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Transformation (and/or reduction) of the functions of the modern family

Abstract

The family is a complex social group in which there are combined different aspects of human life. It is a unique dynamic social context in which various processes take place (biological, reproductive, economic, educational and cultural, etc.) and functions (biological, reproductive, economic, function of the socialization and protective function). However, we must bear in mind that in different social systems, at various times there were various organizations of family life, it is the shape, structure and functions of the family have changed over the time. The emergence of modern society was followed by a change of the underlying of the family - changing the character of certain functions, some functions are moved from the family (transferred to the social institutions), and some functions are reduced. Changes in modern society have influenced the further transformation (and/or reduction) of family functions. Why does it come to the transformation (reduction) of the features of the modern family? In which way does the transformation (reduction) of the functions of the family take place?

Keywords: *modern family, transformation, reduction, family functions*

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Introduction

The family is a complex social phenomenon in which are integrated the various aspects of human life.² It performs a different processes (from biological and reproductional to educational), and functions that a family has (biological, reproductive, emotional, economic, safety, the function of socialization) are important in the lives of individual (s), but also for the existence of whole society (for example, biological and cultural continuity of a community depends on a sufficient number of children, etc.).

This social group has always had a number of functions that have historically changed. Family functions had at various times and places less or greater importance. Over time, some functions were reduced.³ While some returned again, and some remain unchanged, universal (beyond the family organizations, social systems and all time periods).⁴

² «The family consists of two elements that vary in historically varying proportions: (1) the common life and work under one roof of a group of people, and (2) kinship connections between them. Its fullness this compound experiences only in modern times, when we can talk about the true meaning of the concept of family.» *The Family*, Anđelka Milić, *Dictionary of Sociology*, prepared by A. Mimica and M. Bogdanović, Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike, 2007. 414. See more in: Dragana Vilić, *The family in the context of contemporary social changes*, *Sociological discourse*, Year I, Number 2, Banja Luka: Udruženje sociologa Banja Luka, 2011. 21 – 43.

³ As noted by Z. Golubović, all social functions tribal family concentrated in itself. As the basic economic unit of society, the patriarchal family maintained a number of functions, while for the modern family is characteristic the reduction of functions, in particular economic (emphasis on psycho-social sphere). Zagorka Golubović, *The family as a human community, alternative to the authoritarian conception of the family as a system of custom behavior*, Zagreb: Naprijed. 1981.

⁴ J. Murdock is credited with the classic formulation of the universal functions of the family (sexually reproductive, economic, and educational) based on analysis of 250 societies. All of these functions are important for society, because the first two provide its reproduction - providing members of the society of which depends its survival, with no economic function it would not be able to maintain life, and without the socialization there would be no culture. They are not performed alone by the family, but they are all contributed significantly, there is no other institution which would be important in this respect to be compared with the family, and no society has managed to find a replacement for the nuclear family on which those functions that it conveys could be performed. From this, by J. Murdock comes versatility and utility of the nuclear family. Functions that families play in society can not be separated from those that it has for every member of family, it serves them both at about the

The family is in a constant process of changes and interacts with the society in which it exists. The emergence of modern society was followed by a change of the underlying of the family (changing the character of the economic functions - production function is relocated from the family household in companies and factories; the emphasis is put on the psychosocial functions of the family, the family functions are reduced and transferred, in whole or in some segments to the specialized social institutions).⁵ Socio-economic and demographic changes observed, first, in developed societies of the 60s in the 20th Century (increase in economic activity of women, the weakening of the authority of the man, the new individualism, the reduce of fertility, increase in divorce, cohabitation, non-marital births, etc.), have led to the significant changes in the pattern of the modern family (shape, structure, functions and relationships between the members).⁶ In contemporary society are undergoing numerous changes

same way. For example, J. Murdock explains the importance of the economic functions of the family in society, but also for its members in case of hunting societies, describing the division of labor where men go to hunt wild animals, and the women of the catches are preparing a meal, and the skin of caught animals serves them for making garments. Such cooperation within the family meets the largely economic function that the family has in society, but at the same time working together spouses gain a positive experience which contributes to strengthening their communities. John P. Murdock, *The Social Structure*, New York: The Free Press, 1949, p. 2. However, Anđelka Milić considers that a misconception that is characteristic for the anthropological development of the concept of the family "proves the universality of the family by pointing to the universality of the functions of the family. In particular definition of these functions, however, varies from author to author." Anđelka Milić, *Sociology of the family - Criticism and challenges*, Beograd: Čigoja štampa, 2001. 36.

⁵ Nataša Matović, *Cooperation between secondary schools and families*, Beograd: Institut za pedagogiju i andragogiju, Filozofski fakultet u Beogradu, 1994. 15.

⁶ These changes have affected societies throughout the world, but they have not in them came to the fore at the same time or have exhibited in the same intensity - first they occupied the developed societies, but it is easily noticed in almost all societies in the world. All societies are faced with a number of similar issues concerning family life, but differ in the degree and the cultural context in which they take place. Anthony Giddens, *Sociology*, Beograd: Ekonomski fakultet, 2005, p. 186. All of these changes (social, economic, demographic) have caused deinstitutionalization of the marriage, the weakening of the nuclear family and the emergence of new forms of partnership and family. Deinstitutionalization of the marriage caused the increased number of divorces, the prevalence of cohabitation, a growing number of reconstructed families, single-parent households, households of homosexual couples with children, households where one person lives. Vlado Puljiz et al., *Social politics*, Zagreb: MFIZ, 2005. 323 - 328.

affecting the family - change of the living conditions of the majority of families, their quality of life, the content of the family functions and brings into question the possibility of their execution (of the reproductive and psycho-social to economic and social).⁷

In this paper, we will analyze in detail the significant changes in the functions of the family. Why does it come to the transformation (reduction) of the features of the modern family? How does this transformation (reduction) of the family functions take place?

Causes and the ways of changes of the family functions in modern society

To what better understand the character of changes of the function of modern families, it is necessary to analyze the causes and aspects of the changes that have taken place in their domain. As the topic of this article we would like to highlight the four major functions of the family: biological-sexual (reproductive) and emotional function, economic function, protective function and the function of socialization.

Biological-sexual (reproductive) and emotional function - that has experienced the greatest changes

In contemporary society, the sexual behavior of adults have experienced changes in their roots compared to the previous period - the satisfying of the sex drive is not only in the service of biological reproduction, as it was once thought, and it is justified to talk about biological - sexual function of the families.⁸ Because, as it was noticed by M. Mladenović, «This function is completely apart from the reproductive one. The main goal of marriage often are not children, but satisfying the most intimate desires of both spouses.»⁹ Intimate relationships do not always start with marriage. Especially in modern society, premarital life of spouses is very widespread. But these relations can not be reduced to the satisfying of the sex drive and the procreative function, as between the spouses in the

⁷ Drenka Vuković, *Social security and social rights*, Beograd, 2005. 336.

⁸ The sexual revolution of the sixties abolished puritanical morality, the double standard towards the sexual behavior of men and women, sexuality is separated from reproduction.

⁹ Marko Mladenović, *Introduction to Sociology of the family - General and Special part*, Beograd: Rad, 1969. 238 - 239.

family, there are affective bonds that should be the essence of their relationship. Emotional relationship that is established between parents and children in the family has a great importance for individuals. This feature of the family has changed, which is reflected in the change of relationships that parents have with children. The treatment of a child in the family has changed - it is not just a means of procreation and the preservation of family property, but in a family a large focus is on the child. Most sociologists consider that the family plays an important role in the normal development of the personality of the individual. In modern developed societies there are more and more families with fewer children¹⁰, and it is not uncommon that the partners do not want to have children (the willing infertility). Also, in the world today 15% of partners are facing the problem of biological inability to have children (the organic infertility).¹¹ Thanks to the progress made in the field of medicine, developing of the sophisticated ways of birth control and various techniques of medically assisted reproduction, these couples are enabled to have offspring, but in the process of reproduction are introduced and individuals outside the family which creates new circuits of relations. This clearly shows the changes in relation to the reproductive function of the family. In the reproductive behavior of adults in developed and underdeveloped societies today there are marked differences. The age of marriage (sexual union) in populations that have not set up the birth control, is a major determinant of fertility of population. With the increasing age at first marriage is rising the infertility of couples. In populations that implement the birth control in the early years of marriage the reproduction takes place.¹² Biological and cultural continuity of a community depends on the (sufficient) number of the children - if it is born the smaller population, it comes to the weakening of the demographic potential of the society, and due to an increase in the aged population it is increased the pressure on social and medical facilities. In many European countries is not born a sufficient number of children required to ensure the simple reproduction, which can be seen from the following table:

¹⁰ For this there are a number of reasons: the continued education of men and women, the delay of marriage and childbirth to a later age, an increase in expenses related to childbirth and parenting, and the like.

¹¹ *Methods of assisted reproduction*, Medicina. Hr

http://www.medicina.hr/clanci/metode_potpomognute_oplodnje.htm. [15/12/2010.]

¹² *Marriage*, Anđelka Milić, *Dictionary of Sociology*, Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike, 2007. 50.

Table 1. *Fertility in the European Union*

Country	Gross birth rate			Fertility index			Illegitimate birth		
	(for 1.000 inhabitants)			(children per woman)			(in% of all births)		
	1980.	2003.	2004.	1980.	2003.	2004.	1980.	2003.	2004.
Belgium	12,6	10,8	11,1	1,68	1,64	1,64	4,1	31	-
Czech Rep.	14,9	9,2	9,6	2,1	1,18	1,23	5,6	28,5	30,6
Denmark	11,2	12	11,9	1,55	1,76	1,78	33,2	44,9	45,4
Germany	11,1	8,6	8,6	1,56	1,34	1,37	11,9	27	28
Estonia	15	9,6	10,4	2,02	1,37	1,4	18,3	57,8	-
Greece	15,4	9,5	9,2	2,21	1,28	1,29	1,5	4,8	4,9
Spain	15,3	10,5	10,6	2,2	1,3	1,32	3,9	23,2	-
France	14,9	12,7	12,7	1,95	1,89	1,9	11,4	45,2	-
Ireland	21,8	15,4	15,9	3,25	1,98	1,99	5	31,4	-
Italy	11,3	9,4	9,7	1,64	1,28	1,33	4,3	13,6	14,9
Hungary	13,9	9,3	9,4	1,92	1,27	1,28	7,1	32,3	34
Netherlands	12,8	12,3	11,9	1,6	1,75	1,73	4,1	30,7	32,5
Austria	12	9,5	9,7	1,65	1,38	1,42	17,8	35,3	35,9
Poland	19,6	9,2	9,3	2,28	1,22	1,23	4,7	15,8	17,2
Portugal	16,2	10,8	10,4	2,18	1,44	1,42	9,2	26,9	29,1
Finland	13,2	10,9	11	1,63	1,76	1,8	13,1	40	40,8
Sweden	11,7	11,1	11,2	1,68	1,71	1,75	39,7	56	55,4
UK	13,4	11,7	12	1,9	1,71	1,74	11,5	41,5	42,3

The source: Eurostat, Council of Europe, US Census Bureau, 15/2005.¹³

¹³ Taken from: Martin Segalan, *Sociology of the family*, Beograd: Clio, 2009. 156.

From Table 1 it can be seen that in Europe in the past few decades has been a noticeable decline in fertility rates. The total fertility rate in the mid sixties was 2.72 (ten women gave birth to 27 children)¹⁴, and in 2004 this rate has in many European countries fell below 1.5 (ten women gives birth to 15 children). It must be borne in mind that for the simple reproduction of the population is necessary for women to give birth to an average of 2.1 children. This can be explained by the profound changes in modern societies that have led to the fact that the individual needs and the needs of society in terms of demographic reproduction do not coincide.¹⁵ But not only the individual reasons (for example, the pursuit of the realization of professional affirmation) cause of the fall in fertility, there are also socio-economic factors (sensation of overall uncertainty, changes in the sphere of work, demands for increasing mobility, etc.). They discourage the young and weaken their motivation in connection with childbirth. The decision to start a family is affected also by unemployment, poverty which seriously endangers the existence of a large number of individuals and their families. But no less important are certain legal provisions concerning the protection of the rights of the mother (and father) and child, as well as those related to the reconciliation of professional and parental obligations (including appropriate institutional arrangements for the care of children during the working hours of parents). That is why every society should create conditions for the realization of the right to a free and responsible parenthood.

The sharp drop in the birth rate and lowering of social norms about family size as compared to the previous generations, indicates the extent of the application of contraceptives, and the growing acceptance of the birth control. In connection with the achievement the standards on the size of the family, that is the family planning, an important role was played by the application of contraceptives.¹⁶ That is, before that, the technology of

¹⁴ Conseil de l'Europe, *Evolution démographique en Europe*, Strasbourg, 2003. 70.

¹⁵ Vlado Puljiz, (prir.), *Demographic trends in Europe*, Documentation, Journal of Social Policy, Vol. 12, No. 2, Zagreb, 2005. 270.

¹⁶ World Contraception Day is celebrated on 26th of September. In Europe, 40% of women of reproductive age are using modern methods of preventing the unwanted pregnancies - Oral hormonal contraceptives (the pill) and hormonal spiral. *Mosaic of the Medical Communications Medici. com*, Year VI, No. 35, October 2009. 22. [www.medicicom.com,]

making contraceptives¹⁷ The element of family planning is birth control, which essence is in applying appropriate methods, ways and means to limit childbearing. No matter that medicine, like most religions and the state do not approve of abortion as a method of birth control, however, this method is the most used.¹⁸ With the development of contraceptive methods and with the fertility transition is established the relationship between these three phenomena (fertility - birth control - abortion) in the most developed countries (but not in the former socialist countries and developing countries).¹⁹ Intensive birth control is necessary because of the increasing prevalence of cohabitation and other modern forms of life, early sexual intercourse, low reproductive norms and the like.

***The economic function - vital to the survival of the family (household)
in modern society***

The family has represented in the premodern era the multi-functional production unit (labor-intensive group, which plays itself - inside of it is produced and consumed). Thus, the content and function of relationships within the family and between the family and kinship groups stemmed from

¹⁷ « The invention of rubber vulcanization process around the 1840. This allowed the mass production of low-cost contraceptives made of rubber.» D. H. Wrong, *Population and Society*, 2nd Ed. 56.

¹⁸ « Although there are no reliable data on the number of deliberate abortions in the world it was estimated that the number of legal abortions in the world is about 31 million, and with the illegal abortions that number is far more higher, ranging between 35 and 55 million per year. It is estimated that nearly 40% of pregnancies in the world are unplanned, as a result of non-use of contraception, the use of ineffective contraceptives or unsuccessful methods.“ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ „In the first stage of demographic transition, fertility has declined slightly, the number of abortions grew rapidly, while contraception only slightly expanded. In the second stage of transition fertility has continued to decline, abortions were still in a short time on the rise, and then their numbers began to decline because contraception has increasingly applied. In the third stage, the fertility rate has stabilized at a low level, there were less abortions, and contraception has been increasingly applied. At the end of the demographic transition and its post-transition phase, contraception has become the dominant method of birth control.“ *Abortion*, M. Rašević, *Dictionary of Sociology*, Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike, 2007. 441.

the nature of the family and the organization of the society in that period - the economic cooperation and assistance have given the seal to all of these relationships. Since the modern era when it comes to the separation of work and residence, the family becomes the consumer unit. It does not own the means of production and livelihood of its members depends on the income of the spouses (one or both) that they reach outside the family by doing work. In the most modern societies economic function remains very important for the functioning and survival of the family.²⁰ An important role in the stability of family is played by income. This interface allows achieving the adequate standard of living of the family - they are "a measure of its social values and its reputation."²¹ The economic power of the family is one of the most important criteria of social differentiation in society (the family fortune of the "new rich", power, influence, domestic entrepreneurship, family business, etc.). Education and employment of women has not only improved their position, but the income that women achieve by doing jobs outside the home are of the great importance to maintain the economic position of the family and the lifestyle of its members. The woman's job to some extent determines the class position of the household, which was not the case in previous times when the economic status of fathers and spouses usually reflected the financial status of most women. Even in the case when a woman earns less than her husband, the position of the entire family can be determined by her interest. Spouses can have different class positions within the same household. Households where the only women are employed are steadily increasing, and so she has a crucial impact on the class position of the household. The traditional classification of a class towards a man who earns the household and that depends on him, are disturbed by the growing number of successful, working women, on the one hand, and the men who stay at home.²² Families in which only one member participates in the income work hard to provide the necessary conditions for their existence, and they are often below the poverty line. Because of the intense social change in the second half of the 20th century, as well as the employment of women, it was brought to the question the model of the family with one breadwinner (man is the head and breadwinner, and the wife is a housewife

²⁰ Ivan Šijaković and Dragana Vilić, *Sociology for Economists*, Banja Luka: Ekonomski fakultet, 2013, p. 148.

²¹ Marko Mladenović, *Introduction to Sociology of the family - General and Special part*, Beograd: Rad, 1969. 242.

²² Anthony Giddens, *Sociology*, Beograd: Ekonomski fakultet, 2005. 397.

who takes care of the household and raising children). There has been its gradual transformation into a model of two earners. This process has not proceeded with the same intensity in all the countries. The most intensive development of this model was recorded in the Scandinavian countries, because of their family policy geared to help the employed mother to reconcile work and family responsibilities. Increasingly frequent households with one parent brought into question the functioning of the two previous models. However, the role of the household survives in modern conditions, only households are multiplied into countless smaller units. Binuclear families that arise after the divorce of the partners if they have joint children include two households - household of the parent with whom the child lives and household of the parent with whom the child does not live. Divorce that breaks apart the marital relationship affects also the lives of individuals and the economy. One of the partners suffers negative consequences of divorce when his income is lower than the income of the former spouse. It is often the case with women. They mostly live after the divorce with their children and have to take all the burden of raising children without the other parent (due to the frequent lack of financial support of the child's father and his presence in the child's life), and all the everyday family responsibilities. Thus, single-parent households, on average, are among the poorest groups in contemporary society, and are facing the economic uncertainty, and the emergence of new poverty is often associated with them. Re-entry into partnerships after divorce or death of a partner can be explained by economic reasons in terms of the partners in the risk society in conditions of the crisis when the welfare state provides more security pooling two incomes. The increase in unemployment, stagnation in the mechanisms of social security, low incomes, the economic crisis and other conditions to ensure a certain quality of life impact the economic function of the family household. Because of the difficulty of entering the youth into the labor market are reduced the opportunities for their independence, and they stay longer in the parental home. Many families in modern society due to ever-present poverty are faced with problems that challenge their survival and fulfillment of certain functions. These are some of the reasons why the family in contemporary society falls apart or can not start a new one.

Protective function - global "paid" chains of care

Certain forms of care that families provide to their members have changed over time, as well as circle of relatives who enjoy the protection of the family and those who are obliged to protect its members.²³ Raising and nurturing of children and other family members, taking care of their health, moral protection, property protection, and the like are functions that family always provides to their family members. In the premodern period, when there were not developed social institutions to provide protection to individuals (institutions for the provision of health care, social care institutions, pension funds, homes for children without parental care, geriatric centers, facilities for persons with disabilities, etc.) the importance of the family in this regard was large. However, with the development of modern society, when there is a developing of a number of social institutions, the execution of some of the above functions are divided between the family and society.

Regardless of all the changes taking place in the family and in modern society, some forms of care that families provide to their members remain, first and foremost, the involvement of parents in relation to the raising, nurturing and child care, family solidarity and support and economic protection - child support, inheritance of property and the like. As noted by E. Giddens, our attitudes towards children and their protection were radically changed in the past few decades. "The fact that we care about the consequences that divorce can leave on the children, and that there are many families in which there is no father, we have to understand, bearing in mind the much higher standard of care for children and their protection."²⁴

In the global society there have been established a global "paid" chains of care. Families of the developed world in caring for children (and older relatives) less rely on relatives, and more on extrafamilial care - they hire a nannies who most often come from underdeveloped countries. At the same time, the chain of care for the children (and the elderly), implies that people in the developing world who come to provide services of "paid" care

²³ Marko Mladenović, *Family and family relations*, Beograd: Rad, 1963. 29.

²⁴ Anthony Giddens, *Runaway World - How globalization is reshaping our lives*, Beograd: Stubovi kulture, 2005. 85.

for people in the developed world, are unable to take care for their children (and elderly parents), for them take care other relatives or people who are paid to care for their parents (children).²⁵

The function of socialization - the importance of the family for the upbringing and education of the child in contemporary society

At the beginning of the forties of the 20th century useful theoretical concept of socialization was introduced in sociology and psychology in order to emphasize that on the development of personality social environment has a large and comprehensive impact.²⁶ The process of socialization involves the process by which a child is introduced into the social life of the community (education, upbringing, education, standards, traditional rules, ethos, style and the way of life).²⁷ Primary socialization involves socialization during early childhood, one that largely takes place within the family. Secondary socialization occurs later in life and it is influenced by socialization agents such as peer groups, schools, media, etc. Primary socialization involves two important processes: the adoption of the culture of a given society and structuring the personality. The child's personality is formed so that it adopts standards and a system of cultural values of the society in which he lives to the extent that these values become part of the structure of his personality. Social environment determines the family, its existence and activity, which means that it determines the socialization

²⁵ The average number of working hours in the United States increases, as well as the number of women who do paid work - 15% of mothers of six years children or younger in the 1950s to 65% in the nineties. American women now represent 45% of the workforce in the United States, three-quarters of mothers of children under eighteen years of age work, and 65% are mothers of six years children or younger. A large number of American grandmothers and other female relatives, who would otherwise have worried about the children of employees, today also perform other paid work. See more in: A. R. Hochschild, *Global care chains and emotional surplus value* in: Will Hutton and Anthony Giddens, *On the edge - living with global capitalism*, Beograd: Plato, 2003. 183.

²⁶ Nenad Havelka, *The psychological basis of group work*, Beograd: Naučna knjiga, 1980, p. 3.

²⁷ Ivan Šijaković, *Sociology - Introduction to understanding global society*, Banja Luka: Ekonomski fakultet, 2008. 96.

process that takes place in this social group. "But it is a process with the regenerative effects for individuals who are shaped by it and they should be included in the current environment, to act in it, extending its traditions or changing them."²⁸ In the formation of personality in young age, family as a factor of socialization plays a very important role and represents an important link between society and the individual, because the family is, "adapted and arranged according to social needs and values, and this arrangement allows it for the dominant social values, patterns and ratio to be transferred to the newborn members and during their growing up in the family to accept them and adopt and then transmit to their offspring."²⁹

Although the function of education of children in contemporary society has been to a great extent transferred to certain authorized institutions (kindergartens, schools, media, etc.), it can be said that the family still plays an important role in this regard. Parents still have a role to convey to children a certain way of life, value system, and introduce them to the norms of the society in which they live in order for them to develop socially desirable conduct. Expectations that society has of the child, or widely understood social functions of childhood shapes the social roles of parents.³⁰ Reducing the impact of tradition and established values in terms of globalization ("social codes" have significantly lost power), moving to a new individualism, the entry of the local community to interact with the new global order³¹, in most societies, especially Western, parents are left to the individual coping with the formation of the form of socialization of the child (there is no clearly defined collective form of socialization of the child). In the modern family, because of the frequent absence of their parents and their preoccupation, children are exposed to influences of the profit interests of mass culture, so they express various forms of risky behaviors (substance abuse, increased violence among children and youth, and the like.).

²⁸ Anđelka Milić, *Classes and family - Sociological overview and perspectives of contemporary families*, Beograd: Radnička štampa, 1978. 98.

²⁹ Zorica Kuburić, *Religion, family and youth*, Novi Sad: Centar za empirijska istraživanja religije/Beograd: Čigoja štampa, 2008. 11.

³⁰ Marina Blagojević, *Parenting and fertility - Serbia of the Nineties*, Beograd: Institut za sociološka istraživanja, Filozofski fakultet u Beogradu, 1997. 66 – 67.

³¹ Anthony Giddens, *Sociology*, Beograd: Ekonomski fakultet, 2005. 67.

Conclusion

By analysing the main functions of the family (biological-sexual/reproductive/and emotional function, economic function, the protective function and function of the socialization), and analysis of the changes that have happened in their intended domain, leads to the conclusion that this social group can still be considered the primary place of origin and development of the biological functions that transform an individual into a social being.³² Each of these functions has significantly been changed. Changes in sexual behavior of adults in modern society, the separation of sexual function of the reproductive, the prevalence of premarital life, the affective connection between spouses and between parents and children, changes in the relationship of parents to children, the birth of a smaller number of children, willing sterility, the creation of new assemblies of relations, shifting the environmental age when the first child is born, etc. indicates fundamental changes in the biological - sexual (reproductive) and emotional function of the family. As we have seen, the character of these changes have been affected by some individual factors (for example, the pursuit of the realization of professional affirmation of women and men) and socio- economic factors (sexual revolution, changes in the sphere of labor, the use of contraceptives, the unemployment, poverty, etc.). However, this family function has not lost importance for individuals (satisfying of the sex drive, procreation, affective correlation between spouses and between parents and children, etc.) and importance to society (conditions its biological and cultural continuity). When it comes to the economic function of the family (household) there may also be seen a number of changes (women's employment, the income work of both spouses- change of a one breadwinner family model to the model with two breadwinners, the households where only a women is employed, etc.) as well as factors that hinder / prevent its implementation in contemporary society (unemployment, poverty, stagnation in social protection mechanisms, etc.). However, the economic function is still important for the survival of the family and maintaining its economic position - ensuring adequate standard of living of the family , the economic power of the family is one of the most important criteria of social differentiation in society and so on. The role of the household has survived in modern terms because households multiply into

³² Martin Segalan, *Sociology of the family*, Beograd: Clio, 2009. 279.

numerous small units (for example, binuclear family). Although, from the modern era, the execution of the protective function of the family has been to a great extent transferred to the social institutions (institutions for the provision of health care, social care institutions, pension funds, etc.), some forms of protection that family in contemporary society provides to its members are highly significant (engaging parents in terms of raising and child care, family support and solidarity, economic welfare, global "paid" chains of care and the like). In terms of education and upbringing of children social institutions play an important role (kindergarten, school, media, etc.), but that does not mean that this function is separated from the family. Parents have an important role to convey to children a certain way of life, value systems and to familiarize them with the norms of the society in which they live in order for them to develop socially desirable behavior. However, in an attempt to implement this feature, parents in contemporary society are facing many problems - they are left to the individual coping with the setting up of a form of socialization of the child, because of the frequent absence of their parents and their preoccupation, children are exposed to influences of the profit interests of mass culture, so they exhibit different forms of risky behavior.

Therefore, all functions of the (modern) family have experienced significant changes in modern society, but the family continues to meet basic tasks through household (for example, socialization of children, the choice of housing, earning wages, ensuring the survival through the daily tasks that are highly repetitive, etc.).³³

³³ Martin Segalan, *Ibid.*

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