

## Family and the Challenges of the Contemporary Society

Ionuț Mihai OPREA  
Oradea University, Romania

**Abstract:** *Ever since the most historic times, the family has been a topical subject, bringing an extraordinary influence in the world. Society with the norms could not ignore this form of organization called "family". The family is one of the basic elements of society, and even we can even say that it is the most important link that connects one realm to another. Like any other institution, the family can be threatened. These threats, as we will see in the article, come from both the outside and the interior. If family is the institution that should work with each institution, whether educational, economic or other, unfortunately it is not possible at all times. We live in a society where, slowly, but with rapid steps, the abnormal begins to become normal, the illegal to become legal. And this great evolution of society represents a real regression of the family institution or, more precisely, a huge obstacle to the world where the family is the most sacred element. In this paper I will try to identify these factors that cause the family some contemporary handicaps, and at the same time we will try to answer a question that is being asked more often in our days, namely: "The family, where?"*

**Keywords:** family, challenge, society, crises, sacrality.

### Introduction

Many of us put our trust in the family. Many believe we can move the mountains out of the place if we have our family with us. We all imagine a perfect family, a family that is present when we need help, a family to be proud of. But how many people are looking at their lives and wondering if the family they have is the family they've imagined, the much-wanted family. We have such an example from ancient times, in the Old Testament, we see King David asking questions. King David had a family whose works he did not really boast about. But David had a covenant with God, and that covenant determined the courage of the belief that his family would change.

In fact, what is the family? An answer to this question is found in Voinea and Stănoiu, which provides a definition for the family as follows: "The family is a social group that is made by marriage, made up of people who live together, have a common household, natural, biological, moral, psychological, and juridical relationships, and which respond to one another for society".<sup>1</sup> Family is seen as a community, a group that includes certain characteristics. They say characteristics because they make the difference between family as a social group and other categories of groups. We will list some of the family characteristics:

- the presence of the act of marriage
- cohabiting with the partner in the same dwelling

---

<sup>1</sup> A. Stănoiu, M. Voinea, *Sociologia familiei*, București, Ed. Universitatea din București, 1986, p. 16.

- manages a household, a house;
- financial activities are common.

Of course, speaking from a sociological point of view, the family in Romania had traditional roots. So the family type existing in our country was a traditional family based on certain established rules. Today, in Romania, the traditional family begins to disappear. Even if there is still a high emotional attachment to the family, it is in a galloping change of marriage values or even the foundation of a family, a marriage. If 30 years ago the marriage rate was between 18-24 years old, today we see this rate as being at the age of 28-34 years. The young people do not rush to marry. Why is this happening? Then, we will discover a few barriers that the family encounters in societies, barriers that contribute to a weaker relationship between family members and implicitly between husband and wife.

### **Main Body**

To begin with, I would like to point out that society, the world in which we live represents a danger to the family, and this, and history will show it. The family is confronted with certain blockages, and I would say, is meeting her route with some "enemies". Who are those enemies? Where are they from or where do they come from? Well, the contemporary family faces certain obstacles coming from outside, from the outside, but also faces certain obstacles that have their "residence" within it.

#### External factors

a) The holiness of human life - it is characterized by disregard for the human being. A very current example in contemporary society that defies and even attacks human life is the killing of babies from their mother's womb, in other words, abortion as an argument of freedom.

b) The sacrament of the covenant of marriage - we are tempted to say that a marriage must be maintained for a lifetime. Divorce between married couples is increasingly present. It is believed that in contemporary society to be married for life, it leads you to a feeling of boredom, which makes the married to experience new relationships. It is very important not to let this disease touch the family.

c) Family Authority and Responsibility - One thing that we need to highlight here is that the State believes that it knows better how to raise a child compared to the family. We have the example in the "civilized" countries of Europe, where children are taken by the State from within the family and are being adopted for those who by nature cannot give life (e.g. homosexual couples) to educate them.

d) Values and family inheritance - many institutions or NGOs attack traditional family values. In the education system, certain disciplines (e.g., sexual education) are introduced to "educate" the child and to inspire "values" of a "healthy" society. Empirical research shows that paradigms of

intergenerational transmission and reproduction are useful, but insufficient to understand the educational processes in the family in all their complexity.<sup>2</sup>

Internal factors

a) Financial management - firstly, the money has a different value. "Ban is the symbol of power and the importance of material in life".<sup>3</sup> Whoever makes them has value, and for whom they spend it has another value. This must be emphasized in a marriage in which one wins, works, and the other spends or scatters. How much money does a family need to be happy? Do we know how to make the difference between "luxury" and "necessity"? This leads to certain debts, which cause a certain tension in the family so that divorce can then occur because "husbands can no longer understand". In sociology this action is also called the "domestic group".<sup>4</sup> It seeks to maximize its well-being and makes permanent decisions about the optimal variants to achieve this goal.<sup>5</sup>

b) Child growth - in the growth of children balance is needed. When the mother falls into the authoritative extreme about the relationship with her children, and the father falls into the permissive extreme in the relationship with his children, there is a conflict between husband and wife. Here too we have to highlight the number of children of the family in relation to the family's financial resources.

c) Child education - parents' bias towards one of the children of the family. When parents are attached to one of the children and the other child is disadvantaged, conflicts between parents may occur as a result of events that are not exactly praised by the child who has not received as much attention as his other brother or sister. Religious education has a powerful effect on children because, through this type of education, they are inspired by a "healthy, moral and spiritual society".<sup>6</sup> Therefore, the socio-educational reality calls for the identification of valid answers regarding the efficiency of the educational management reflected in the quality of the didactic act.<sup>7</sup>

d) Intimate relationships between partners - this requires communication. When communication is absent and intimate relationships

---

<sup>2</sup> Adriana Denisa Manea, "The Interrelation Teacher-Student-Family-Society Promoted through Educational Partnership," in *Astra Salvensis*, III (2015), no. 6, p. 133.

<sup>3</sup> W. Forster, *Îndrumarea vieții*, Suceava, Ed. Arhiepiscopiei Sucevei și Rădăușilor, 2012, p. 76.

<sup>4</sup> P. Iluț, *Sociologia family-suport de curs*, Cluj-Napoca, Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Facultatea de Istorie și Filosofie, Catedra de Sociologie, 1994, p. 109.

<sup>5</sup> P. Iluț, *Sociologia family-suport de curs*, p. 184.

<sup>6</sup> C. Pascariu, "Religion teacher – Clergyman vs. Layperson", in K. Barth, M. Florescu, (eds), *Education and applied didactics*, Oradea, Editura Universității din Oradea, 2017, 83. Vasile Timiș, "The Dissemination of Religious Values through Catechetical-Didactic Activities," in *Astra Salvensis*, V (2017), no. 9, p. 32.

<sup>7</sup> Adriana Denisa Manea, „Innovation in the Management of Educational Institutions”, in *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences*, CCIX ( 2015), no.3, p.310-315.

are absent. This leads to a cold between partners and, ultimately, divorce is inevitable.

e) Different religion among partners - although apparently this is said to not affect the relationship of the two, in reality things are totally different. Religions enclose within them a set of values, beliefs in which we believe. When the religion of the two partners is different, and the beliefs between them are different. Two different concepts of life, going into a collision and creating suffering. These sufferings will spread to the children. Children will no longer know which religion is good, mother religion or father religion! This leads to a stressful situation and then a conflict between the two partners.

f) Relatives - it is about bringing together young partners with their partner's parents or partner's parents. There are often conflicts that are due to the phrase "because of your parents!" Living is due to several factors. They may be financial factors, where the two partners cannot afford a home only for them. There may be addictive factors in which one partner is very attached to parents.

Today's modern society demands a certain education. Man is kneeling at sin. These sins make him relate to contemporary society in a real way.<sup>8</sup> Man is looking for what is best for him and his family. Often this "good" has its roots in a good financial situation, leaving aside the emotional side. We have been seeing a constant change in our lives lately. There are new trends, new models to follow, and new theories about how to spend your life. One of these new trends is this network called LGBT. In translating this current means that women can have sex with other women; men can have intimate relationships with other men; a man can have intimate relationships with both a woman and a man, and a woman can have intimate relationships with both a woman and a man; a man can change sex from male to female and a woman can change sex from female to male. This current, although inoffensive at first glance, extends its branches across the modern society. In the following, we will present some of the influences of this current on the family.

1. Seeking material welfare at the expense of spiritual well-being

Man is tempted to go to civilization. He is tempted to go to the big centres of the country, the county or even the world. The goal is to grow financially in order to have a better job and a better life, but the presence of these new trends is in civilization.

2. The habit of normality makes us believe it normal

---

<sup>8</sup> C. Pascariu, I., M. Oprea, "Ora de religie! – disciplină obligatorie în școlile de stat din România", in O. Moșin, I. Scheau, D. Opreș, (eds.), *Educația din perspective valorilor*, Bucharest, Ed. Eikon, 2017. Ionela Camelia Lazea, "Coordonate ale educației timpurii în cadrul familiei," in *Astra Salvensis*, V (2019), no. 9, p. 127.

Many factors contribute to this "normality". First of all, society promotes these "values" so much and intensely that you come to think it is normal. Second, mass media contributes substantially to the development and promotion of "moral" actions. Education gets to develop certain texts and stories through which two princes can marry and then become "normality."

3. Fear of confronting the degradation of the surrounding morals

Modern society teaches us that we must be polite to others. This politeness also includes the acceptance of the other. If we dare to be rude, we might choose a process for racism. In America, this is punishable by imprisonment.

4. Hesitation escape from sin

Our attachment to material things has a great impact on us. We are especially comfortable in most of the times, and in this way we find our own comfort.

5. Erosion of respect for parents

We are witnessing a change in the world. Everything is modern. This modernism causes us to accept and often the expression "what do you know ... you lived in a backward period!" This is due to a failed education or the use of an unimproved parenting style. Children need help because they cannot educate themselves.

### **Conclusion**

As we have seen, family is the basic cell of society, even when we are talking about a modern society. The family, as a social group, is based on that communication through which it manages financial, educational, relational, etc. For the contemporary family, there is a continual challenge expressed through certain stress factors. The family (its members) have the duty to overcome these factors. Ways of overcoming are expressed through the needs of the other and communicating family members to each other.

Educating children is the basic element of a society because they are tomorrow's future. Or contemporary challenges penetrate through the house window under different forms of currents or patterns. These patterns can influence the child's life and future. It is important that the family can manage the crisis situations that inevitably occur. Once managed as it should, the family can go on a path where morale is moral and not immoral and normal is normal and not abnormal.

In conclusion, the current society, strongly marked by major changes in the moral and ethical substrate, as well as in the cultural one, needs more and more a new perspective of orientation, or rather an old perspective brought back to the present, that something always new, always present and

Family and the Challenges of the Contemporary Society," *Astra Salvensis*, VII (2019), no. 14, p. 195-200

effective in the face of current problems.<sup>9</sup> Management and innovation in education are key elements in perfecting the quality educational act that replaces the socio-cultural, economic and democratic principles and values.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> C. Pascariu, "De ce să studiezi disciplina religie la școală?", in D. Pătroc, P. Perțe, A. Barth., M. Florescu, (eds.) *Mai învață! Modernitate, Acceptare, Inovație în învățământul românesc*, Ed. Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2018, p. 174.

<sup>10</sup> Adriana Denisa Manea, "Innovation in the Management of Educational Institutions", p. 310-315.