

TRANSFORMATION OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY IN RELATIONSHIPS WITH GROWING CHILDREN: A CROSS-CULTURAL ANALYSIS

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Annotation: This article analyzes the transformation of parental authority during the process of children growing up through the lens of cross-cultural differences. It examines how cultural traditions (collectivism vs. individualism) influence the preservation of hierarchy within the family. Particular attention is paid to the dynamics of the transition from directive control to partnership and the role of globalization in changing traditional models of raising older children.

Key words: parental authority, growing children, cross-cultural analysis, family hierarchy, collectivism, individualism, transformation of values.

The process of a child growing up inevitably entails a restructuring of the entire system of family relationships, and the central element of these changes is the transformation of parental authority. How exactly parents' power and influence change as children mature is largely determined by the ethnocultural context. Different cultures offer different normative scenarios: from maintaining a strict vertical hierarchy to a complete transition to egalitarian (equal) relationships.

In collectivist cultures (countries of Asia, the Middle East, parts of Africa), parental authority is traditionally lifelong. Even after children reach adulthood, parents retain the right to a decisive voice [2]. As noted in research, in such societies, the eldest child often becomes a “second authority” after the parents, transmitting their will to younger siblings. Here, the transformation of authority occurs not through the abandonment of hierarchy, but through the delegation of responsibility: parents transfer part of their authority to the growing child, expecting in return strict adherence to the principle of filial piety [4].

In individualistic cultures (Western Europe, North America), the dynamics are fundamentally different. Successful maturation here is associated with separation and autonomy. Parental authority, which may have been directive in childhood, must transform into a mentor-partner authority during adolescence and youth. Attempts to maintain strict control are perceived by growing children as a violation of personal boundaries and an obstacle to development, which often leads to intergenerational conflicts.

However, today there is a global trend towards the convergence of these models. Under the influence of urbanization and modernization, strict hierarchical roles are

becoming more flexible even in traditional societies [3]. Parents are increasingly abandoning authoritarian methods in favor of democratic dialogue, striving to maintain authority not through coercion, but through emotional closeness and respect for the child's personality. Studies show that a balanced approach, combining respect for tradition with adaptation to modern realities, is the most favorable for the psychological well-being of both parties [1].

It is important to note that the transformation of authority carries risks. Excessively high parental expectations driven by cultural norms can create stress and fear of inadequacy in older children, especially if the child feels the pressure of responsibility for the family honor [5]. Understanding these mechanisms is necessary for the prevention of family dysfunction in a multicultural society.

Thus, parental authority is not a static quantity; it is a dynamic construct that modifies under the influence of cultural codes and the demands of the time. The harmonious transformation of power in the family is a transition from controlling the child's behavior to supporting their independence while maintaining a deep emotional connection.

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