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Role behavior of spouses of «dual-career» marriage

In article the questions connected with research of role behavior of spouses are considered; its characteristics; the factors determining role behavior; types of role behavior and the basic matrimonial roles. The special attention is given studying of role behavior in marriages where both spouses realize the professional career.

Keywords: "dual-career" marriage, «not career» marriage, role expectations, role behavior, role claims, matrimonial roles.

Recently the percent of divorces in a modern Russian family so in the Rostov region in 2010 every second marriage has broken up has considerably grown [10]. Experts assert that the frequent reason of divorces is destruction role behavior of spouses in marriages [13].

The role behavior in marriage is understood as a combination of role expectations and role claims of partners at execution of the matrimonial roles providing realization of functions of a family by them [2, 13]. In what measure of spouses incurs responsibility and the initiative in realization of each family role, makes its role claims, and in what degree he addresses to their partner (installation on active performance by the partner of family duties) – role expectations of this spouse. Conformity of role expectations to role claims of spouses makes the basic characteristic of role behavior in the marriage, which A.N. Volkova defines as role adequacy of partners [4].

Researchers allocate a number of the factors determining role behavior of each spouse: last experience (quality of parental marriage), dreams concerning marriage and an image of the future spouse, quality of mutual relations of partners to the introduction into marriage, a social environment of spouses, personal resources (features of character, an educational level, a social origin, a nationality), power distribution in the given family, the leading family values, which hierarchy develops throughout family life cycle, reflecting change of the importance of its functions [2, 8, 13]. The role behavior is realized through execution by spouses of their roles in marriage.

J.E. Aleshina, L.J. Gozman, E.M. Dubovsky is described by following principal views of matrimonial roles: «Material maintenance of a family», «the owner/mistress», «the sexual partner», «upbringing of the children», «the psychotherapist» (friend), «the organizer of leisure» and «the organizer of family subculture»[2]. Researchers notice that the role «responsible for material maintenance of a family» is



realized by means of earnings of money for maintenance to a material well-being family. Traditionally role «the owner / the mistress» includes purchase of products, cooking, and maintenance of a coziness, an order and cleanliness in the house. A role of «the sexual partner» is any display of activity in respect of sexual behavior. The role of «tutor» consists in realization of the duties connected with development of the child. The role of «the organizer of entertainments» includes any promotion of initiatives in leisure carrying out. The role «responsible for maintenance of related communications» means participation of spouses in family ceremonies, the organization of dialogue with relatives. The role of «the organizer of family subculture» consists in formation at members of a family of certain cultural values, various interests and hobbies. As one of the most actual roles in a modern family the role of the «psychotherapist» which realization is connected with the activity directed on the decision of personal problems of the partner is called: to listen to the spouse, to help it to understand a problem, emotionally to support. M.S. Matskovsky allocates a role communication and a reproductive role, A.N. Volkova external appeal and social activity [13].

In marriage authors consider as the basic criterion of cast sex-role differentiation as which understand division of duties and functions between spouses in connection with their sex [1]. As believes J.E. Aleshina and I.J. Borisov, traditional distribution of matrimonial roles assumes that the man, first of all, should be occupied on well paid work, the family should be perceived by it as something minor in relation to own career. The woman should bear responsibility for the house, a family, children; professional work for it is less significant in relation to a family.

A.I. Tasheva, investigating relations between partners in marriage, marks the types of relations of spouses offered L. Rejnvoter with reference to their role behavior: height-segregation, low-segregation and intermediate [11]. The height-segregation type corresponds to obligatory performance by spouses of traditional roles of «husband» and «wife». The low-segregation type means absence of clear split of roles between partners that is connected usually with a generality of interests of spouses, an inclusiveness of each of them in affairs, problems and hobbies of the spouse. The intermediate type of role relations in marriage is characterized by mixture of signs two first described above types. Thus in certain field of a life can be traditional allocation of roles, in others – roles can be executed by both spouses.

T.F. Suslova notices that for a modern society the uniform way of construction of role relations in a family, and differentiated is characteristic not. In this connection, the author notices that the sex-role system of distribution of matrimonial roles has undergone essential changes: many kinds of activity of the spouses, earlier strictly fixed by their sexual features, are considered now comprehensible and for persons of other sex. As a result there is rather new form of modern marriage – «dual-career» marriage for which realization of own professional career by both spouses is characteristic. Psychologists notice that one of the basic features of role behavior in such marriage is uncertainty of standard expectations in relation to role duties of the man



and the woman. It is connected by that there is a woman building the career, and the man occupied in house work [6, 12, 14].

Researchers notice that the role behavior is the factor influencing interpersonal relations of spouses and stability of marriage [7, 13, 15]. T.A. Gurko has come to a conclusion that stability of marriage is influenced by a coordination of opinions of spouses about in what degree the wife should devote itself to professional work, and in what to family duties. Coincidence of opinions has been revealed 74 % in stable marriages and 19 % – in unstable. A.I. Tasheva has come to conclusion that the contribution to execution of matrimonial roles is estimated adequately by 31 % of stable pairs and only 10 % in unstable [7]. For stable married couple similarity of representations about joint activity, and also coordination between role expectations and claims in marriage is characteristic; and also rather similar representations about hierarchy of significant roles. In stable marriages it is marked underestimate the contribution of the marriage partner and reestimation of own contribution to role behavior [13].

A.G. Harchev and M.S. Matskovsky notice that in cases when house duties entirely or the most part are carried out by the woman, only 58,9 % of spouses are satisfied by the marriage, in cases when the husband helps the wife, this indicator reaches 88,1 %, and equal cast between partners makes 94,4 % of the satisfied spouses.

Psychologists notice that the frequent reasons of the reference of spouses behind the psychological help to the psychologist are infringements of role behavior of spouses which are defined: discrepancy of the requirements shown to the executor of a certain role; discrepancy of the various roles which are carried out by the same spouse (difficulty of combination by working woman of professional, parental and matrimonial duties); not satisfaction of requirements of the spouse set of roles which it carries out in a family (a role of the husband is not only its role duties, but also expectations of love, realization of its requirements for marriage); discrepancy of carried out roles to objective possibilities of the person (its personal features, illness and so forth); satisfaction of own requirements which are not providing satisfaction of requirements of other members of a family (the discharge of an emotional pressure reached by it venting one's anger on other) [13].

In «dual-career» marriages special value get character cast and the power between spouses. Psychologists carry necessity of combination to the integral characteristics of such marriage by partners of professional and family roles which lead to infringement of role behavior of the spouses expressed in role intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts [12].

So, V.P. Levkovich studied features of matrimonial relations in families where husbands are engaged in business and in those families where this activity occupies wives [9]. In families of businessmen and businesswomen the author has fixed that level of conflict in mutual relations of spouses of «dual-career» pairs above, than in marriages where any of them does not carry on business that is «not career». In marriages where business occupies women, level of a conflict of spouses above, than in marriages with businessmen. In group of businessmen, matrimonial conflicts in role sphere proceeded not so unequivocally, as in group of women of businessmen. In spite of the fact



that husbands-businessmen in the majority of families aspired to realize a role of the family leader (forbade wives to work, rigidly supervised their monetary outlay, a circle of contacts). Wives differently reacted to the given situation: focused for intrafamily roles (mothers, wives, mistresses of the house), as a rule, conceded to husbands leader positions in «exchange» for material welfare, in these marriages the role conflict between spouses did not arise absolutely or was resolved structurally. In marriages where wives realized own professional career, matrimonial conflicts in role sphere proceeded sharply and had destructive character.

It is possible to explain the given fact to that for the women consisting in «two-career» marriage strong identification with the professional role is characteristic. And, according to A.I. Tasheva, such woman aspires to add the home life by career achievements, or marries already mature expert and career achievements for it are the main value. The author believes that in cases in point professional activity of the woman can be carried out to the detriment of its activity directed on realization of the basic family roles and to lead to occurrence of psychological difficulties [5, 12].

L.V. Jasny has allocated two groups of the reasons explaining the contradictions between professional and family roles of the working woman. First, it is two various systems of values: work which provides personal and economic independence; social contacts and the family values defining specific features of a life of spouses; and also realization of all basic functions of a family. The second group of the reasons is defined by absence of the adequate help to the woman from outside the spouse and other members of a family in performance of house duties by it [16].

As one of the typical reasons of role matrimonial conflicts of A.I. Tasheva in detail describes disapproval the husband of professional work of the wife [12]. V.P. Levkovich explains the given reason of conflicts for that orientation of women to professional career frequently contradicts traditional installations of considerable number of husbands concerning initial mission of women [9]. Difficulties of the husband in such marriage are connected not only its possible overload in professional work, a lack of time for dialogue with relatives and with friends, but also its compelled familiarizing with «the female» work having at many Russian men, as a rule, the low status. Especially hard husbands worry, receiving in addition to the professional work «the female» homework when, in their opinion, professional aspirations of wives interferes with their own office advancement [12]. Husbands in «dual-career» marriage often are not satisfied by a matrimonial life. It is expressed in their discontent with business activity of wives, a presentation to them complaints about inability to run the house, an inattention to the husband and children, egoism.

Noted above features of role behavior of spouses underline an urgency of research of the given phenomenon in married couples. At the same time, the overwhelming majority of the theoretical and empirical data on an investigated problem is received in 20 century. Thus authors did not specify to belong to investigated pairs to «career» or «not career» to marriages. As a matter of fact, «dual-career» marriages in the given aspect have appeared not investigated.



We had been conducted empirical research of role behavior of the spouses consisting in «dual-career» marriage. 40 real married couples at the age from 25 till 40 years, different trades, inhabitants of Rostov-on-Don and the Rostov region, with the experience of marriage from 5 till 15 years are interrogated. The marriage form became criterion of division of sample on two equal groups: the basic (steams consisting in «dual-career» marriage) and control («not career» steams – spouses, the main which vital value is not career).

The methodical toolkit was made by the techniques, allowing to investigate cast in marriage: questionnaires «Cast in marriage» A.N. Volkova [4], «Role expectations and claims in marriage» J.E. Aleshina, L.J. Gozman [2]; notions of partners: a questionnaire «Measurement of direction in a married couple» J.E. Aleshina, L.J. Gozman [2], satisfaction marriage: a questionnaire «Satisfaction marriage» L.J. Gozman and O.O. Eryomichevoj [2].

Table 1

Cast of spouses from «not career» marriages (in %)

Role behavior of spouses		The low	Average	The high
Role expectations	sexual	38,0	50,0	12,0
	mutual interests	7,0	38,0	55,0
	household	5,0	63,0	32,0
	upbringing of the children	0 %	30,0	70,0
	social activity	7,0	33,0	60,0
	psychotherapeutic	0	7,0	93,0
	external appeal	2,0	13,0	85,0
Role claims	household	10,0	35,0	55,0
	upbringing of the children	8,0	37,0	55,0
	social activity	3,0	7,0	90,0
	psychotherapeutic	7,0	45,0	48,0
	external appeal	5,0	37,0	58,0

From Table 1 follows that role expectations of spouses (their direction on active performance by the partner of family duties) «not career» marriage are characterized as follows: the majority of respondents wish to have outwardly attractive partner; expect that the marriage partner will incur a role of the emotional leader in a family, i.e. will correct a psychological climate and to render to members of a family moral and emotional support; they are inclined to an active parental position of the marriage partner and during too time of its self-realization in professional sphere; spouses of the given group hope for a mutual interests, requirements, valuable orientations and joint time of forwarding. Moderate degree of expectation from the partner of the active decision of household questions and realization of a sexual role is marked. As to role claims (personal readiness of each of partners to carry out concrete family roles)



the majority of respondents have direction on own active participation in housekeeping conducting, upbringing of children, on realization of professional requirements, on the appeal, on rendering to the partner in marriage of emotional support.

Table 2

Cast of spouses from «dual-career» marriages (in %)

Role behavior of spouses		The low	Average	The high
Role expectations	sexual	45,0	45,0	10,0
	mutual interests	30,0	60,0	10,0
	household	3,0	47,0	50,0
	upbringing of the children	0	17,0	83,0
	social activity	0	12,0	88,0
	psychotherapeutic	0	50,0	50,0
	external appeal	0	15,0	85,0
Role claims	household	10,0	60,0	30,0
	upbringing of the children	23,0	37,0	40,0
	social activity	0	0	100
	psychotherapeutic	28,0	29,0	43,0
	external appeal	2,0	15,0	83,0

Role expectations of spouses have original features in «the dual-career» marriage, reflected in Table 2. The majority of respondents of the given form of marriage expect that the spouse should have serious professional interests, play an active public role; to take of an active parental position; to solve household questions; they wish to have outwardly attractive partner corresponding to standards of a modern fashion. Sexual relations in «the dual-career» matrimony have average and low values that can say that for some respondents the important condition of satisfaction marriage is sexual harmony, and for some this sphere not and is important. The majority of respondents show average expectations of a mutual interest. In 50 % of cases of the spouse expect that the marriage partner will incur a leading role in questions of psychological support of the partner.

All respondents have orientation to realization of own professional claims. The majority of respondents have directions on own active participation in housekeeping conducting, on upbringing of children, rendering to the partner in marriage of psychological support and on own appeal.

The carried out analysis by criterion the Manna-Uitni has shown that respondents from «not career» and «dual-career» marriages differ on level of expressiveness of following roles in a family: «a mutual interests» ($U = 230$, $Z = 5,48$ at $p = 0,0001$), «psychotherapeutic» ($U = 357,5$, $Z = 4,26$ at $p = 0,03$), «household» ($U = 574$, $Z = 2,17$ at $p = 0,03$), «external appeal» ($U = 577$, $Z = -2,15$ at $p = 0,03$). Thus, at respondents «not career» marriage higher values on indicators «a mutual interests», «expectation of moral and emotional support from outside the partner», «putting on themselves of



household duties» are observed; and at the respondents consisting in «dual-career» marriage, above direction on own external appeal.

In «not career» marriage such roles as «upbringing of children», «owner/mistress» and «maintenance of an emotional climate in a family» are attributed basically to the woman, and «material maintenance of a family» and a role of the sexual partner is in a greater degree assigned to the man. Roles of the organization of entertainments and the organization of family subculture are distributed between spouses equally.

In «dual-career» marriage of a role «an emotional climate in a family» and «the organization of family subculture» «the organization of entertainments» and «the sexual partner» in a greater degree – the man is attributed basically to the woman, and. Roles «material maintenance of a family», «education of children» and «owner/mistress» are divided equally between spouses. Thus, for spouses from «not career» marriage division of roles in connection with a sex of partners, and for role behavior of spouses from «dual-career» marriage – propensity to equality is peculiar to cast model.

Significant distinctions between respondents «not career» and «dual-career» marriages on roles «material maintenance of a family» ($U = 463,5$, $Z = -3,24$ are revealed at $p = 0,001$), «the sexual partner» ($U = 568$, $Z = 2,23$ at $p = 0,03$) and «the organization of family subculture» ($U = 521,5$, $Z = -2,68$ at $p = 0,007$). Hence, in «not career marriage» a role of the man in material maintenance of a family and the organization of family subculture above, than in «dual-career» marriage, in which, in turn, a role of the man as sexual partner authentically above, than in «not career».

Table 3

Significant distinctions between respondents «not career» and «dual-career» marriages

Scales	U	Z	p-level
The attitude to people	398.5*	-3.86	0.0001
Alternative between a call of duty and pleasure	756.5	0.42	0.6755
The attitude to children	530*	2.60	0.0094
Orientation to joint or separate activity	607	1.86	0.0633
The attitude to divorce	743	0.55	0.5834
The attitude to love	464.5*	3.23	0.0012
Estimation of value of sexual in marriage	743	0.55	0.5834
The attitude to career	433*	3.53	0.0004
The attitude to patriarchal or equality to the device	452.5*	-3.34	0.0008
The attitude to money	586*	-2.06	0.0395

Symbols: * significant U-criteria.

Given Tables 3 testify that for partners «not career» marriage orientation to joint activity of spouses in all spheres of home life, on romantic love and the impor-



tance of children in marriage is more characteristic. For spouses of «dual-career» marriage high orientation to career, and also less traditional representation about a role of the woman in a family is peculiar. Thus, for the respondents of «not career» marriage, it is represented more significant a role of children in a life ($U = 530$, $Z = 2,6$ at $p = 0,009$), more expressed is orientation to romantic love ($U = 464,5$, $Z = 3,23$ at $p = 0,001$); And for the respondents consisting in «dual-career» marriage, more significant are optimistically representations about people ($U = 398,5$, $Z = -3,86$ at $p = 0,0001$), high orientation to career ($U = 433$, $Z = 3,53$ at $p = 0,0004$), less traditional representation about a role of the woman in marriage ($U = 452,5$, $Z = -3,34$ at $p = 0,0008$) and more economical attitude to money ($U = 586$, $Z = -2,06$ at $p = 0,04$).

Table 4

**Significant distinctions between respondents
«not career» and «dual-career» marriages**

Scales	U	Z	p-level
Sexual sphere	439.5	3.47	0.0005
Birth of children	460.5	3.27	0.0011
Household sphere	419	3.67	0.0002
Leisure sphere	453.5	3.33	0.0009
Mutual understanding; attitude to relatives and friends	458.5	3.29	0.0010
Psychotherapeutic sphere	412	3.73	0.0002
Upbringing of the children	435	3.51	0.0004
The general satisfaction	440.5	3.46	0.0005

It is statistically proved that all spheres of satisfaction marriage and an indicator of the general satisfaction above at the spouses consisting in «not career» marriage, in comparison with the partners of «dual-career» marriage (Tab. 4). The given fact will be coordinated with T.V. Andreeva and V.P. Levkovich opinions that orientation of women to professional career contradicts traditional directions of husbands concerning a real destination of women that serves as the reason of decrease in their satisfaction marriage which is expressed in discontent of husbands with business activity of wives, in a presentation to women of claims in inability to run the house, an inattention to the husband and children [3, 9]. In turn, the given authors assert that satisfaction marriage of the wife depends on satisfaction marriage of her husband; and T.V. Andreeva notices that satisfaction is connected by marriage not only with actual cast between spouses, but also with affinity of their representations about role behavior of each of partners [3].

By means of one-factorial regression the analysis on revealing of influence of an indicator of the general satisfaction by marriage the following results reflected in Table 5 are received.



Table 5

**Influence of satisfaction by marriage
on home life spheres**

Dependent variables	F	P
Sexual role	0.43	0.5134
Mutual interests	10.44*	0.0018
Household role (expectations)	1.81	0.1827
Upbringing role (expectations)	2.24	0.1389
Social activity (expectations)	0.11	0.7464
Psychotherapeutic role (expectations)	9.41*	0.0030
External appeal (expectations)	0.05	0.8197
Household role (claims)	10.97*	0.0014
Upbringing role (claims)	3.01	0.0868
Social activity (claims)	0.06	0.8062
Psychotherapeutic role (claims)	6.52*	0.0126
External appeal (claims)	5.71*	0.0193
Upbringing of children	0.02	0.8819
Emotional climate in a family	2.10	0.1516
Material maintenance of a family	4.58*	0.0354
The organisation of entertainments	5.90*	0.0174
The owner-mistress	0.58	0.4495
The sexual partner	10.73*	0.0016
The organisation of family subculture	1.07	0.3047
The attitude to people	2.59	0.1114
Alternative between a call of duty and pleasure	0.50	0.4832
The attitude to children	0.75	0.3906
Orientation on joint or separate activity	3.60	0.0615
The attitude to divorce	2.85	0.0956
The attitude to love	11.79*	0.001
Estimation of value of sexual sphere in home life	0.24	0.6233
The attitude to career	2.19	0.1429
The attitude to patriarchal or equality to the device	2.79	0.0989
The attitude to money	1.52	0.2218

Symbols: * significant F-criteria.



Predictor the general satisfaction marriage influences a generality of interests of spouses ($F = 10,44$ at $p = 0,002$), expectation from the partner of performance of a psychotherapeutic role ($F = 9,41$ at $p = 0,003$), readiness to carry out an economic-household role ($F = 10,97$ at $p = 0,001$), and an emotionally-psychotherapeutic role ($F = 6,52$ at $p = 0,01$), external appeal ($F = 5,71$ at $p = 0,02$), material maintenance of a family ($F = 4,58$ at $p = 0,04$), the organizations of entertainments ($F = 5,9$ at $p = 0,02$), performance of a role of the sexual partner ($F = 10,73$ at $p = 0,002$) and love ($F = 11,79$ at $p = 0,001$), thus, the more the given roles will be realized by the spouse, the above there is a satisfaction marriage at the partner.

The conducted empirical research allows concluding that spouses «not career» and «dual-career» marriages have unequal family directions, differ on role behavior, and also differ on level of satisfaction marriage.

Studying of an originality of role behavior of spouses of «dual-career» marriage can be useful at rendering of the adequate psychological help for partners «dual-career» and «not career» the marriages, experiencing the psychological difficulties connected with cast, and also for the forecast of dynamics of matrimonial relations in the named forms of marriage.

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