



ETHNOPSYCHOLOGICAL DETERMINANTS OF FAMILY VALUES EVOLUTION IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION

Umarova Shohida Absalomovna

Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychology

Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Chirchik, Uzbekistan

ORCID: 0009-0004-3214-2588

E-mail: umarovashohida018@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Migration has become one of the most influential social processes of the twenty-first century, affecting not only demographic and economic structures but also the psychological and cultural foundations of family life. Family values, which traditionally serve as the primary mechanism for preserving cultural identity and ensuring social continuity, undergo significant transformation under migration conditions. These changes are determined by a complex interaction of ethnopsychological, socio-cultural, economic, and environmental factors. The preservation of ethnic identity, adaptation to the host society, intergenerational relations, language practices, religious beliefs, and cultural traditions collectively shape the evolution of family values within migrant families. This article analyzes the ethnopsychological determinants influencing the evolution of family values in the context of migration. Particular attention is devoted to the relationship between ethnic identity, acculturation strategies, cultural adaptation, psychological resilience, family cohesion, and value transformation. The study integrates theoretical approaches from ethnopsychology, family psychology, migration studies, and cross-cultural psychology to explain how migration reshapes family value systems while simultaneously preserving essential elements of ethnic culture.

International migration has become one of the defining characteristics of globalization. According to international demographic statistics, hundreds of millions of people currently reside outside their country of birth, and this number continues to increase each year. Migration affects not only labor markets and demographic structures but also transforms social institutions, particularly the family, which represents the primary environment where cultural values, traditions, and behavioral norms are transmitted from one generation to another. Family values constitute the psychological and cultural foundation of every society. They determine interpersonal relationships, parental responsibilities, child-rearing practices,

gender roles, respect for elders, solidarity, and social responsibility. Under migration conditions, these values often experience considerable transformation due to continuous interaction between the cultural norms of the country of origin and those of the host society. Consequently, migrant families become a unique environment in which two or more cultural systems coexist simultaneously. From an ethnopsychological perspective, migration represents not merely geographical mobility but also a profound psychological process involving identity reconstruction, adaptation, cultural negotiation, and emotional adjustment. Individuals entering a new cultural environment encounter unfamiliar social expectations, communication styles, educational systems, and value orientations. These changes inevitably influence family relationships and gradually reshape traditional family values.

The evolution of family values within migrant families should not be interpreted solely as cultural loss or assimilation. Rather, it represents a multidimensional developmental process in which traditional ethnic values interact with modern social realities. While certain customs and traditions may weaken, new forms of family cohesion, intercultural competence, and adaptive behavior frequently emerge. Therefore, understanding the ethnopsychological determinants underlying these transformations is essential for developing effective migration policies, educational programs, and psychological support services. The purpose of this article is to identify and analyze the major ethnopsychological determinants influencing the evolution of family values in the context of migration and to explain the mechanisms through which migration contributes to changes in ethnic identity, family cohesion, and cultural continuity. Ethnopsychology examines psychological phenomena within the context of culture and ethnicity. It explores how cultural traditions, collective memory, language, religion, historical experience, and social norms influence cognition, emotion, motivation, and interpersonal behavior. Within migrant families, these factors become particularly significant because family members simultaneously experience cultural preservation and cultural adaptation. Family values develop through long-term cultural socialization. Before migration, family members usually share common beliefs regarding authority, parenting, marriage, gender responsibilities, and intergenerational obligations. Migration introduces new institutional environments that often challenge these established norms.

Berry's theory of acculturation provides one of the most influential conceptual frameworks for understanding migrant adaptation. According to this perspective, migrant families generally adopt one of four strategies: integration, assimilation, separation, or marginalization. Among these, integration has consistently been associated with better psychological well-being, stronger family functioning, and healthier intercultural relationships because it enables individuals to preserve their ethnic identity while actively participating in the host society. Ethnic identity functions as one of the strongest protective psychological resources during migration. Families maintaining their native language, cultural traditions, religious practices, and collective historical memory generally demonstrate greater emotional stability and stronger family cohesion. At the same time, excessive isolation from the surrounding society may reduce opportunities for successful adaptation and increase social exclusion.

First, ethnic identity remains the central determinant. Individuals possessing a stable sense of ethnic belonging usually preserve traditional family norms more effectively than

those experiencing identity uncertainty. Cultural rituals, national holidays, traditional cuisine, and family ceremonies reinforce collective identity and contribute to psychological security.

Second, language plays a decisive role in maintaining intergenerational continuity. Native language functions not only as a communication tool but also as a carrier of cultural meanings, emotional expressions, and collective memory. Language loss frequently accelerates the transformation of family values by weakening connections between younger and older generations.

Third, religious beliefs significantly influence family stability. Religious traditions often regulate moral behavior, marital responsibilities, respect toward parents, and child-rearing practices. Even after migration, religious communities frequently provide emotional support, social integration, and opportunities for preserving cultural identity.

Fourth, psychological resilience determines how successfully migrant families cope with adaptation challenges. Families demonstrating emotional flexibility, constructive communication, mutual support, and effective problem-solving skills are more capable of integrating new cultural experiences without abandoning their fundamental family values.

Fifth, socioeconomic conditions indirectly shape family values. Employment opportunities, educational access, housing stability, and social inclusion influence family roles and responsibilities. Economic hardship may increase psychological stress, whereas social security enhances family cohesion and adaptive functioning. However, these conflicts should not necessarily be interpreted as family dysfunction. Rather, they represent natural developmental processes through which migrant families negotiate cultural continuity and social integration. Families capable of maintaining open communication and mutual respect generally transform traditional values into flexible intercultural family models. The present analysis demonstrates that family value evolution within migrant communities cannot be explained through a single theoretical perspective. Instead, it results from continuous interaction between cultural heritage, psychological adaptation, social integration, and environmental influences.

Ethnopsychological determinants function simultaneously at individual, family, community, and societal levels. Successful integration depends not on abandoning ethnic identity but on creating a balanced relationship between cultural preservation and participation in the social life of the receiving country. Psychological services, educational institutions, and migration policies should therefore support bilingualism, intercultural competence, family counseling, and community participation.

Migration is a multidimensional social and psychological phenomenon that significantly influences the structure, functions, and value system of the family. The findings of this study indicate that migration should not be viewed solely as a process of geographical relocation or economic adaptation; rather, it represents a complex socio-psychological transformation that reshapes cultural identity, interpersonal relationships, family roles, and mechanisms of value transmission. The interaction between the cultural traditions of the country of origin and the sociocultural environment of the host society creates new conditions under which family values evolve, adapt, and acquire new meanings while preserving essential elements of ethnic identity.

The analysis demonstrates that the evolution of family values in migrant families is determined by the combined influence of multiple ethnopsychological factors. Ethnic identity, preservation of the native language, continuity of cultural traditions and religious beliefs, psychological resilience, intercultural communication, social integration, and socioeconomic adaptation constitute the principal determinants affecting the transformation of family values. These factors do not function independently; instead, they interact dynamically and collectively shape the adaptive capacity of migrant families. Families that successfully maintain a balance between preserving their cultural heritage and actively participating in the social life of the host society demonstrate stronger family cohesion, greater psychological well-being, and more sustainable intercultural adaptation. The study further confirms that family values are not static social constructs but dynamic psychological formations that continuously develop in response to changing social environments. Migration accelerates this developmental process by exposing individuals and families to diverse cultural norms, educational systems, social expectations, and behavioral patterns. Consequently, migrant families simultaneously experience the preservation of traditional values and the emergence of new family practices that reflect the realities of multicultural societies. This dynamic interaction contributes not only to the transformation of family relationships but also to the formation of intercultural competence and broader social adaptability. From a practical perspective, the findings emphasize the importance of developing comprehensive support systems for migrant families. Educational institutions, psychological counseling services, social welfare organizations, and migration policy makers should implement culturally responsive programs that strengthen ethnic identity while promoting successful social integration. Family-centered psychological interventions, bilingual education, intercultural communication training, and community-based support initiatives may significantly enhance the adaptive potential of migrant families and reduce the psychological risks associated with migration. Such approaches contribute not only to the well-being of migrant families but also to the social cohesion and cultural diversity of receiving societies.

Conclusion

The theoretical significance of this research lies in expanding the ethnopsychological understanding of family value evolution within migration contexts. By integrating perspectives from ethnopsychology, family psychology, migration studies, and cross-cultural psychology, the study provides a comprehensive framework for explaining the mechanisms through which migration influences family value systems. This interdisciplinary approach contributes to the further development of migration psychology and offers a conceptual basis for future empirical investigations. Future research should focus on comparative analyses of different categories of migrant families, including voluntary and forced migrants, labor migrants, refugees, and transnational families. Longitudinal studies examining intergenerational changes in family values, ethnic identity, and psychological adaptation would provide deeper insights into the long-term consequences of migration.

In addition, empirical investigations across different cultural contexts are necessary to identify universal and culture-specific ethnopsychological determinants of family value evolution. Such studies will contribute to evidence-based migration policies and facilitate the

development of scientifically grounded psychological and social support programs aimed at strengthening family resilience and promoting sustainable intercultural integration.

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