

CHILDFREE AS A PHENOMENON OF MODERN SOCIETY

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Modern society is bright and unusual. It is manifested in such social phenomenon as childfree. Childfree is an ideology and practice which appeared in the early of XXI century in the USA and promotes childfree life. This phenomenon is widespread in European countries. Index of 40 % of single Europeans impresses, in particular in Germany index reaches 50 %. Ideology of childfree became the Ukrainian society's phenomenon too. Distribution of childfree is connected with status of woman which changed with extension of human rights. Modern woman has all the possibilities to deny a standard model of patriarchal family in which a woman played a main role in birth and upbringing of children and job around a home. The main motivations of childfree are: 1) a wish to have more free time for leisure, hobbies, friends, off-hour work; 2) fear of fatherhood as an irreversible step; 3) fear to lose emotional and physical intimacy with a partner because of baby; 4) fear of birth of child as a harmful factor to career growth; 5) lack of biological desire to parenthood.

Ukrainian psychologist S. Hutsol is sure that unwillingness to have a baby caused by material problems has already solved now because even in the high developed countries a level of birth decrease, although the level of material well-being of families is significantly higher. We should note the fact of increasing of the number of babies who have birth physical and mental disorders. For example, in Ukraine annually born 13 % children with moderate deviations (so-called debility), 16,5 % – inferior, and 3,5 % – a crippled children (with no arms, no legs). Psychologist and expert of childfree L. Nedostup notes that childfree regarded in Ukrainian society as a selfish people who have nothing “inside”. In fact, people who don't have children can reach their parental instinct due to the children living in orphanages.

Researching of childfree couples shows that they are well educated and more popular as professionals and less prone to respect traditional gender roles and customs, tend to live in cities.

The gender aspect of this phenomenon shows that women want to be childfree for freedom to work on men for the sake of freedom from work. From 1/5 to 1/3 of respondents childfree in Ukraine are men. Many researchers have noted that childfree is less “socially comfortable”, they are more inherent selfishness and individualism.

However, researchers are unanimous rest of this phenomenon that childfree will exist in the future it will become stable trend. There is a number of reasons: 1) unwillingness to sacrifice personal space for the child; 2) the absence of compelling reasons to have children; 3) unwillingness to waste time on parenting; 4) active aversion to children; 5) pets; 6) satisfaction by playing with the children of relatives or friends.

So the ideology and practice of childfree is a way to nowhere. This is the path that leads to a dead end. It violates the main principle of life – a natural reproduction of human life. To minimize a childfree a set of measures promoting full family as the highest value of society is needed.