

PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF REMARRIAGE

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the psychological features of remarriages. The article is devoted to the problem of remarriage in our country, the presentation of the author's typology and characteristics of remarriages of various types, the socio-demographic characteristics of spouses entering into remarriage, the analysis of family situations of respondents before their remarriage, the motives for remarriage.

KEYWORDS: *Remarriage, Problems, Typology, Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Spouses, Family Situation before Remarriage, Motives For Remarriage.*

INTRODUCTION

Remarriage, which is understood as a union entered into by a person who was previously married, is a common phenomenon both abroad and in our country [1]. In foreign practice, the term “mixed family” or the so-called “second family” (lit. “step family”) is used to refer to such a marriage [2].

Today, according to American authors, about 50% of men and 33% of women remarry after a year from the date of official divorce, 75% of women and 83% of men - after 3 years [3]. As for women, more than half of divorced women with children remarry within five years of divorce and more than 3/4 of them remarry within 10 years. The high rate of divorce and remarriage means that almost half of the marriages are second marriages to one or two spouses. The average age of spouses in such couples is a little over 30 years old, and their children at this moment are in preschool or primary school age.

Remarriage is not uniform. We believe that the type of marriage is also of no small importance. E. P. Arnautova, in her works devoted to the practice of teachers working with parents and children from families of remarriage, proposed a classification of remarriages depending on:

- 1) The nature of the termination of previous marital relations;
 - 2) The presence or absence of experience in marital relations;
 - 3) The number of children born in a previous marriage;
 - 4) Age difference between partners.
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Our professional experience in personal, family counseling, testifies to the great influence on marital and child-parent relationships, the presence / absence of spouses living together with children from previous marriages and the appearance of common children in a new family. These features were included in our proposed typology of remarriage. Thus, we distinguish 4 types of remarriage:

Type 1. A marriage in which one of the spouses does not have a child (children) from previous marriages and at the same time they do not have joint children. These are situations like: 1) a man who was not previously married and had no children marries a woman with children who is divorced, a widow, a single mother, but they have no common children. Option: husband, wife, child (children) of the wife from previous marriages; 2) a man who was previously married and has a child (children) marries a woman who was not previously married and has no children. This may be a widower, or a man whose wife left for various reasons, and then the new wife (stepmother) helps him raise his children. Option: husband, wife, child (children) of the husband from previous marriages; 3) a married couple where the man was married, had a child (children), left his family and began to live in a new marriage. Option: alone with his wife, without children.

Type 2. A marriage in which both spouses have children from previous marriages, but they do not have joint children. These can be situations like: 1) spouses have joined children and are raising them together (when a man is a widower or a man whose wife left with children for various reasons, and he married a widow with a child (children) or a woman divorced with a child or single mother). Option: husband, wife, children of the wife and husband from previous marriages; 2) a man left his family with children and began to live with a woman and her child (children). Option: husband, wife, child (children) of the wife from previous marriages. In a new marriage, the presence of a child from a previous marriage with a spouse is a satisfying circumstance of family life for them, especially when raising another child is not included in the family plans for various reasons.

Type 3. A marriage in which both spouses have children from previous marriages, and they have joint children born in a new marriage. This is typical for situations: 1) spouses have joined children and are raising them together (when a man is a widower or his wife left him with children) and the couple had children together. Option: husband, wife, children of the wife and husband from previous marriages + common child (children); 2) a man left his family with children and began to live with a woman and her child (children) and they had common children. Option: husband, wife, child (children) of the wife from previous marriages + common child (children).

Type 4. A marriage in which one of the spouses does not have a child (children) from previous marriages and at the same time they have joint children born in a new (repeated) marriage. These can be situations: 1) a man who was previously unmarried and had no children marries a woman with a child (children) and they have common children. Option: husband, wife, child (children) of the wife from previous marriages + common child (children); 2) a man who was previously married and has a child (children), marries a woman who does not have children, and they have common children. This may be a widower, or a man who was left by his wife and then the new wife (stepmother) comes to live with him and they have common children. Option: husband, wife, child (children) of the husband from previous marriages + common child (children); 3) a married couple, where a man left his family and children and began to live in a new marriage

with a woman who does not have children from a previous relationship and they have common children. Option: husband, wife, common child (children).

It can be concluded that remarriage is a fairly common, but little studied phenomenon in our social life. Children are brought up in it, which makes their study especially relevant. Remarriage is not uniform. We have proposed a typology of remarriages based on 2 criteria: the presence of children from previous marriages in one or both partners and the presence / absence of common children in a new marriage.

Families based on remarriages differ in some psychological characteristics. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that each type of remarriage is associated with its own set of psychological problems that members of a new family may face. We highlight the following:

- Role uncertainty;
- Lack of common traditions or norms;
- Problems in establishing the boundaries of the new family;
- Problems in establishing close relationships with members of extended families;
- Difficulties in parent-child relationships if children from previous marriages enter the family;
- Burdening the remarriage with problems not resolved in the previous marriage.

It may take a long time for members of a blended family to adjust to a new situation. Role uncertainty in a family resulting from remarriage can lead to a variety of family-specific emotional problems. This is primarily due to the need to take on parental functions in relation to children who are not native, and to share these functions with biological parents, sharing with them powers and zones of influence. Parents who leave children from a previous marriage, due to the possible experience of guilt, often seek to establish a closer relationship with their stepson or stepdaughter. Often these processes are complicated by irrational ideas of partners about the nature of interpersonal relationships in a mixed family. The most common family myths about remarriage are:

- If a partner loves me, he will love my children;
- The spouse (wife) must love my children as their own;
- Stepmother (stepfather) will never love my child as his own;
- A child will never be able to love his stepmother (stepfather), since he must love his own father (mother);
- The child will suffer from the presence of a strange man (woman) in the family;
- Stepmother (stepfather) should not interfere in the upbringing of a non-native child;
- Remarriage is always more successful than the previous one;
- Each subsequent marriage is always worse than the previous one, etc.

The second marriage has its own characteristics. Usually, those who have gone through the divorce procedure often argue that love does not exist, that it is invented. Therefore, partners who have remarried no longer count on "eternal", romantic love and consider marriage from a pragmatic point of view. The choice of a new life partner is carried out thoughtfully, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of each other, the compatibility of interests and needs.

A man and a woman try to take into account and exclude those mistakes that were in the previous marriage, therefore they do not decide on a second marriage if they find the same or similar shortcomings in the candidate that the first spouse had. The basis of the second marriage is conscious sympathy, and not emotional enthusiasm, as in the first. Here you can practically avoid disappointment, because there is experience in evaluating men and women, there is an opportunity to test each other for psychological satisfaction before marriage.

In a remarriage, in a mixed family, serious difficulties can arise that are natural in nature, and their worldly wisdom will help the spouses to cope with them. Family relations can be complicated by a number of deep and persistent contradictions: between old attitudes and the need to choose new ones; between the experience of a former life and new family relationships; between the habits that each of the spouses brings to the family, and the need to come to terms with them, or get rid of them. A contradiction may arise between marital and parental love if a child remains from a previous marriage. Often a family is hindered by a certain psychological barrier. When voluntarily or involuntarily comparing the former spouse with the new husband, it suddenly turns out that the former was better in some way. And in difficult situations, the spouses involuntarily begin to act, as in the previous family, by negative means, methods, according to an old habit.

The attitude of children to remarriage is determined by the age of the children, their gender, family history, relationship with the parent who marries, living together with him, the type of family education implemented in the family.

The highest adaptability to a new marriage is in children of early and preschool age, the lowest is in pre-adolescence and early adolescence. Younger children form an attachment to a new family member more easily, deriving clear benefits from associating with a new competent adult. Younger teenagers, on the other hand, are overly sensitive to the attempts of their stepfather or stepmother to perform an educational parental function, violently protesting against their demands. Hostility to the "alien", competing for the love and attention of the mother or father, previously inseparably owned by the child, is aggravated by the protest against attempts to limit their autonomy and independence, ignoring the emerging sense of adulthood. Older adolescents are tolerant towards a new marriage - distancing from parents associated with remarriage generally corresponds to their focus on autonomization from the family. The acceptance and encouragement of adolescent autonomy becomes the price of peace in the new family. In addition, older adolescents have their own resources of emotional support and coping with the problem they face - close friends, romantic relationships with the opposite sex. The first negative emotional reaction of a teenager to the news of marriage is replaced by satisfaction with his new, more independent and independent position in the family. Young men and older adolescents, due to their greater social and personal maturity, are able to decenter and take a position of understanding and empathy for the parent, overcoming the primary feeling of jealousy and discontent.

Girls were found to be less adaptable to remarriage than boys. There is opposition and resistance to the restructuring of the family with the inclusion of a stepfather / stepmother and even the development of antagonistic relationships. The jealousy of the mother for the stepfather experienced by the child often turns into hatred and contempt for the mother herself in the form of a defiant refusal to accept parents, isolation and withdrawal from the family. The remarriage

of the girl's father, who introduces a stepmother into the family, is a textbook example of the actualization of the Electra complex, repeatedly described in folklore and fairy tales.

Boys more easily adapt to being included in the stepfather's family, finding in him an older comrade, friend, protector and often an object to follow.

Taking into account the fact that in an incomplete family, after a divorce, the relationship between mother and son is more difficult than the relationship between mother and daughter, the son can find in the stepfather an intermediary between himself and the mother, while the girl perceives the stepfather as a hindrance and competitor in her relationship with her. .

The relationship of children to the parent's spouse is largely determined by the genesis of an incomplete family. The maternal family is the most favorable option for remarriage. A child born out of wedlock, as a rule, even in conditions of an ambivalent attitude towards his stepfather, there is the creation of a complete family. If the divorce occurred a long time ago, the family managed to survive its consequences and entered the stabilization phase in its development, then the adaptation of children to a new family member who assumes the functions of a parent occurs quite well. It is difficult to restructure the role structure of the family in those cases when the divorce is not yet psychologically completed and the strong emotional dependence of the former family members on each other remains. If the remarriage was preceded by the loss of a parent, then the nature of the relationship will also be determined by the stage of grief and the type of attachment to the parent. However, one should not be deceived and build illusions about the prosperous future development of the child's relationship with the stepfather or stepmother if remarriage is concluded at the initial stages of the child's experience of loss. In relations with a new parent, a child may strive to compensate for the lost care and guardianship as a way to repress the experience of losing his own father or mother, which, of course, is an inadequate way to overcome the grief of loss and in the future can lead to a sharp destabilization of the family situation.

This refers to relations with parents who have entered into a new marriage, and with a parent living separately. Emotionally positive, friendly relations with a remarried parent, mutual trust and understanding, common interests, experience of cooperation and joint activities are the basis for the successful development of a new family. Of course, this does not guarantee a "cloudless" and conflict-free development of relations with the stepfather (stepmother), but creates the necessary prerequisites for the formation of a harmonious family. If remarriage is concluded under the conditions of divorce, then to a large extent the possibility of accepting a new family member will be determined not only by the degree of closeness, intensity and quality of communication with the natural father, but also by what position the divorced parent will take regarding the new marriage.

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