

CHANGES IN THE CONTEMPORARY ALBANIAN FAMILY IN MACEDONIA

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Abstract

Family in general, is a primary social group which plays an important role in human life either individually or as a social-group. Human society cannot be recognized and investigated well without recognizing and discovering the family, particularly, its structure, family relations, the system of values, family role and its functions. Family has always played the role of mediator between the individual and society during the development of human society. As regards to family, it is important to determine and define its place in the social system, its structure, its relationship to the society and its functions. The Albanian family is a specific bio-social, which has its own distinguishing characteristics and its specifications that differentiates it from other families. Also, the Albanian family, respectively, the one in the Republic of Macedonia is recently experiencing profound and intensive changes. Undoubtedly Albanian family is experiencing deep changes with a more dynamic intensity. These changes are as a result of the dynamics of social processes in Albanian territory and beyond. It is wrong to say that there have not been changes in the past in the Albanian family. There have been changes but, but their intensity was lower and slower as a result of a slower dynamism of the social processes. With the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the famous federations, in the same way many taboos also fell and collapsed, which were of a political nature. In this way, people began to travel freely, to cooperate in the economic sphere, to deal with different businesses in the area of education and scientific, to learn and study and as a result of all of this interdependence and mutual cooperation, they also won mutual marriages. So, all of these forms of communication and interaction influenced the way that lots of values to get transferred and borrowed from one Albanian area to the other, including Albanians from Macedonia as well. One of those values that consistently has a sui generis impact on the changes in the family are also the values of the Albanian Diaspora especially the one from the Western world. All of these changes are evident in the system of family values; family relations' in the structural and functional changes; are as a result of these main factors: the process of industrialization, urbanization, the migration process and the penetration of the system of values from the Western world. Undoubtedly, these factors affect the family as a social group either directly or indirectly, and are also linked with economic, technical, technological, political, social and cultural development. Certainly, these factors that stimulate changes within the family, determine the nature, type and direction of development of the family the whole family.

Keywords: *Family relationships, change, the system of values, family structure, industrialization, urbanization, migration, family roles, family functions.*