

Hild Upbringing Issues In Interethnic Marriages: Psychological Characteristics, Experiences, And Challenges

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Abstract: As a result of globalization, the number of interethnic marriages is steadily increasing. Such marriages not only signify the union of two individuals but also bring unique psychological characteristics into the upbringing of their children. Children born into interethnic marriages grow up under the influence of two or more cultures, which makes the development of their personality, self-perception, and adaptation to society a complex process.

Keywords: Family, ethnicity, race, child, identification, adaptation, marriage, conflict, communication, relationship.

Introduction: Today, intercultural relations and interethnic interactions are widespread in global social practice, resulting in a growing number of ethnically mixed marriages. The development of social networks, the intensification of migration flows, and especially the open access to global education for young people have all contributed to the increasing number of interethnic marriages not only worldwide but also within our country.

In the fields of social psychology, ethnopsychology, and sociology, interethnic families have become an object of growing interest because studying them touches upon two aspects that are highly relevant in the modern world. Most importantly, at the current stage of societal development, the study of the family is gaining increasing relevance in many countries, as it plays a crucial role in ensuring social stability and addressing issues related to cultural policy.

One of the key aspects to consider in studying biethnic families is the upbringing of children born into such unions. This is because the fact that both spouses belong to different ethnic cultures has a direct impact on the child-rearing process. Questions such as: To which ethnicity do these children belong? What culture do they adopt? What language do they speak? — are not always easy to answer.

The influence of interethnic marriage on child upbringing, the child's future place in society, and the challenges they may face are all pressing issues in today's world. One of the most significant problems is the child's national self-identification. In interethnic marriages, it is extremely difficult for children to equally and harmoniously accept both parents' cultural worlds and traditions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

M.A. Djaber Khasan notes that relationships in such families largely depend on communication traditions, the current economic and social conditions of society, the presence of family ties influenced by society, the participation of family members in household responsibilities, public relationships, and the type of family (extended, childless), including who takes the lead, individual virtues, and the characters of family members.

Many researchers and psychologists emphasize that children born into ethnically mixed families are often healthier and more intelligent than those born into monoethnic families. Moreover, they inherit a stronger gene pool. Elena Eremina, who has worked in the field of genetic research for over 30 years, shares the following views about children born from interethnic marriages: Couples from different ethnic groups

possess unique genetic traits accumulated over generations, which often do not align with each other. Children born from such unions frequently display characteristics different from those of their parents—sometimes even more pronounced—such as stronger immunity.

As she explains, marriages between close relatives can lead to various pathologies in children. Conversely, unions between genetically distant individuals—even those differing only in terms of birthplace—can help prevent such issues, according to the Candidate of Medical Sciences.

A child becomes familiar with the cultures of both ethnic backgrounds, which broadens their worldview. However, during this process, it is important for parents to decide which culture should be dominant in the child's upbringing. In such families, children usually learn to speak at least two languages, which may positively influence their cognitive development. Nonetheless, cases of delayed speech development or difficulties in switching between languages may occur due to bilingualism.

Child-rearing and relational styles in interethnic families can be either democratic or authoritarian. In democratic families, internal relationships are often based on a selective integration of customs and traditions, along with family norms from both ethnic groups. In such cases, communication within the household is usually bilingual, and children typically acquire both languages with ease. This type of family model is more commonly found in urban areas.

At the same time, the lifestyle characteristics of interethnic families depend not only on their place of residence but also on other factors such as the spouses' level of education, chosen career paths, and more.

One of the most important things for parents to understand is the necessity of teaching children to use two languages during communication—giving them the opportunity to learn and use both. This is not an easy task, as language is more than just a set of sounds. It requires not only learning the parents' languages but also providing information about their homeland and cultural identity.

In the United States, the number of interracial and interethnic marriages has significantly increased. Although the share of interracial marriages is still relatively low, it rose from 1% in 1970 to 5% in 2000. During this period, the number of interracial couples exceeded 3 million by the year 2000. The number of marriages between individuals of different races in the U.S. continues to grow, prompting an increasing number of studies in this field.

American scholars conducting research have emphasized the importance of supporting child-rearing practices in mixed-race families. They explain the reasons for this as follows:

First, due to globalization, people continue to move from one part of the world to another in search of better opportunities. This means there will be a growing number of mixed-race children worldwide. As a result, issues related to minority status among mixed-race children are gradually diminishing.

Second, children raised in culturally diverse households tend to become better global citizens. They acquire intercultural communication skills that help them integrate into communities and participate effectively anywhere in the world. These abilities stem from their family experiences, including observing the interactions between their parents.

Third, interracial children inherit diverse gene pools. This reduces the likelihood of inheriting genetic diseases and disorders, leading to better health outcomes. Good health is a key factor in measuring quality of life (Perkins 43). Therefore, interracial children may have better health compared to others.

Fourth, children from intercultural backgrounds who successfully overcome discrimination and undue attention develop strong social skills. They are more likely to interact with others from a position of strength, giving them a greater chance of achieving success in life.

Based on these reasons, the conclusion of this work is that raising children in mixed-race families can be beneficial. While there are certain challenges, the advantages far outweigh the difficulties.

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Based on the analysis of the literature and the results of conducted research and observations, the following key aspects of child upbringing in interethnic families can be identified:

Parenting conflicts due to differing cultural backgrounds: In interethnic marriages, especially after the birth of a child, role changes between spouses may lead to disagreements in child-rearing practices due to differing national mentalities and parenting styles. If parents fail to reach a mutual understanding, these conflicts can negatively affect the child's psychological well-being.

A personality shaped by two cultures – Social identification: The process by which a child understands which ethnic group they belong to largely depends on the environment and the parents' approach. In some cases, this identification process can lead to challenges and confusion.

Adaptability in bicultural families: Children raised in such families usually adapt more easily to interacting with different cultures and often develop high levels of empathy.

Psychological approaches to child-rearing in interethnic marriages – An integrative approach: Parents must harmonize both cultures and ensure the child equally accepts and internalizes both heritages.

Importance of love and understanding: To build a child's self-confidence, parents need to teach them the best values and traits from both cultures.

Creating a developmental environment: Books, traditional holidays, and cultural events play a vital role in helping children learn about both cultures.

CONCLUSION

Child-rearing in interethnic marriages requires special attention. Cultural integration, social identity, and parental adaptability play crucial roles in this process. Everyone involved in the child's upbringing—parents, close relatives, and educational institutions—must take responsibility from the very beginning to guide the child through this unique cultural experience.

With the right psychological approach, children raised in such families can absorb the positive aspects of both cultures and grow into valuable members of society. When analyzing the future of any nation or state, the increasing number of interethnic marriages represents a natural and unregulated trend of development. In many countries, including ours, statistical analysis of such families is still lacking. Nevertheless, these families—whether few or many—exist and form an integral part of the institution of family in society.

Therefore, the comprehensive study of interethnic marriages remains a relevant and important topic that should not be overlooked.

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