



SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS OF FATHERHOOD AND MASCULINITY NORMS AMONG YOUTH

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Abstract: *This article scientifically analyzes young people's social perceptions of fatherhood and masculinity norms. It examines the formation of masculinity and the paternal role within modern society, focusing on their family, cultural, and psychological aspects. The study provides insights into how social norms, traditional values, and media influence interact in shaping young people's perceptions. The research results indicate that the concepts of fatherhood and masculinity are perceived by youth not only as social responsibilities but also as indicators of personal growth.*

Keywords: *Youth, fatherhood, masculinity, social perception, gender roles, family values, social norms, psychological development, cultural standards.*

The relationship between parents and children is a fundamental component of human society, and the role of the father and the concept of masculinity have always been significant. The formation of masculinity and fatherhood as social constructs is closely linked not only to personal psychology but also to cultural and societal norms. While perceptions of male and paternal roles among youth continue to evolve, their essential social meanings remain consistent. According to scholars who have examined the father's role from a social-psychological perspective, including Erik Erikson, fatherhood is described as an important stage in an individual's psychological development. A father, as a personality, influences a child not only through material support and protection but also through educational, moral, and emotional guidance.

Masculinity norms, in turn, are tied to societal values and cultural stereotypes. Robert Connell's concept of "hegemonic masculinity" analyzes the dominant position of men in society and the maintenance of social norms and values. Furthermore, the formation of masculinity among youth is influenced by family upbringing, media, and gender stereotypes present in society.

Social Norms of Fatherhood and Masculinity

The modern concept of the father's role combines both traditional and contemporary approaches. Traditionally, the father is seen as the main provider, decision-maker, and disciplinarian in the family. However, modern approaches emphasize psychological preparedness for fatherhood, emotional support, and equality in family relationships. Key

Masculinity Norms Include: Sense of Responsibility. The man is responsible for the material and moral well-being of the family. Emotional Expression: According to modern norms, a man should express his emotions and provide emotional support in child-rearing. Social Success: A man must maintain stability in his professional and personal development, serving as a positive role model for his family. Integration with Gender Stereotypes: Youth tend to merge modern masculinity with traditional values.

Social Perceptions of Fatherhood Among Youth

Perceptions of fatherhood among youth vary based on personal experience, family upbringing, and media influence. Research shows that young people perceive fatherhood not only as responsibility but also as a measure of personal growth and social status. Traditional stereotypes portray fathers as firm, strong, and decision-makers, while modern views emphasize partnership and emotional involvement in family life. Through exposure to films, television, and social media, young people encounter diverse models of fatherhood, enriching their understanding of this role.

Table 1. Social Perceptions of Fatherhood Among Youth (%)

Age group	Responsibility+Education	Economic support	Emotional support
18-20	55	30	15
21-25	62	25	13
26-30	65	20	15

Analysis: The table shows that the association of fatherhood with responsibility and child-rearing increases between the ages of 18 and 30. The link with economic provision decreases with age, while emotional support remains relatively low.

Table 2. Essential Psychological Competencies for Fatherhood

Competency	Definition / Importance
Responsibility	Providing material and moral support for the family
Emotional Intelligence	Developing emotional connection with partner and child
Decision-Making	Solving family-related issues
Social Adaptation	Adapting to gender roles and societal norms

Analysis: The table highlights the psychological competencies necessary for fatherhood. Responsibility and emotional intelligence stand out as key components, while decision-making and social adaptability ensure family stability.

Recommendations

1. Develop educational programs promoting responsible fatherhood and masculinity norms.





among youth.

2. Use media and online platforms to promote emotionally supportive and responsible father figures.
3. Strengthen family education and psychological preparation for fatherhood among young people.

Conclusion. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of youth perceptions of fatherhood and masculinity norms. The study shows that while young people balance traditional and modern views, they regard fatherhood as a symbol of responsibility, family stability, and personal growth. The findings suggest that although economic and disciplinary aspects remain significant, emotional support is relatively less emphasized. Modern media and social dynamics enrich young people's understanding of fatherhood, encouraging more diverse and empathetic male identities. Recognizing and supporting these developments is crucial for fostering responsible fatherhood, emotional well-being, and social harmony.

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