

Role of Man in Modern Georgian Family; What is More Important for Georgians: Traditions or the New Social Realities?

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Introduction

Family is a universal institution in all societies, it is necessary for survival as it fulfils sexual, economic, reproductive and educational functions. Due to differences in cultures and time, its definition encompassing all its forms poses a problem. Transition in the family is often associated with social changes, as family reflects the changes in the society for adapting to new realities (Le Play, 1855, Durkheim, 1892).

Wives, who earn more than their husbands, do far more housework than their spouse (Atkinson and Boles 1984). This still holds true when husbands are not employed (Brayfield 1992). The gender ideology perspective on the division of labour in the home can explain these findings: The division of housework does not result from the relative resources of the partners, but from how each partner identifies himself or herself with regard to marital, familial, and occupational roles that are traditionally linked to gender (Greenstein 1996; Kamo 1988; Sanchez 1994). Thus, traditional gender ideology that ascribes domestic labour to women results in wives performing the lion's share of housework, even if they earn more income than their husbands. Also, husbands may avoid housework even when they are economically dependent on their wives, because this provides an opportunity to express an inviolable identification with the male role (by refusing to adopt characteristics of the female role). Thus, they are "doing gender" despite their economic dependency (Haddad 1996).

Georgia is located on the border of Europe and Asia and was characterized by diverse degree of integration with Eurasian countries at the various stages of its long history. Traditions established in Europe and Asia had an impact on the development of Georgia and its social life. For this reason, the role of men and women in the social and family life in Georgia is of unique character. According to the experts' opinion, in Georgia is observed the gender inequality, both in family and social life.

Georgian family was of a patriarchal character, where extended family with three or even four generations living together was the most wide-spread type of family. Women after marriage moved to husband's house. The eldest male was considered to be the head of the family and enjoyed undisputed authority. His wife had power over her daughter-in-law, who was supposed to do the chores outlined by her. Children had almost no say in family decisions and were supposed to obey elders. In some parts of Georgia there was a practice of electing men and women heads of the households. Women heads were responsible for the fulfilment of all responsibilities that were traditionally allocated to women. They assigned tasks to female members of the household, while men distributed tasks among men and made most important decisions for the family (Gogichaishvili, 1976).

Drastic changes in social, political and economic spheres experienced by the country during last one and a half decade were reflected in family life. Collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of

the Socialist system resulted changes in almost all areas of life, and created a pressing need to adjust to the new realities. The end of the system was marked with the closure of the overwhelming majority of organizations and industries, resulting in mass unemployment. Unemployment hit almost every family and created a large army of impoverished population. After a life although not of affluence but still secure living, when confronted with new realities, families began to find ways for survival. Women were quicker to adapt. Hard-pressed by the situation and by male passivity they took up the responsibility to provide their families with essentials. (Sumbadze, 2008)

There is a very limited research in Georgia on gender issues. Our insight of gender relations in Georgia and on-going trends comes from the available statistical information. But the problem is that this information in Georgia is insufficient, being both too rough and synthetic to measure the features of social dynamics. Finally, none of the statistical indicators is able to provide the measurement of attitudes, value orientations, intentions and other behavioural features that, therefore, can be only measured on the basis of population surveys.

Data

Presented paper is based on the results of the first wave of the “Generations and Gender Survey” conducted in by the Georgian Centre of Population Research in 2006. Survey named in Georgia “Family Relations and Intergenerational Support” is a part of the international Generations & Gender Programme (GGP). 10 000 respondents in age 18-79 were interviewed countrywide based on the representative sampling around of Georgia, of which 4 405 were men and 5 595 were women.

Generations & Gender Programme is coordinated by UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Currently over 20 European countries are involved in the programme, as well as USA, Japan and Australia. Detailed information about the programme can be obtained at: <http://www.unece.org/ead/pau/ggp/Welcome.html>. The motivation for this international comparative study was a desire to improve the understanding of well-being of and solidarity between generations and gender relations, all in a context which facilitates monitoring and understanding changes in region and provides sufficient knowledge base for social policy.

The main objective of the Generations & Gender Survey is to study the gender relations and intergenerational support in the modern society. It uses stratified nationally representative sample that includes the approximately equal numbers of men and women. It collects most of its data from a couple perspectives, that is, the respondents provide a large amount of information also about their current partner if they have one, and about various aspects of their relationships both in the family and social life.

Social science research regards gender as a socially and politically constructed concept that is a central organizing principle of all social relationships. This includes the relationships between women and men, the relationships between generations and the organization of families, networks of people, education, and work, as well as preferences and values. The Generations & Gender Survey addresses gender issues throughout its wide range of topics, as the participation of partners in household tasks and child care, role in the decision making on family life, spending of household earnings and other issues related to management of family life on one hand and partnership quality, expectations and plans concerning having a partner and breaking-up with partner, attitudes towards traditional and newly introduced values - on the other.

Implemented analysis allows us to identify a specific character of Role of Man in Modern Georgian Family and to define the possible changes caused the introduction the new liberal values and attitudes in the country.

1. Child Care

Care about little children requires the considerable time and energy from parents. In families where a father is a main breadwinner and a mother is a homemaker looking after the home and family, distribution of roles between partners on child care is less acute. In the families with both parents working, stressful situations are frequently the case, as well as parents having to reconcile the family responsibilities and career face the problem of overwork and lack of time.

The surveys conducted on these issues in the industrialised countries have revealed that men, whether working or not, often do not want to share the child care tasks with their partners.

Generations & Gender Survey collected information on the distribution of childcare tasks among partners from all respondents, having a child under the age of 14 in the household.

Based on the results of the survey, all activities related to the childcare were split into three groups, according to the degree of participation of men.

Group I. In Georgia participation of men in these functions is seldom – only in the 15% of the families these functions are performed by father or father does these tasks about equally with a mother:

- a. dressing the children;
- b. putting children to bed;
- c. staying at home with the children when they are ill.

Group II. Participation of men in these activities is more frequent – in the 15 -25 % of the families in Georgia these functions are performed by father or father does these tasks about equally with a mother:

- a. helping the children with homework;
- b. taking the children to/from school, day care centres etc.

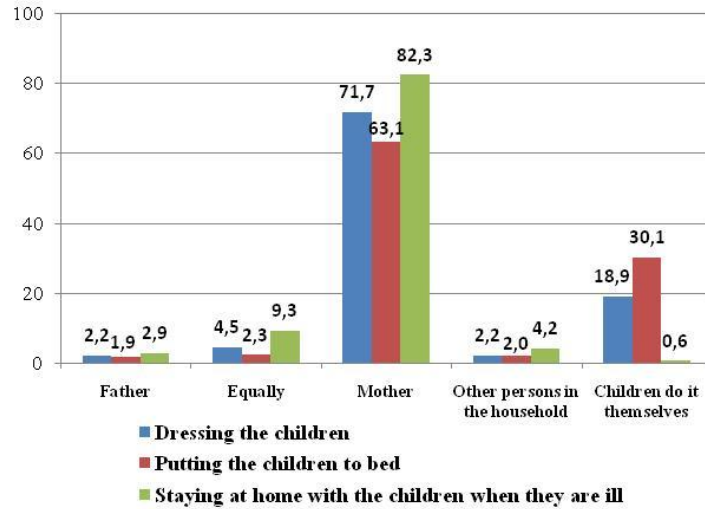
Group III. Participation of men in these activities is rather frequent – in 35 % of the families in Georgia these functions are performed by father or father does these tasks about equally with a mother:

- a. playing with the children and/or taking part in leisure activities with them.

Group I activities: The study has revealed that men in Georgia seldom get involved in the performing of the such childcare functions, as dressing the children, putting them to sleep or staying at home with the children when they are ill. In merely 3% of the interviewed families, these activities are predominantly performed by a father. Similarly a little is a number of families, where father does these tasks about equally with mother. At the same time it should be noted that the role of a father increases two-fold during the child's illness. However, in the

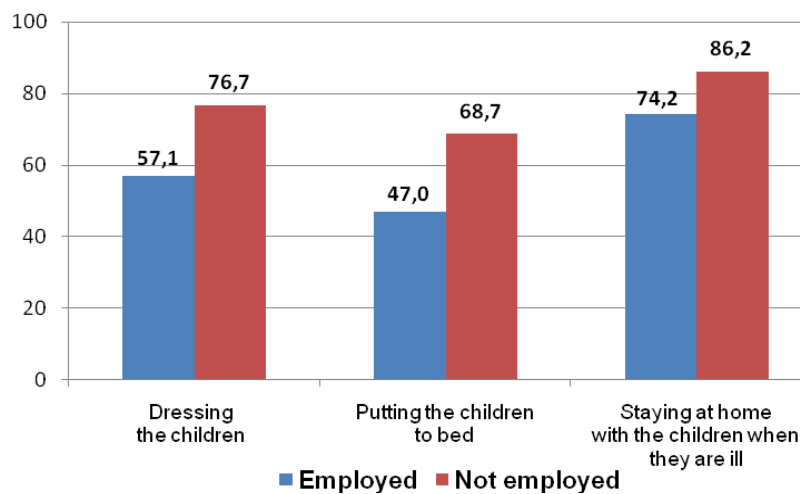
majority of families living in Georgia when children are ill there is always or usually a mother who stays at home with them.

FIGURE 1.1. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE I GROUP ACTIVITIES AMONG HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



The conducted study has shown that employed mothers in Georgia participate less in the abovementioned activities than those who do not work (See Figure 1.2). But in this case participation of father in the childcare tasks does not increase; there are other family members who perform these functions instead of mother when she works. In addition, children are also more independent when their mothers are employed. The proportion of children who are dressing and go to the bed themselves increases in such cases from 15.7% to 28.7% and 25.9% to 42.9% respectively.

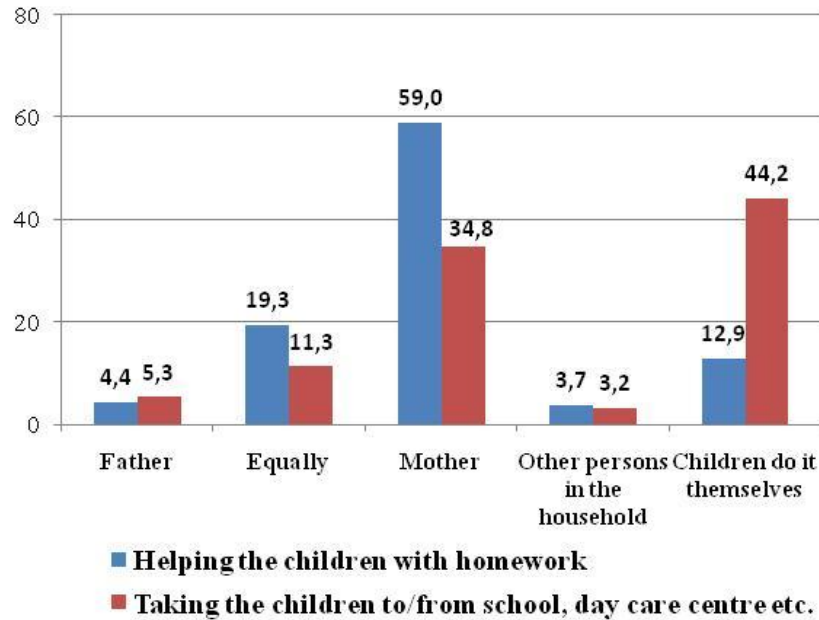
FIGURE 1.2. PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WHERE MOTHER OF CHILDREN ALWAYS OR USUALLY DOES CHILDCARE TASKS, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WOMAN



Group II activities: The study has revealed that men are more active in performing of these functions: in 25% of the families living in Georgia, fathers participate in these childcare tasks. It should be noted, that in Georgia, fathers prefer to help children with their homework than to take

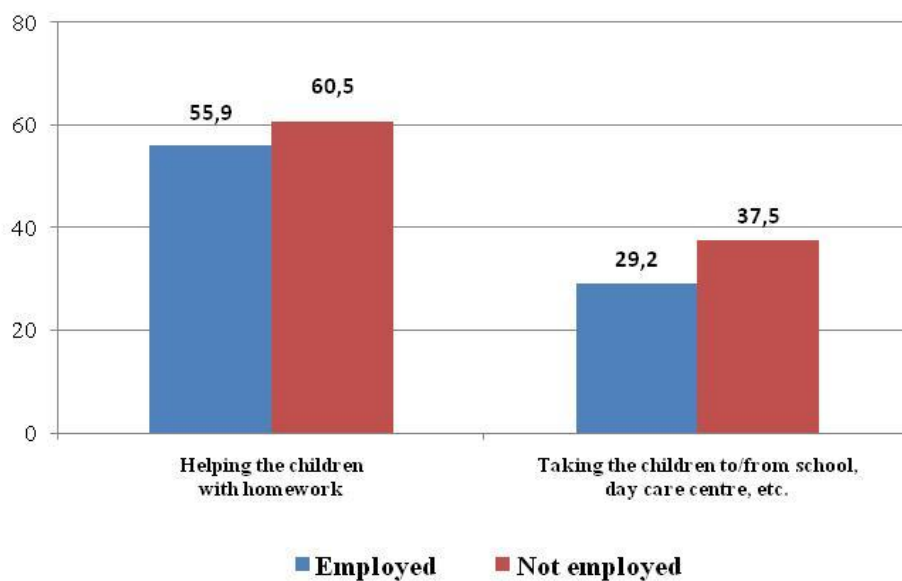
them to school, day-care etc. Though as the Figure 1.3 shows, helping child with the homework and taking children to school, day-care etc. are the tasks that still seem to be primarily mother's responsibility.

FIGURE 1.3. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE II GROUP ACTIVITIES AMONG HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



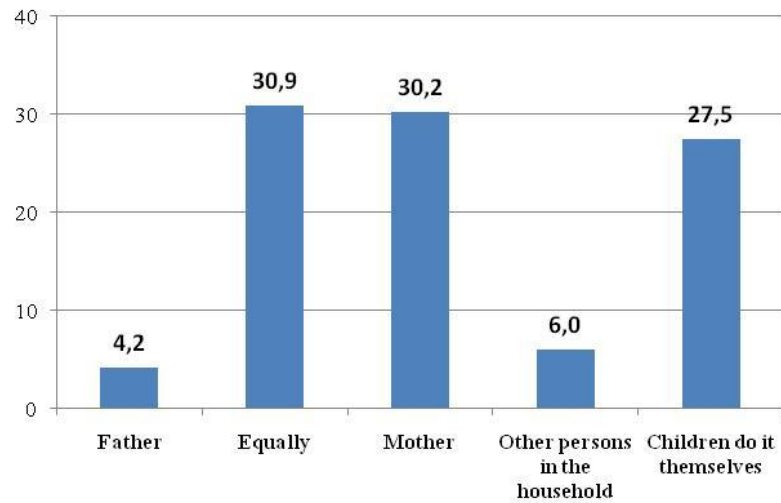
Detailed analysis of the data revealed, that employment status of mother does not considerably change her involvement in the above functions (See Figure 1.4).

FIGURE 1.4. PROPORTION OF FAMILIES WHERE MOTHER OF CHILDREN ALWAYS OR USUALLY DOES CHILDCARE TASKS, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WOMAN



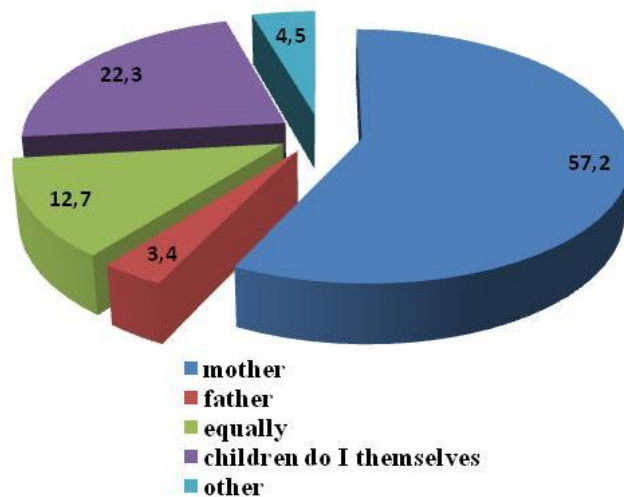
Group III activities: The study has revealed that playing with children is the only childcare task, where Georgian men are actively engaged. In 35% of the interviewed families these functions are either performed by the father, or equally shared by the parents.

FIGURE 1.5. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE III GROUP ACTIVITIES (PLAYING WITH CHILDREN AND PARTICIPATING IN LEISURE ACTIVITIES WITH THEM) AMONG HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



If we will summarize all childcare activities, the roles of the parents in performing of these functions in Georgia are distributed in the following way:

FIGURE 1.6. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL CHILDCARE TASKS AMONG HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



Generations & Gender findings have shown that observed gender inequality of partners in the childcare tasks in Georgian family is absolutely acceptable for society. Despite significant asymmetry in the distribution of functions related to childcare among partners, it seems that this gender inequality is absolutely acceptable for Georgian society. During the interview respondents were asked to evaluate their satisfaction with the way childcare tasks are divided

between them and their partners, on a scale of 10, where 0 meant complete dissatisfaction with the existing situation, while 10 an absolute satisfaction.

According to our results over 80% of men and 60% of women in Georgia are satisfied (over the score of 8) with the way childcare tasks are divided between them and their partners. The distribution of respondents by the level of satisfaction with existing distribution of responsibilities on childcare is given in the Table 1.1.

TABLE 1.1. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY THE MENTIONED VALUE FROM SATISFACTION SCALE

	Female	Male
0-4	6.5	2.5
5-7	31.5	14.3
8 and above	62.0	83.2

Although the majority of women in Georgia are in general satisfied with the existing in their family practice of childcare, the level of satisfaction of women is less than men: cumulative percentage of respondents given the low and medium assessment (under the score of 8) of satisfaction with distribution of childcare tasks between them and their partners is 2.3 times higher among females than males.

2. Partners' Participation in Household Duties

In a modern society, the number of families with the both partners employed is increasing. In this situation women's burden is increasing as well, since apart from professional responsibilities women have to perform household chores too, which can cause the conflicts and disagreement between the partners.

At the same time, the growing level of women's education, their increasing role in sustaining the family and in many cases higher earnings, result in the equal distribution of responsibilities between men and women in terms of performing household chores. In the so called egalitarian families, partners are involved fairly equally in the various household chores.

Information on the household organization collected from all interviewed respondents during the Generations & Gender Survey provides us with data on participation of men in the household duties that allows to analyse the specific matters of gender equality between partners in the Georgian family.

Based on the results of the survey, all household tasks were split into three groups, according to the degree of participation of Georgian men in them.

Group I. In Georgia participation of men in these functions is seldom –in less than 2% of the couples these functions are performed by man:

- a. preparing daily meals;
- b. doing the dishes;
- c. cleaning the house.

Group II. Participation of men in these activities is rather frequent – in 20-30% of cases, these functions for the most part are performed by men:

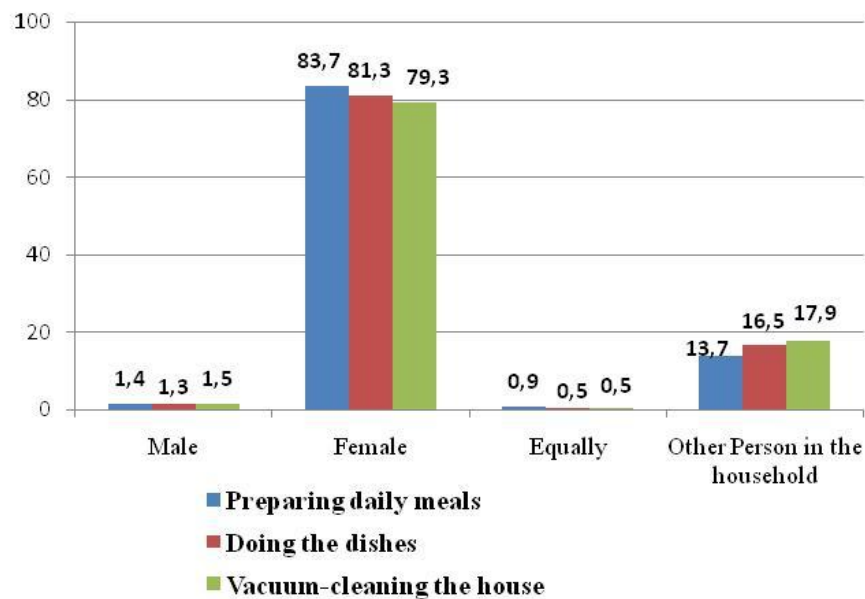
- a. shopping for food;
- b. organising joint social activities.

Group III. The level of involvement of men in these activities is quite high – in 50% of cases, these functions are primarily performed by men:

- a. doing small repairs in and around the house;
- b. paying bills and keeping financial records.

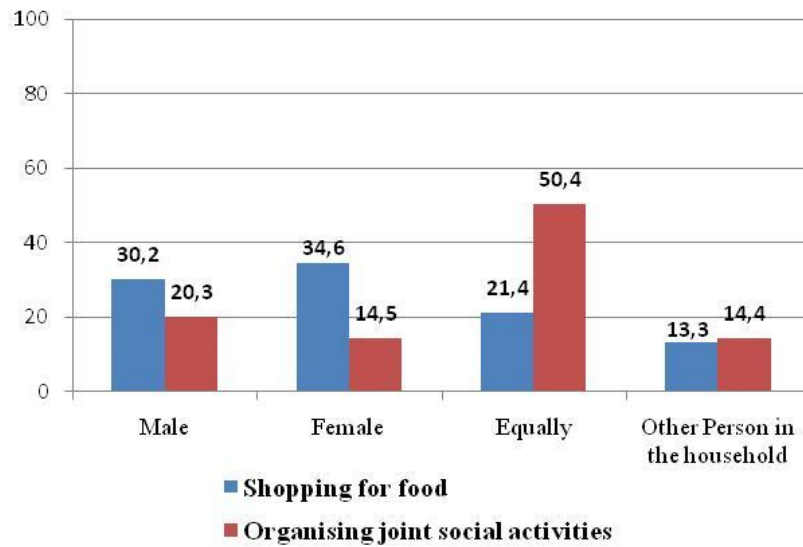
Group I Activities: Our survey has shown that in Georgia number of families where men prepare daily meals, doing the dishes and clean the house is very insignificant. These functions in the Georgian family are usually performed by women. Similarly small is the number of families (less than 1%) where these functions are equally shared between partners.

FIGURE 2.1. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GROUP I ACTIVITIES AMONG HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



Group II Activities: The survey showed that men in Georgia participate more compare with the abovementioned household tasks in the shopping for food and organising joint social activities in the family. Consequently, women's role in performing of these activities compared to other household tasks is relatively less, though in everyday shopping for food, women's and men's involvement is almost equal: in 30-35% of interviewed families this task is performing by partners about equally. In each second family in Georgia both partners are equally involved in the process of organization of joint social activities. At the same time, in this task the role of other household members is also significant: in approximately 13-14% of the extended families joint social activities are organized by other household members – couple's parents, children, etc.

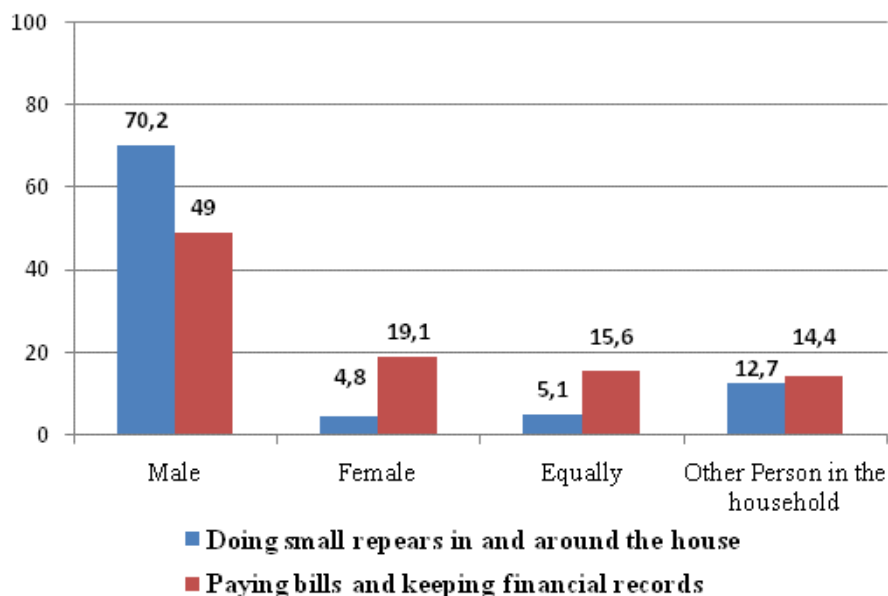
FIGURE 2.2. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GROUP II ACTIVITIES AMONG HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



Group III Activities: The survey showed that men in Georgia dominate only in the performance of the two types of activities: doing small repairs in and around the house and paying bills. All other household tasks in Georgia are mainly performed by women.

Over 70% of respondents mentioned during the interview that abovementioned group of activities in their families are performed by a man - male respondent or spouse of female respondent, in 14% of the families these functions are performed by other household members, still by a man. There are only 7% of families in Georgia where these functions are performed by any person not living in household.

FIGURE 2.3. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GROUP III ACTIVITIES AMONG HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS



In the study of gender equality between partners, particular attention is paid to how the household functions are distributed among the partners, in cases where both man and woman are employed.

Recent surveys conducted on these issues in USA and Europe has shown that women's employment does not increase the participation of men in household tasks, while employed women spend less time on household work due to the lack of time.

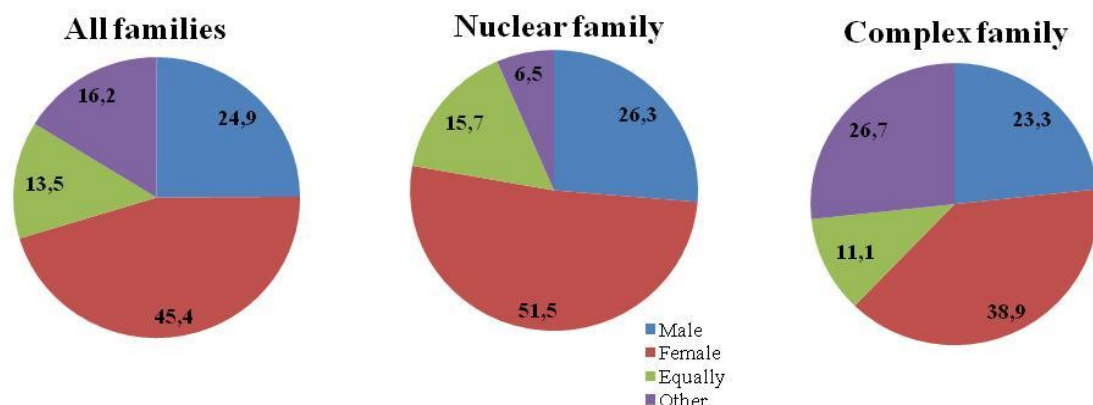
Generations & Gender Survey in Georgia confirmed these results: like in industrialized countries, in Georgia as well, women's employment does not increase her spouse's participation in household chores. At the same time according to our survey, employed women participate less in the household tasks, like preparing the daily meals, doing the dishes and cleaning the house: number of families where these tasks are performed by women is 10% less in the couples where woman works. But it should be mentioned that in such cases these activities are performed not by a woman's spouse, but by another member of the family.

It is noteworthy that in Georgia, dominant role in the performing of such household activities, as shopping for food and organising joint social activities depends on who is the breadwinner in the family. The survey showed that if a woman has a paid work, then her participation in these activities increases. At the same time, woman's role in the activities connected with the spending of the family income is lower than of a man in case when both partners have paid work.

Concerning the organising joint social activities, as noted above, it is equally performed by both partners in half of families in Georgia. But our survey has shown that in the families where respondent or his/her spouse do not have a paid job, the role of other household members in organizing of joint social activities increases twice.

If we look on the survey data characterizing the participation of men and women in Georgia in all household duties, including the ones traditionally performed by men (e.g. repairs), men's role in the family responsibilities is nevertheless small and does not exceed 25%.

FIGURE 2.4. PARTICIPATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD DUTIES (IN PERCENTAGE TO ALL INTERVIEWED FAMILIES)



In Georgian reality the nuclear families, or families consisting only partners with or without children, do not exceed 40% of the total number of households. Approximately half of the Georgian families represent the complex family, where close relatives (as parents, siblings etc.) share the same household with respondents. It is obvious that in such type of families in the household duties are also involved other family members. We have compared the distribution of

homework in nuclear and complex families, and received very interesting results: despite the findings of gender studies conducted in other countries that men are more participate in household chores when couple lives without parents, in Georgia such situation is not evident; as it is clear from Figure 2.4 men's role in household activities does not differ in two types of family and among the all families living in Georgia there is only a fourth of them where men perform the household tasks.

Despite significant asymmetry in the involvement of partners in household duties survey has shown that such gender inequality is acceptable for Georgian society. During the interview respondents were asked to evaluate their satisfaction with the division of household tasks between them and their partners, on a scale of 10, where 0 meant complete dissatisfaction with the existing situation, while 10 an absolute satisfaction. The distribution of respondents by the level of satisfaction with existing distribution of family responsibilities is given in the Table 2.1.

TABLE 2.1. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY THE MENTIONED VALUE FROM SATISFACTION SCALE

	Female	Male
0-4	5.4	1.7
5-7	28.1	17.0
8 and above	66.5	81.3

It should be noted that in Georgia, where the major burden of family care falls on women's shoulders, not only majority of men, but also two thirds of women are satisfied (over the score of 8) with such distribution of household duties in the family. This is clear evidence that in Georgia where majority of couples organize the household tasks with the strong specialization by sex this gender inequality in the family life is quite acceptable for society.

3. Partners' Role in Decision-Making

Naturally, families are different from each other according to the way they deal with the family problems, influence that men and women have on the family life and the role that partners play in the process of making decisions and management of the family.

In the traditional patriarchal families man mainly ensures family income and management's leverages are held by men. Correspondingly, in these families men independently take decisions concerning all major issues of family life: manage household income, make decisions on possible employment of the family members, etc.

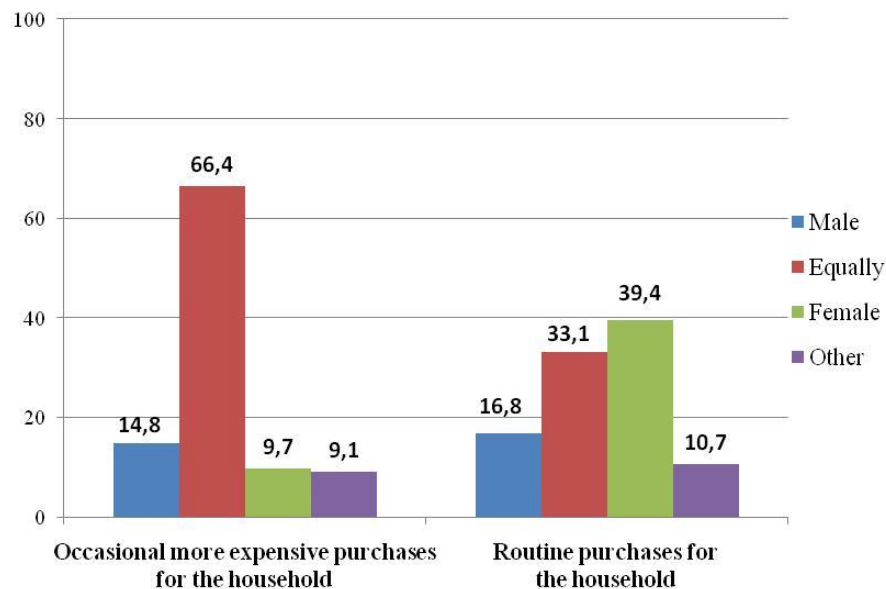
Today, in the countries with transitional economies, the number of the families with the main breadwinner being a woman has increased. Consequently in these families women's influence on the family life become more significant. There are an increasing number of families where women equally with men make decisions on domestic matters and spending of couples' earnings; in many cases many decisions on family life are independently made by a woman.

Generations & Gender Survey provides us with data characterizing the practice of making decision concerning household's purchases and family budget established between partners.

According to the survey design, all respondents, having co-resident partner, were asked, who takes the decision in their household on different issues of family life.

Figure 3.1 shows the role of men and women in Georgia in the making decision on various purchases for the household.

FIGURE 3.1. PARTICIPATION OF PARTNERS IN THE MAKING DECISION ON THE ROUTINE AND EXCEPTIONAL PURCHASES FOR THE HOUSEHOLD (%)



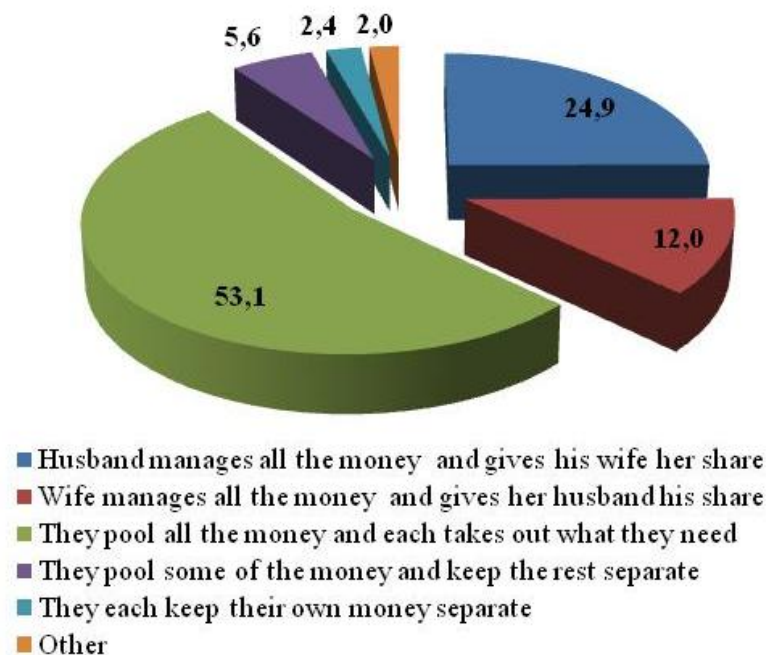
Thus, in the majority of families in Georgia, decision about purchasing of exceptional and more expensive items is usually made jointly by partners. But if we consider the families where one of the partners decides more about it, in the most of those families the decision is making by a man.

As to routine purchases for the household, women in Georgia decide more about it, which is natural, since everyday cooking is mainly women's responsibility in Georgia. However, in every third family the mentioned issue is decided jointly by partners. At the same time, in every tenth family decision about routine purchases is made by other household members, mainly parents of couple.

It is known that the established between partners practice of control of couple's earnings to a great extent defines the role of man and woman in the family management. In patriarchal type of family man manages all the money, independently makes decision concerning its spending or decides more than woman on the spending of family income, while in egalitarian type of family man and woman both, have an equal access to couple's earnings, irrespective of the contribution made by partners in the family income.

According to the survey design, all the respondents, who had co-resident partner at the time of interview, were asked, to how they organize household income. The results are given in the Figure 3.2.

FIGURE 3.2. THE ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FAMILY BUDGET
(PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INTERVIEWED FAMILIES)



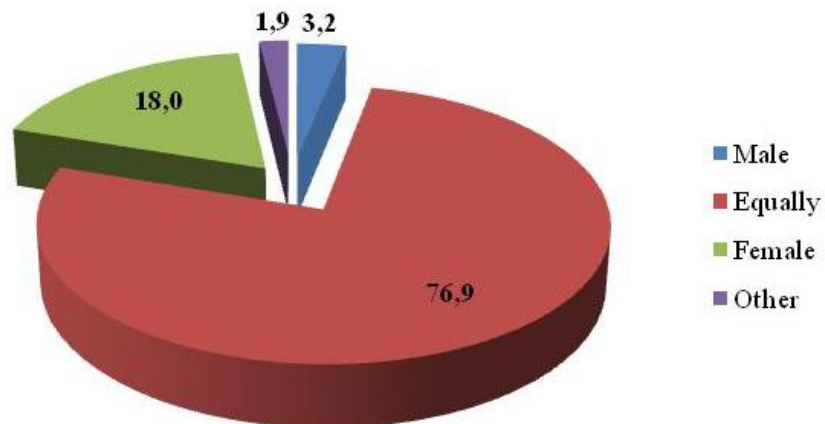
Thus, more than half of the interviewed families in Georgia are characterized by the partners' solidarity in the family management: partners pool all the money and each takes out what is needed. To some extent it may be explained by the little incomes in Georgian households. The survey indicated, that in Tbilisi, which compare to other Georgian regions is characterised by the higher economic status of the population, the proportion of families where partners pool all the money is less than in the rural areas of Georgia (45% against of 60%). Therefore, in poor families partners show more solidarity in the spending of earnings.

In every fourth family in Georgia man manages all the money and gives to partner for spending, while in only 10% of families the family budget is managed by a woman. Thus, in the families where the family budget is not managed jointly by partners (40% of the families), domination of man is twice more often than of woman.

Our survey has shown that the domination of a man in the managing of family budget diminishes with the increase of the age of respondents: while among respondents below the age of 30, the proportion of the families where man manages the family budget equals 40%, among the respondents above the age of 60 such practice of income's management does not exceed 10%. As it seems, when partners live together longer, the influence of woman on the different issues of family life increases and more significant becomes also her role in the economic management of the family.

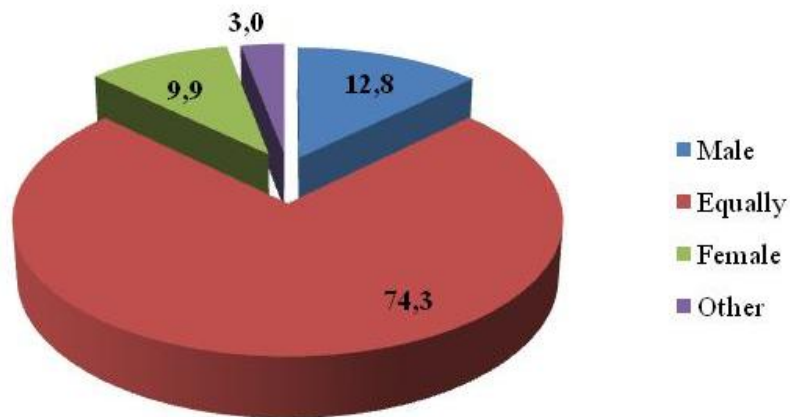
The Figures below show the established in Georgia practice of decision making on the various issues connected with the functioning of the family, as a social institute, namely: raising children, partner employment and organising leisure activities. The survey indicated that a level of solidarity between the partners is high in terms of making decision concerning children and social life: majority of families in Georgia make decisions on these issues through equal participation of both partners.

FIGURE 3.3. PARTICIPATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MAKING DECISION CONCERNING THE WAY CHILDREN ARE RAISED (PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INTERVIEWED FAMILIES)



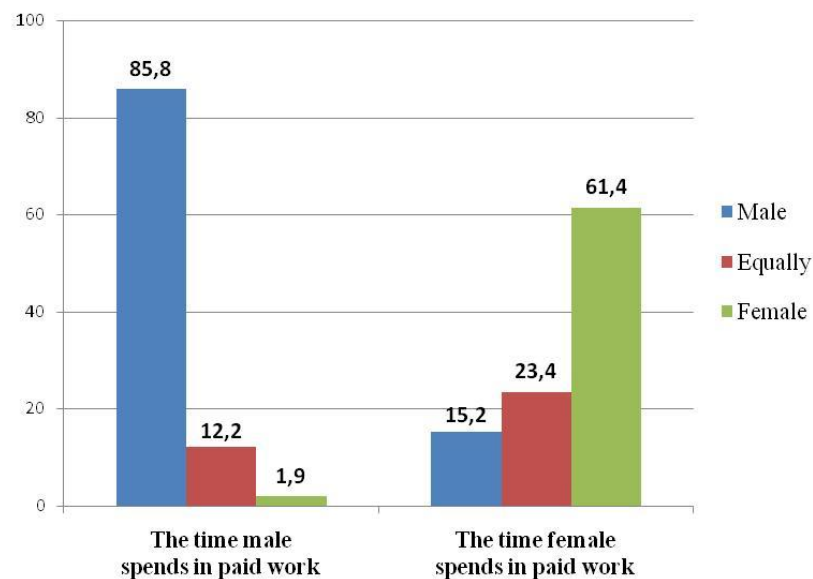
It should be noted, that in the couples where partners do not make decisions concerning children jointly, women have the leading role: families with domination of woman in the process of making decision on the way children are raised are 5 times more frequent in Georgia than those with domination of man.

FIGURE 3.4. PARTICIPATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MAKING DECISION CONCERNING SOCIAL LIFE AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES (PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INTERVIEWED FAMILIES)



Our survey has shown that in Georgian families partners mainly jointly decide how to spend a free time: three out of four respondents mentioned during the interview, that they decide on this issue about equally with partner.

FIGURE 3.5. ROLE OF MAN AND WOMAN IN THE MAKING DECISION CONCERNING THE TIME PARTNERS MAY SPEND IN PAID WORK (PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INTERVIEWED FAMILIES)



The survey indicated, that in the majority of families in Georgia partners decide themselves concerning duration of paid work. But it should be noted, that men in Georgia in this regard are more independent: number of the families where women take into consideration the husband's opinion regarding the time she can spend on the paid job, is three times more than those where men do the same.

However in Georgian families' women's role in the making decisions on family life is fairly important, and in some cases even decisive.

4. Partnership Quality

One of the decisive characteristics of the partnership quality is the frequency of disagreements between the partners on various issues and the ways of resolving them, if any. Generations & Gender Survey provides us with the data concerning these issues.

Proceeding from the findings of our survey, issues that cause disagreements between partners were combined into two groups:

Group I covered the issues which cause disagreement among the partners only in small number (approximately 5%) of families. These are: use of leisure time, sex, relations with friends, with parents and in-laws, and having children.

Group II included the issues, which cause disagreement among the partners in a more significant number of families (up to 15-25%). These are the issues related to child-raising, household

chores, money and drinking alcohol. Table 4.1 presents the results of the survey on the above mentioned issues.

TABLE 4.1. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION – “HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU HAD DISAGREEMENTS WITH YOUR PARTNER ON VARIOUS ISSUES?”

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Frequently	Very Frequently
Group I					
Use of leisure time	76.5	17.9	4.9	0.7	0.1
Relations with parents and in-laws	79.4	15.1	4.7	0.6	0.5
Relations with friends	80.2	15.1	4.0	0.6	0.1
Sex	83.4	12.2	3.7	0.5	0.1
Having children	88.4	7.4	3.1	0.9	0.1
Group II					
Household chores	42.2	37.3	17.2	2.9	0.4
Money	45.7	31.4	17.5	5.0	0.4
Child-raising issues	58.0	26.0	13.6	2.2	0.2
Drinking alcohol	62.5	20.4	12.6	3.7	0.8

In Georgian families disagreements between partners are most frequent about the household chores and money. It should also be noted, that among the respondents who said that they had disagreement with the partner about household chores, 80% said that they had disagreement regarding money as well.

More detailed analysis of the data showed, that in Georgia women more often admit to disagreements in the family, than men, while among men young people less frequently admit having disagreements with the partner. Overall, the highest frequency of partner disagreement was traced in middle aged respondents (40-60 years of age)

It should be noted, that the respondents living in rural areas are more likely to admit having disagreements with the partner, than those living in Tbilisi or other cities.

The survey provides us with data regarding various ways the partners are dealing with the disagreements in their families, which is presented in Table 4.2

TABLE 4.2. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION CONCERNING THE WAY THEY CHOOSE TO DEAL WITH THE SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN PARTNERS

How often respondents?	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Frequently	Very Frequently
Female					
Keep their opinion to themselves	11.1	21.3	31.0	30.5	6.1
Discuss disagreement calmly	3.5	12.8	24.9	50.4	8.4
Argue heatedly or shout	49.6	32.7	13.7	3.8	0.2
End up becoming violent	97.5	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.1
Male					
Keep their opinion to themselves	25.5	29.2	30.6	13.4	1.3
Discuss disagreement calmly	3.4	14.7	25.3	49.3	7.3
Argue heatedly or shout	48.1	34.6	14.2	3.0	0.1
End up becoming violent	98.7	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.0

As the table above shows, in 60% of the families on Georgia partners usually discuss disagreements when they arise calmly; 37% of the interviewed women noted, that in case of serious disagreement, they keep their opinions to themselves while only 15% of men behave in the same way. According to the survey findings, the conflict often ends up in loud argument only in 4% of the interviewed families, while the violence was reported only by less than 3% of the respondents.

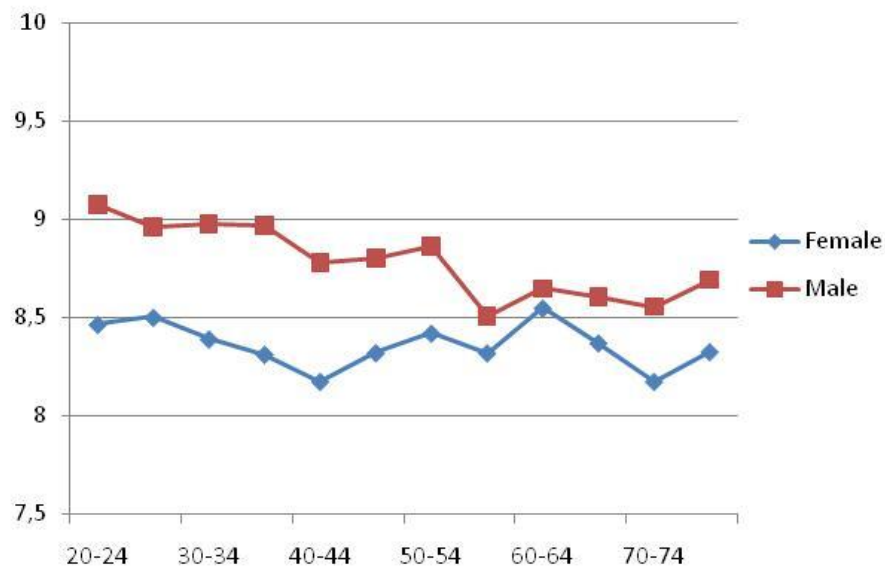
During the interview respondents were asked to evaluate their satisfaction with the relationships with partner, on a scale of 10, where 0 meant complete dissatisfaction with the relationships, while 10 an absolute satisfaction. The results are presented in Table 6.4.

TABLE 4.3. PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY THE MENTIONED VALUE FROM SATISFACTION SCALE

	Female	Male
0-4	2.8	1.3
5-7	20.5	12.9
8 and above	76.7	85.8

Thus, both men and women in Georgia are overall satisfied with relationship with their partner, though evaluation made by male respondents is a little bit more optimistic than females: 8.8 in average against of 8.3. But looking on these data by different age groups of respondents presented in Figure 4.1 we can see more significant differences.

FIGURE 4.1. MEAN VALUES OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARTNERS BY AGE AND SEX OF INTERVIEWED RESPONDENTS



Thus, the level of satisfaction with relationships among both, men and women, decreases with the increase of age of respondents. The lowest indicator among women was recorded in a group of female respondents aged 40-44 and aged 70 and above. Among men the average indicator decreases from 9.1 (at the age of 20-24) to 8.5 (after 55 years of age). It should be noted, that the latter practically remains unchanged among the men of older age.

Conclusions

The recent social changes in Georgia are accompanied by the resistance of two contrast processes: progress toward open and more human society with European style of life from one side and oriental model, inherited from the long-standing traditional values and attitudes – from the other. This resistance makes a significant impact on the relationships between partners and gender roles in the family and society.

Our research has shown that the participation of the parents in Georgia in all childcare activities, fathers' role is nevertheless small and does not exceed 3.4%. If we analysis of the survey data characterizing the participation of men and women in Georgia in all household duties, including the ones traditionally performed by men (e.g. repairs), men's role in the family responsibilities is nevertheless small and does not exceed 25%.

Despite significant asymmetry in the involvement of partners in household duties and functions related to childcare survey has shown that such gender inequality is acceptable for Georgian society.

Today, in the countries with transitional economies, the number of the families with the main breadwinner being a woman has increased. Consequently in these families women's influence on the family life become more significant. There are an increasing number of families where women equally with men make decisions on domestic matters and spending of couples' earnings; in many cases many decisions on family life are independently made by a woman.

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