagree with this statement. This group contain following statements:

1. Family plays a big role in the preparation of young people for marriage.
2. Young people should visit marriage counselors before getting married.
3. If the young people were to be educated and prepared for married life, the divorce rate would go down.

Table 8 – Understanding of the role of a family in the preparation for marriage according to gender

n	Gender	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	In total
1	Men	13 (26%)	29 (58%)	4 (8%)	2(4%)	2 (4%)	50 (100%)
	Women	26 (52%)	19 (38%)	3 (6%)	2(4%)	0 (0%)	50 (100%)
2	Men	3 (6%)	11 (22%)	10 (20%)	11 (22%)	15 (30%)	50 (100%)
	Women	3 (6%)	12 (24%)	13 (26%)	12 (24%)	10 (20%)	50 (100%)
3	Men	9 (18%)	16 (32%)	11 (22%)	10 (20%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)
	Women	10 (20%)	18 (36%)	12 (24%)	6 (12%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)

According to results in Table 8 "Family plays a big role in the preparation of young people for marriage" majority of students agree with this statement. More precisely, most of them place their answers on the positive side of scale. Based on the gender of survey participants there are certain minor disagreements regarding this statement. 26 (52%) women strongly agree with this statement but only 13 (26%) young men have this attitude which is twice as many as women. 29 (58%) young men disagree with this statement whereas only 19 (38%) women have this attitude. 4 (8%) young men and 3 (6%) women are neutral. 2 (4%) men and women disagree, whereas 2 (4%) men strongly disagree with this assertion. That there is no significant difference between opinions based on gender of survey participants, or the calculated χ^2 square, that is $\chi^2=7,2$ which is far less than the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance. Again, there is a degree of freedom present. Judging by the results presented, we can see that young people's families play an important role when it comes to forming of their values regarding marriage and marital life. Children are taught how to accept and return love, form right moral values, nurture the feeling of responsibility and based on these things learn in their youth how to form a family on their own.

By examining the results found in the Table 8, we can see that when it comes to "Young people should visit marriage counselors before getting married" statement, the opinions of the survey participants are divided. In other words, there is not one answer that could be singled out as the answer that got majority of the votes, so we could not form a generalized overview. A number of 3(6%) men and 3(6%) women strongly agree with this statement. 11 (22%) men and 12(24%) women agree. 10(20%) men and 13(26%) women are neutral, and finally, 15(30%) men and 10(20%) women strongly disagree. When it comes to this statement, there is no statistically important difference based on the gender of the survey participants, as represented by calculated Xi square, which has the value of $X^2=1,46$, and is far below the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance. We notice that opinions of the young people are highly differentiated regarding this statement. When observing this from the point of view of humanist pedagogy, we notice that values are not imprinted on us permanently, instead they keep evolving. The same theory applies for marriage counseling. While its influence was widely negated in the past, today we notice that the opinions of the young people when it comes to counseling are varying. Perhaps, we can expect that in the future, marriage counseling will be accepted.

When it comes to "If the young people were to be educated and prepared for married life, the divorce rate would go down" statement (Table 8), again, there are highly varying opinions among young people. A number of 9(18%) men and 10(20%) women strongly agree with this statement, 16(32%) men and 18(36%) women agree. 11(22%) men and 12(24%) women are neutral, 10(20%) men and 6(12%) women disagree, and finally, 4(8%) men and 4(8%) women strongly disagree. When it comes to this statement, there is no statistically important difference based on the gender of the survey participants, as represented by calculated Xi square, which has the values of $X^2=1,33$, and is far below the borderline values of the chosen levels of importance, degree of freedom. We notice the opinions of the young people are highly differentiated regarding this statement. The most important matter here is the improvement of relationship within family because the young people need to learn proper emotional skills, and the best place to obtain them is one's home. Aside from the family, there are some other factors as well that influence the readiness of young people to get married, such as school, social organizations and mass media just to name some. A fact is that marriage is something that needs to be talked about more in schools.

Analysis of this group of statements attempts to *confirm the sixth hypothesis*. As there haven't been any major differences based on the gender of the survey participants for these three groups of statements, we conclude that the *sixth hypothesis is confirmed*.

Based on the analysis of all the following statements, we can conclude that the young people have positive opinion of family and marriage. The final results show that the proper values regarding marriage are maintained among the younger generations. When all results are pooled together, along with six confirmed hypotheses, we can confirm the final and *general hypothesis* that the young people still value marriage and family highly, or in other words the family and marriage are held in high esteem by the younger generations.

CONCLUSION

The goal of this research was to closely examine the phenomenon of marriage and family from various angles. In order to fully understand the way marriage and family change through time, we engaged in the analysis of transformations. A great deal of survey participants, regardless of gender, believe that marriage is one of the most important accomplishments in life. Moreover, results of research mentioned above show that young people still value traditional values such as marriage and family. In fact, many young people claim that marriage provides much more safety than illegitimate way of life. However, as far as the relationship of spouses is concerned, almost all participants agree that quality relationship is much more important than the place of living. Having that in mind, young people pay much more attention on the mutual pleasure in marriage. Also, it is obvious that men and women perceive marriage and family differently, than as it was the case in previous years. In addition, results have also shown that young people strongly believe that spouses have equal rights and responsibilities.

Young people consider marriage as one of most important things in life but the age for getting married and forming a family has changed. According to young people's pace of life, the majority believe that the best time to get married and form a family is at the age of 25 to 30. Their opinion could be explained due to the fact that all of them want to finish their studies and achieve independence. Young people want to finish their studies, find a job and only then they could get married and form a family. When observing this from the point of view of humanistic pedagogy, we can notice that young people are still adapting moral values that are necessary for forming a marriage even though life serves rapid changes and degradation of society. However, society in which young people grow up gives them a chance for setting up new standards and changing their system of values.

Humanistic pedagogy is the basis for this thesis. In order to achieve humanization of social relations, it is of crucial importance to be mentally prepared for marriage. The main goal of marriage education is to develop a certain amount of values. If people want to form an opinion about something, they need to have moral principles to which they hold on in everyday-life. We consider that future research should put more emphasis on preserving traditional moral values as something very important for marriage and family life. Lastly, goal of pedagogy is to make sure that young people preserve certain moral principles that will lead to humanization of social relations and responsible parenting.

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