

**Russian Married Women and Men in Ageing:
Demographic and Social Characteristics**

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Russia concerns to number of the countries where people are more senior than 60 years make the most quickly growing group of the population. The share of people in ageing in Russia has grown from 6.7 per cent in 1939 up to 11.9 per cent in 1970, has reached 18.7 per cent in 2001 and continues to grow¹. According to forecasts by 2015 number of this group will reach 20 per cent. The essential break in expected life expectancy of men and women (accordingly 58,8 and 72,0 years) is the distinctive feature of the Russian demographic situation. Among the reasons of high men's death rate are called: prevalence of patriarchal stereotypes leading to dictating risky models of behaviour, high level of stresses, abusing alcohol, suicides². This gender disproportion predetermines that in Russia in group of persons in ageing will essentially prevail women who are not married.

But what are spouse's relationships of people in ageing now? What is their value in a life of the people in ageing? Are there differences of female's and male's positions, their perceptions and estimations of a family life? Whether the question on the one to whom (to men or women) the family is more profitable, and what its *price* (which can be understood in advanced age more clearly) is right?

In the focus of Domestic Violence in Russia research³, conducted in 2002-2003 there was a family violence against wives. The various forms of this violence (physical, psychological, economic and sexual) were analyzed in a wide context of matrimonial attitudes. The research data give chance to consider features of matrimonial communications and attitudes of people in ageing, to find out distinctions and similarities between female and male's estimations of family life.

Following groups of data about married to women and men up 60 years are presented in sections which include: general characteristic samples, comparative characteristics of

¹ Source: A.VISHNEVSKII. 2003. Velikaya malonacelennaya derzhava. Rossia-2013: vysokaya smertnost', nizkaya rozhdmost'. "Rossia v global'noi politike". Vol.1, № 3, pp. 54-72.

² Source: UNITED NATIONS, 2005. Russia in 2015. Development Goals and Policy Priorities. Human Development Report 2005 Russian Federation, p. 71.

³ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RUSSIA (Ford Foundation grant # 1025-0448). Data of representative sample survey in Russia's seven regions in more than 50 urban and rural inhabited localities. It was questioned 2,134 respondents up 18 year presently being married (1,076 females and 1,058 males from different families). Method: group questioning.

About research results see:

- Gorchkova, I. and Shurygina, I. (2003). *Nasilie nad zhenami v sovremenni'kh rossiiskikh sem'yakh*. MAKS Press, Moscow.

- Gorchkova, I. and Shurygina, I. (2003). *Husbands' physical violence: impact on women's reproductive health and reproductive behavior* // IUSSP Seminar on the Demography of Conflict and Violence, Oslo, Norway, 8 - 11 November 2003.

<http://www.iussp.org/members/restricted/publications/Oslo03/5-con-gorchkova03.pdf>

- Gorchkova, I. and Shurygina, I. (2005). *Domestic violence against wives and distribution of power: case of Russia*//XXY International Population Conference, Tours, France, 18-23 July 2005.

<http://iussp2005.princeton.edu/download.aspx?submissionId=50188>

respondents and their spouses, estimations of health, economic activity, social contacts, housework, the family budget, marriage's satisfaction, feelings to spouses, divorce's ideas, the *price* of divorce, domestic violence.

TABLE 1. - DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIED WOMEN AND MEN IN AGEING (60 + yrs)

Variable	Males N=68	Females N=61
1. General characteristics		
Age (mean)	62,6	62,8
Minimum	60	60
Maximum	64	66
Age (mean) of respondent's spouse	60,4	65,0
Minimum	50	57
Maximum	74	74
Educational level (%):		
- higher (tertiary education)	20,9	18,3
- post-secondary (non-tertiary education)	37,3	26,7
- medium (upper secondary education)	22,4	25,0
- low	19,4	30,0
Place of residence (%):		
- city	62,3	65,6
- village	37,7	34,4
Average number of marriages	1,3	1,18
Average number of marriages of the spouse of the respondent	1,08	1,18
Marriage length (years)	29,4	37,26
Minimum	7	10
Maximum	51	48
Average number of children	1,75	2,016
Have no children (%)	7,1	3,1
Desirable number of children	2,59	2,76
2. Structure of family (%)		
Live together with children	37,6	34,3
Live together with grandchildren	17,4	19,1
3. Some comparative characteristics (%)		
Respondent and his/her spouse are the same nationality	79,4	88,5
Respondent and his/her spouse have the same religiousness	85,7	85,5
Incomes difference between the respondent and his/her spouse:		
- husband's incomes are higher	45,2	34,6
- husband and wife have approximately identical incomes	39,6	48,1
- wife's incomes are higher	15,2	17,3
Among sources of the income:		
- own pension, salary	69,1	85,2
- spouse's money	36,8	49,2
- children and relatives' help	7,4	4,9
4. Health		
General health self-estimation (%):		
- very good and good	6,0	3,4
- normal	64,5	65,5
- bad and very bad	29,1	31,0
Presence of chronic diseases, tumours	33,3	36,1

Depressions' symptoms, incl. (%):		
- feeling of loneliness	5,8	16,4
- absence of satisfaction from daily affairs	13,0	14,8
- fear of the future	18,8	18,0
Abusing of the husband alcohol: not less often 1 time week is strongly drunk (%)	5,3	11,4
Spontaneous abortions (%)		34,4
Average number of induced abortions		3,51
Induced abortions by husband's demand (%)		30,5
5. Economic activity (%)		
Employment	40,6	34,4
Full employment (full day job)	29,0	20,0
Job intensity comparison with employed spouse:		
- husband has more intense job	24,8	46,4
- husband and wife have approximately identical intensity	40,1	30,9
- wife has more intense job	20,1	15,5
- it is difficult to compare	15,0	7,7
6. Household (%)		
Distribution of housework:		
- all is done by the wife	17,7	17,0
- the most part is carried out by the wife	29,4	52,8
- approximately equally	43,1	26,4
- the most part or all is done by the husband	9,8	3,8
Satisfaction distribution of house duties:		
- distribution of homework fairly	64,9	55,1
- partly fairly	15,8	36,8
- unfairly	3,5	14,5
Family budget:		
- incomes both are united, and both have the equal rights to dispose of them	36,2	39,5
- husband gives all of money to the wife	49,2	47,5
- husband gives the wife only a part of money	13,2	8,2
- Everyone disposes of own money	1,4	4,9
Wife should reports to the husband about expenses	35,7	32,8
Other resources (<i>difference between husband and wife opportunities</i>)		
Husband has more, than at a wife of opportunities:		
- to find time for work it is so much as necessary	9,4	5,3
- to spend a free time as wants	7,0	9,8
- to have matrimonial sex when he wants it	9,4	14,0
- to communicate with whom wants	3,5	0,0
7. Satisfaction marriage		
The general estimation of satisfaction marriage (scale from 1 to 5)	4,50	3,79
Feelings to the spouse, incl. (%):		
- respect	52,6	44,3
- love	49,1	26,2
- sexual inclination	10,5	9,8
- attachment	35,1	32,8
- habit	31,6	34,4
- pity	15,8	42,6
- indifference	1,8	3,3
- hatred	-	3,3
There was a large quarrel within 30 days (%)	22,2	31,1

Ideas on divorce (%):		
- often	-	6,6
- from time to time	7,1	18,0
- never	85,9	60,7
- there were ideas earlier, there is no now	7,0	13,1
- plan to divorce	-	1,6
Husband' loses from divorce in compare wife' loses(%) (“- “ means wife's loses are more than husband's ones)		
- financial state	1,7	-8,2
- living conditions	-3,6	-48,0
- communication with children	5,3	5,1
- leisure	17,5	6,7
- family life	5,2	14,7
- social status	5,2	8,2
- associates' respect	8,7	9,9
- communication with relatives and friends	14,0	13,1
- sex	3,7	3,4
- love, support, attention	10,7	5,0
- doesn't feel loneliness	12,3	6,7
- self-esteem	8,8	7,2
- sensation of happiness	12,3	5,0
8. Violence against wives (%)		
Physical violence	43,9	59,0
Economic violence	50,9	49,2
Psychological violence	87,7	82,0
Sexual violence	7,0	21,3

Discussion remarks

To keep marriage (often with domestic violence – see # 8) are ready women with lower education.

Women have less marriages number and are in marriage longer than men.

Men report about less number of children than women. Women would like to have children more than men. Also women had realized their desires fuller: the difference between desirable and real number of children is less, than men's ones (0,74 and 0,84).

It seems women have no enough information about husbands incomes' sizes.

The physical status of health of women is little bit worse than their married men coevals' health. But women have more profounded depressive symptoms. Women feel of loneless almost in 3 times often than men.

Men work no more than in 1,2 times more often than women. But are is more often have full day job. Unlike men, women consider husbands have harder work.

Acording women's view housework distribution is equally (almost 70 per cent women reported they do all or almost all housework). Men more often consider they take equal participation in housework.

The high percent of husbands (nearby 50) which *give all of money to wife*, often means a wife is a poverty manager and bears for it the responsibility. Thus husbands have more than wives other opportunities (pastime, contact with friends etc.).

Men have higher satisfaction from marriage than women. They more often feel positive emotions, rarely have ideas about divorce. Thus both men and women think men could have more loses from divorce than women. The main women loses are – in financial state and living conditions.

All domestic violence parameters are very high. The family sexual violence is remained *invisible* for men.