

# «Student's Vision of the World»

**Intercultural Student Online Forum**

*collection of essays*

***"The role of family traditions in the formation and development of young leaders"***



Omsk, Russia

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**Foreword**

*In every conceivable manner, the family is  
a link to our past, bridge to our future*

*Alex Haley, writer*

"Family" - these are people who bring you comfort and support while also challenging each other and working through rough times. Every family has some special traditions. Family traditions are the usual family norms, behaviors, customs and attitudes that are passed down from generation to generation.

Family traditions are usually based on social, religious and historical traditions of a nation, but at the same time, they are unique for each family, being creatively transformed and supplemented with their own elements and variations. Usually we regard as family traditions some holidays, like New Year, birthdays or other days important for a certain family.

But family traditions are not only about gathering together and having fun; they are also one of the most important mechanisms for passing on the laws of interaction with the outside world to the next generations.

Family is the first social institution with which a person begins to interact. Family is the first people that begin to teach us, educate us, who help us develop our personalities and become a better version of ourselves.

This collection of essays, compiled by young people from different countries, reveal their understanding of family traditions, show the various family traditions from different corners of the world, and also describe the influence of family traditions on the formation and development of youth.

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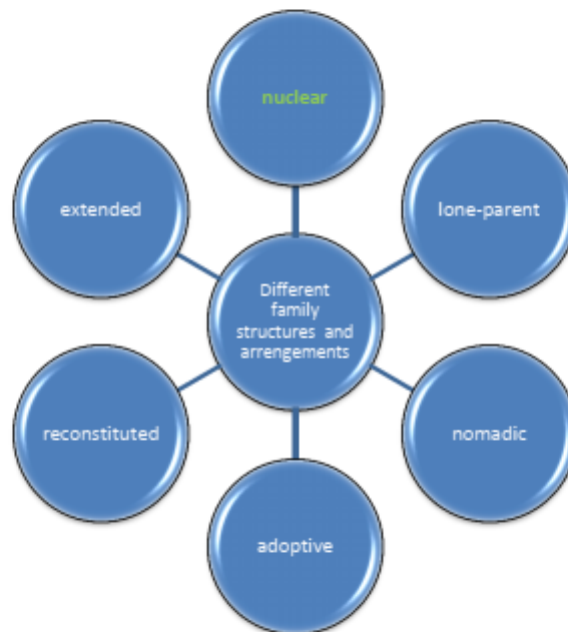
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Society is developing, radical changes are taking place in people's worldview, values, and norms are changing, the goals that people set for themselves and the means to achieve them. The traditional family ceases to correspond to these changes. Changes in society entail transformations in the institution of the family, there is a need to create a new model of it. The specificity of the modern family is determined by the following features. The modern family has changed in composition (Picture 1) — there has been a transition from an extended family to a nuclear one.



Picture 1 – Family structure

The nuclear family — a family consisting of only one or two generations living together — becomes the most typical variant of the family system. Many functions (Picture 2) performed by the family as social institutions are being modernized.



Picture 2 – Functions of families

For example, reproductive function: in a traditional family, it was believed that the family should have many children, while the number of children in a modern family is related to the personal ideas of the spouses themselves, their wishes and planned lifestyle. Increased importance in the nuclear family is attached to hobbies, the needs of both spouses, there is a focus on friendships caused by interest, communication with a wide range of relatives is no longer necessary, as it was before.

The extended family (complex) includes several generations, such a family is characterized by the management of a common household and a common budget (Picture 3).



Picture 3 – Family office

Currently, only one fifth of all married couples over the age of 30 live together with the older generation. The partner (egalitarian) family is replacing the patriarchal one, where the father was considered the head of the family and where the interests of other family members were not given special importance. The peculiarity of an egalitarian family is the lack of authority in the family, equality between a man and a woman. The educational function of the family is being transformed. If the traditional family model assumed the upbringing of children in severe discipline, the nature of which was determined by the father as the head of the family, then the modern model has more democratic conditions.