

The family and the challenges of modern world

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Abstract

Ever since the beginning of humankind, family has been the primary organizational form of individuals. It's within thus family that individuals found gratification, protection and affirmation. In our century family seems to face to face a diverse range of problems. A lot of interferences lead to the submination of family members' cohesion and a lot of ideas spread alternative forms of coexisting. One of these interferences is mass media, which seems to replace the relationships between individuals. Our research paper means to discover in what ways mass media influences the family cohesion. To do so we used the opinion poll method and the observation method.

Key Words: *family, cohesion, mass media, education*

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The notion of family is without a doubt, a familiar one even to those without a higher level of education. To define family in a sociologic way involves serious difficulties because it is various forms. In our study we defined family as a group of persons directly related, whose adult members assume responsibility for children's care. We all see a dissolution between the way family was and the direction the modern family go.. If once upon a time our grandparents raised their children in the household, giving them daily chores and responsibility from young age and they only fun being the few local events, in present time things tend to involve to new behavioral models, and the family modifies more and more it is way of functioning.

Our study investigates the way in which mass media influences modern family and especially its unity. Also, we tried to find what is the profile of mass media consumer, how much time he spends inside the family and how much of that time he is actively involved in various activities. This saying we observed a family of three generations (grandparents, parents and child) and applied the opinion-polls to a exploratory lot.

We found that there are situations in which the members' cohesion is affected, especially when it comes to choosing the TV channel. Also, the young couple preoccupation for the movies transmitted on TV or on DVD decreases their cohesion with the child, the former one going from room to room, not finding on occupation. Still, it cannot be said that these conflicts strongly affects the unity of the group, them having a short-lived nature. On the other side, there are moments when mass media proves to be a valued factor of unification. The reading of the morning

paper or the movie seen by the whole family are two of the most resounding examples.

One of the first things observed after our study is that the new communication methods tend to an individualization of men, to an alienation and division of their own nature, which is pure social. Man develops and builds himself because of the contact with others. A singular one way interaction with a machine changes the way man thinks, feels and acts. For development, the child needs the direct presence of parents, the link with the environment, the questions, trials and sometimes painful failures, the affection of those around him because, as we all know, the primary socialization period is equivalent with the forming of personality. The childhood age is the time of great acquisitions; it is the time when it is so needed simulation. The modern technologies are, for sure, a huge step for mankind history and their correct usage can improve our native capability, but their wrong use leaves deep signs in our brain.

We consider that every technical conquest in the human-epos, from the apparition of books, to the development of cartography and printing has influenced the way we think and by default the brain structure, but this influence has made itself known slowly and without targeting interpersonal relations.

Beyond the skepticism knows to every change, only the posterity will be able to balance the benefices with the costs.

Another aspect that surprised us is the discrepancy between the time spent with the family and the active time, allocated to various mutual activities. So, if the majority spends two-five hours day inside the family, the active time is only one-two hours a day. Although the time spent together by the family

members is relatively low and although mass media occupies a very important role in the contemporary family, the unity of family seems not to be affected. The majority of people tend to put on the highest level the harmony and reciprocal trust, preferring to dine daily with the family members and to discuss about important problems with them. Still, the observation showed that the cohesion seems to be affected by the mass media, the harmony being a superficial one, every member being isolated in his own activity, always linked to a electronically device. We saw, for example, that the young couple was watching a movie meanwhile the child was on “YouTube” watching cartoons to not disturb them

Regarding the relation between the education level and the TV channel selection, it can be concluded that there is not a big difference between the two categories (the ones with medium education and the one with a higher one). Counting the time spent on TV we observe that the ones with higher studies spend less time that the ones with medium studies. We also detected that the majority prefer to watch TV by themselves, the next ones being the ones that like to watch it with the family.

In conclusion we can say that the mass media influences the familial and social life of people, by limiting the interaction with one another and also with the examples that its spreads.

Social life was always in an ongoing change. Social institutions disappear, new ones took their place and others had known radical changes along the history of humanity. “Deviate the actual direction of development story from the natural way of human species?”, “Will the robots replace the social need of people to interact?”, “How will people be in the future?” These

are questions that the scientists are trying to find answers to and of which our own existence depends.

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