



SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE INFLUENCE OF PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION AND GENDER ROLES ON MARITAL MOTIVES

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Abstract

This article analyzes the socio-psychological aspects of the influence of personal identity and gender roles on marital motivations. The study examines the impact of an individual's process of self-identification, gender stereotypes, and social expectations on the decision to marry. Based on theoretical sources, it was established that personal identity, gender socialization, and cultural factors play a significant role in shaping marital motivations. The research findings demonstrate the importance of socio-psychological approaches in understanding marital motivations and strengthening family relationships among young people.

Keywords: Personal identity, gender roles, marital motives, social psychology, family relationships.

Introduction

Marriage is one of the most important social institutions in human life. Over the course of societal development, marriage has formed into a system that satisfies not only biological needs but also social, cultural, and psychological ones. Modern socio-psychological research shows that the formation of marital motives is directly linked to an individual's self-identification and the gender roles shaped by society. Personal identification is the process by which an individual perceives themselves in connection with a specific social group, value system, and role. In psychology, this concept is explained through theories of identity. For example, the renowned psychologist Erik Erikson, who studied identity development,



emphasized that an individual's adoption of social roles and process of self-realization forms throughout their lifetime[1].

Additionally, gender roles play a significant role in shaping marital motivations. Gender roles are a set of social expectations established by society for men and women. Research in the fields of gender sociology and psychology confirms that these roles significantly influence young people's views on marriage, their choice of a spouse, and their acceptance of family responsibilities.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the influence of personal identity and gender roles on marital motivations from a socio-psychological perspective.

The influence of personal identity and gender roles in the process of shaping marital motivations is not limited solely to individual psychological factors.

This process is a complex system shaped by social norms, cultural values, and societal institutions. Social expectations, in particular, play a crucial role in forming attitudes toward marriage among young people, alongside the development of their personal identity.

In psychological research, the formation of personal identity is often analyzed in connection with socialization. Throughout this process, an individual comes to understand themselves in relation to specific social groups, values, and roles. Psychologist James Marcia, who studied identity development, distinguished four primary statuses of identity formation: identity diffusion, identity moratorium, identity foreclosure, and identity achievement¹. According to this model, an individual's attitude toward marriage may also depend on their stage of identity development. For instance, young people with an incompletely formed identity might enter into marriage primarily due to external pressures or social expectations.

Methodology

The research employed the following scientific methods:

- theoretical analysis;
- comparative analysis of scientific literature;
- synthesis of socio-psychological concepts.

The analysis process involved studying psychological and sociological research on personal identity, gender roles, and marital motives. Specifically, identity



theory, the concept of gender socialization, and the marital motives model served as the foundation.

The "social role theory" developed by social psychologist Alice Eagly serves as a crucial methodological basis for the development of gender role theory.

Another important factor influencing marital motives is the system of interpersonal relationships. According to attachment theory, developed by psychologist John Bowlby, a person's emotional experiences during childhood significantly affect their subsequent romantic and family relationships. Individuals with a secure attachment style perceive marriage as a relationship based on mutual trust and support. Conversely, individuals with insecure attachment experiences may have cautious or ambivalent motives regarding marriage [2].

Results

The analysis showed that personal identity manifests in the formation of marital motives through several aspects:

1. Personal Identity and Preparation for Marriage

Individuals with a clearly formed sense of identity make a conscious decision to marry. When choosing a spouse, such individuals consider values, life goals, and psychological compatibility to be important criteria.

2. Gender Roles and Marriage Motives

Gender stereotypes prevalent in society lead to a differentiation in men's and women's motivations for marriage. For example:

- Men often marry driven by motives of social status and family responsibility;
- Women, on the other hand, tend to focus more on motives of emotional intimacy and security.

These differences are formed during the process of gender socialization.

3. The Influence of the Social Environment

Family, culture, and social norms also exert a significant influence on marriage motives. The social identity theory, developed by social psychologist Henri Tajfel, shows that an individual's sense of belonging to a particular group affects their decisions[3].



Cultural factors also play an important role in the process of how personal identity and gender roles influence marriage motives. Views on marriage differ significantly across cultures. While in individualistic societies marriage is based more on personal choice and romantic feelings, in collectivist societies the interests of the family and social group play a crucial role. This reaffirms the importance of social identity and cultural values in the formation of marriage motives.

Discussion

The results indicate that personal identity and gender roles are among the primary socio-psychological factors shaping marital motivations.

Firstly, the level of personal identity formation influences the stability of the decision to marry. Self-aware individuals perceive marriage as a conscious social partnership [4].

Secondly, gender roles shape marital motivations through prevailing societal stereotypes. However, as gender equality strengthens in modern society, changes are also being observed in marital motivations. Thirdly, the socio-cultural environment is also an important factor influencing marital motivations. Perspectives on marriage also differ across various cultures.

The issue of gender roles is also one of the important theoretical foundations for analyzing marital motivations. Gender roles represent a set of behaviors, responsibilities, and social functions prescribed by society for men and women. Research in the field of social psychology shows that gender stereotypes often emerge as a significant factor in the formation of marital motivations. For example, men often seek marriage based on motives related to economic security and social status, while women tend to focus more on motives such as emotional intimacy, family stability, and psychological support.

Additionally, gender roles are interpreted based on evolutionary and social constructivist approaches. Research conducted by David Buss, a proponent of evolutionary psychology, shows that men's and women's motivations for choosing a spouse are also linked to historical evolutionary factors.

He suggests that men may focus more on youth and physical attractiveness, while women may focus on resources and social stability. These differences are



explained by socio-psychological mechanisms formed as a result of evolutionary processes[5].

However, the changing gender roles in modern society are leading to a transformation of marital motivations. As women's educational levels and economic independence have increased, motivations for marriage have also begun to diverge from the traditional model. Modern research shows that among young people, marriage is increasingly being built on motives associated with emotional closeness, mutual respect, and the opportunity for personal development.

In conclusion, educational institutions and social institutes also play an important role in shaping marital motivations among young people. Psychological research shows that psychological training on preparing for marriage and family life helps to form a more conscious approach to family relationships in youth. This process serves to strengthen an individual's identity and reduce the negative impact of gender stereotypes. Overall, personal identity, gender roles, and the social environment manifest as interconnected, primary factors that shape marital motivations. A comprehensive study of these factors is of significant scientific and practical importance for increasing young people's preparedness for family life and for forming strong family relationships.

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