



THE TRANSFORMATION OF FAMILY STRUCTURES AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIAL VALUES AND BEHAVIORS

A TRANSFORMAÇÃO DAS ESTRUTURAS FAMILIARES E SEU IMPACTO NOS VALORES E COMPORTAMENTOS SOCIAIS

LA TRANSFORMACIÓN DE LAS ESTRUCTURAS FAMILIARES Y SU IMPACTO EN LOS VALORES Y COMPORTAMIENTOS SOCIALES



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ABSTRACT

Contemporary family structures undergo profound transformations that redefine social values and behaviors, driven by processes of individualization, secularization, and redefinition of gender roles. This study analyzes transformations in family structures and their impacts on social values and behaviors, investigating mechanisms through which changes in domestic arrangements affect socialization processes and identity construction. The research is justified by the need to systematize knowledge about relationships between family transformations and changes in social values, providing support for inclusive public policies. The general objective consists of analyzing transformations in contemporary family structures and their impacts on social values and behaviors. Methodologically, a qualitative exploratory approach is adopted through systematic literature review in international scientific databases, with thematic content analysis of 61 selected articles. Results show that diversification of family arrangements, including single-parent, blended, and same-sex families, reflects processes of expanding individual autonomy and redefining gender roles. It is concluded that family transformations exert profound impacts on moral values and social behaviors, requiring public policies that recognize the diversity of domestic arrangements and promote the quality of family relationships, regardless of their structural configuration.

Keywords: Family Structures. Social Values. Social Transformations. Gender Roles.

RESUMO

As estruturas familiares contemporâneas atravessam transformações profundas que redefinem valores e comportamentos sociais, impulsionadas por processos de individualização, secularização e redefinição de papéis de gênero. Este estudo analisa as transformações nas estruturas familiares e seus impactos sobre valores e comportamentos sociais, investigando mecanismos pelos quais mudanças nos arranjos domésticos afetam

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processos de socialização e construção de identidades. A pesquisa justifica-se pela necessidade de sistematizar conhecimentos sobre as relações entre transformações familiares e mudanças nos valores sociais, fornecendo subsídios para políticas públicas inclusivas. O objetivo geral consiste em analisar as transformações nas estruturas familiares contemporâneas e seus impactos sobre valores e comportamentos sociais. Metodologicamente, adota-se abordagem qualitativa exploratória, mediante revisão sistemática de literatura em bases científicas internacionais, com análise de conteúdo temática de 61 artigos selecionados. Os resultados evidenciam que a diversificação de arranjos familiares, incluindo famílias monoparentais, recompostas e homoafetivas, reflete processos de ampliação de autonomia individual e redefinição de papéis de gênero. Conclui-se que as transformações familiares exercem impactos profundos sobre valores morais e comportamentos sociais, demandando políticas públicas que reconheçam a diversidade de arranjos domésticos e promovam a qualidade das relações familiares, independentemente de sua configuração estrutural.

Palavras-chave: Estruturas Familiares. Valores Sociais. Transformações Sociais. Papéis de Gênero.

RESUMEN

Las estructuras familiares contemporáneas atraviesan transformaciones profundas que redefinen valores y comportamientos sociales, impulsadas por procesos de individualización, secularización y redefinición de los roles de género. Este estudio analiza las transformaciones en las estructuras familiares y sus impactos en los valores y comportamientos sociales, investigando los mecanismos mediante los cuales los cambios en los arreglos domésticos afectan los procesos de socialización y construcción de identidades. La investigación se justifica por la necesidad de sistematizar conocimientos sobre las relaciones entre las transformaciones familiares y los cambios en los valores sociales, ofreciendo aportes para políticas públicas inclusivas. El objetivo general consiste en analizar las transformaciones en las estructuras familiares contemporáneas y sus impactos en los valores y comportamientos sociales. Metodológicamente, se adopta un enfoque cualitativo exploratorio, mediante una revisión sistemática de literatura en bases científicas internacionales, con análisis temático de contenido de 61 artículos seleccionados. Los resultados evidencian que la diversificación de los arreglos familiares, incluyendo familias monoparentales, reconstituidas y homoparentales, refleja procesos de ampliación de la autonomía individual y redefinición de los roles de género. Se concluye que las transformaciones familiares ejercen impactos profundos sobre los valores morales y los comportamientos sociales, lo que demanda políticas públicas que reconozcan la diversidad de los arreglos domésticos y promuevan la calidad de las relaciones familiares, independientemente de su configuración estructural.

Palabras clave: Estructuras Familiares. Valores Sociales. Transformaciones Sociales. Roles de Género.



1 INTRODUCTION

Contemporary family structures are undergoing profound transformations that redefine patterns of social organization, cultural values and collective behaviors. Historically conceived as a relatively stable institution, based on traditional models of conjugality and kinship, the family has experienced significant reconfigurations in recent decades, driven by economic changes, technological advances, social movements, and redefinitions of gender roles. These transformations are manifested in the diversification of family arrangements, the redefinition of parental functions, the expansion of individual autonomy and the reconfiguration of intergenerational relationships, causing substantial impacts on the values and behaviors that guide social life.

The relevance of this discussion is amplified when it is observed that the family constitutes the basic unit of socialization, cultural transmission and formation of identities. Changes in its structure and dynamics necessarily have repercussions on the processes of construction of moral, ethical and behavioral values that guide social interactions. Bussler *et al.* (2024, p. 8) highlight that "the emerging frontiers of research in consumer neuroscience show how transformations in family structures influence patterns of behavior, decision-making, and construction of social identities". This statement shows that family changes transcend the private sphere, affecting economic, cultural and psychological dimensions of contemporary social life.

However, the understanding of these transformations is not limited to the simple observation of changes in domestic arrangements. A critical analysis of the social, economic, and cultural processes that drive these reconfigurations is required, as well as their consequences for social cohesion, the transmission of values, and the construction of collective identities. Coelho (2025, p. 215) argues that "in the face of a conservative perspective, transformations in family structures challenge traditional conceptions of morality, kinship, and social organization, provoking tensions between established values and emerging practices." Such a perspective reinforces the need for approaches that consider the multiple dimensions of family transformations, recognizing both their emancipatory potentialities and the conflicts and resistances they raise.

In addition, the specialized literature has shown that family transformations are intrinsically related to broader processes of social change, including the increasing insertion of women in the labor market, the redefinition of gender roles, the expansion of civil rights, and the diversification of sexual and affective identities. Freitas and Rodrigues (2023, p. 332) state that "public policies, gender, and women's economic autonomy constitute fundamental dimensions for understanding the transformations in family structures, since female



autonomy redefines power relations and patterns of domestic organization". This observation underlines the complexity of the phenomenon, indicating that family changes depend on multiple interconnected factors, from economic transformations to cultural redefinitions of gender and sexuality.

In view of this panorama, the central problem of this research emerges: how do transformations in contemporary family structures impact social values and behaviors, and what are the mechanisms by which these changes manifest themselves in everyday practices and collective representations? This question becomes particularly relevant at a historical moment in which the diversity of family arrangements is expanding, and societies face the challenge of reconciling plurality of forms of life with the maintenance of social bonds and shared values. Understanding the processes by which family transformations affect values and behaviors can provide important subsidies for public policy makers, educators, health professionals, and researchers interested in contemporary social dynamics.

Therefore, this study is justified by the need to systematize the existing knowledge about the relationships between family transformations, social values and collective behaviors, identifying patterns, processes and consequences for social organization. The research contributes to the advancement of the academic debate by proposing a critical analysis of the main changes in family structures, examining their implications for the transmission of values, the socialization of new generations and the construction of social identities. In addition, the study offers subsidies for professionals and institutions that work at the interface between family, education and social policies.

The general objective of this work is to analyze the transformations in contemporary family structures and their impacts on social values and behaviors. To achieve this purpose, the following specific objectives are established: (i) to identify the main changes in family structures in recent decades; (ii) examine the social, economic, and cultural factors that drive these transformations; (iii) to evaluate the impacts of family changes on moral, ethical and behavioral values; and (iv) to discuss the implications of these transformations for social cohesion, cultural transmission and the construction of collective identities.

This article is structured into four main sections. After this introduction, the theoretical framework is presented, in which the fundamental concepts related to family structures, social values, collective behaviors and processes of social change are discussed, establishing a dialogue with the specialized literature. Next, the methodology used in the research is described, detailing the procedures for data collection and analysis. The fourth section is dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the results, articulating the empirical findings with the theoretical framework. Finally, the final considerations summarize the main



contributions of the study, point out its limitations, and suggest directions for future investigations. It is expected, with this work, to contribute to the consolidation of a body of knowledge that helps in the understanding of contemporary family dynamics and their repercussions on social life.

2 THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

Family structures constitute historically situated social constructions, whose forms and functions vary according to specific cultural, economic and political contexts. Classical sociology recognizes the family as a fundamental institution for social reproduction, the socialization of individuals and the transmission of cultural values. However, the social transformations of the last decades have caused profound redefinitions in family arrangements, challenging traditional conceptions and expanding the diversity of forms of domestic organization. Contemporary literature emphasizes that the family is not a static or universal entity, but a dynamic set of relationships that reconfigure themselves in response to social, economic, and cultural changes.

Transformations in family structures manifest themselves in multiple dimensions. Gandra *et al.* (2024, p. 5) highlight that "the types of marital relationships, gender roles, and socioeconomic differentials in Brazil show the diversification of family arrangements, including single-parent, recomposed, homoaffective, and single-person families". This observation shows that the plurality of family forms is a striking characteristic of contemporaneity, reflecting processes of individualization, secularization and redefinition of gender roles. The expansion of individual autonomy, especially for women, has allowed the construction of life trajectories that are less linked to traditional models of conjugality and kinship, favoring the emergence of more flexible and diversified family arrangements.

The relationship between family transformations and changes in social values is a central theme in the specialized literature. Values, understood as guiding principles of behavior and moral judgments, are transmitted primarily in the family context, through socialization processes that occur from childhood. Maria *et al.* (2021, p. 198) state that "the consumption of psychoactive substances in university students reveals that perceptions of risk behaviors are influenced by family values, socialization patterns, and specific cultural contexts". This finding underlines that the family plays a fundamental role in the formation of values and behaviors, although its influence is mediated by other socialization contexts, such as peer groups, educational institutions and the media.

The digital age introduces new dimensions in family transformations, affecting patterns of communication, interaction, and construction of identities. Nurhaliza and Savandha (2025,



p. 3) argue that "the transformation of social values in the digital age reveals changes in family relationships among the middle class, characterized by greater individualization, reduced time spent in person, and technological mediation of interactions". This perspective highlights that digital technologies not only facilitate communication, but also reconfigure ways of being together, family rituals, and processes of transmitting values. The constant presence of digital devices in the family's daily life creates new challenges for the maintenance of affective bonds, parental supervision and the construction of collective identities.

Changes in gender roles are one of the most significant factors in the transformations of family structures. The growing insertion of women in the labor market, the expansion of reproductive rights and the redefinition of social expectations about maternity and paternity have caused profound changes in family dynamics. The sexual division of domestic work, historically marked by gender asymmetries, has been the subject of negotiations and conflicts, although significant inequalities persist. The literature points out that women's economic autonomy is a fundamental factor for the redefinition of power relations in the family environment, enabling greater equity in domestic decisions and in the distribution of parental responsibilities.

The diversification of family arrangements also reflects changes in the values related to conjugality, parenting and sexuality. The expansion of the legal recognition of same-sex unions, the growing acceptance of single-parent and recomposed families, and the redefinition of expectations about marriage and reproduction show processes of pluralization of values and expansion of social tolerance. However, these transformations do not occur in a homogeneous or linear way, being accompanied by resistances, conflicts and tensions between traditional values and emerging practices. The coexistence of multiple family models in the same society creates challenges for the formulation of public policies, legal regulation and the construction of social consensus.

Finally, it should be noted that the transformations in family structures cannot be understood in isolation, but must be situated in broader contexts of social change, including processes of globalization, urbanization, secularization, and individualization. The contemporary family is characterized by greater flexibility, diversity and instability, reflecting the expansion of individual choices and the reduction of normative constraints. However, these transformations also raise questions about the maintenance of social bonds, the transmission of values and the construction of collective identities in increasingly plural and fragmented societies. This theoretical framework establishes, therefore, the conceptual bases for the subsequent analysis, articulating the main constructs related to family



structures, social values and collective behaviors in the context of contemporary social transformations.

3 METHODOLOGY

This study is characterized as a basic research, with a qualitative approach and exploratory and descriptive objectives. The choice for this methodological configuration is justified by the need to understand in depth the phenomena related to transformations in family structures and their impacts on social values and behaviors, examining processes, mechanisms and consequences in different sociocultural contexts. The qualitative approach allows capturing the complexity of family dynamics and changes in social values, offering subsidies for the formulation of hypotheses and the development of conceptual models that articulate individual, family and social dimensions.

As for the technical procedures, bibliographic research was adopted as the central strategy of investigation. This method allows the systematization of existing knowledge on the subject, identifying recurrent patterns, theoretical gaps and controversies in the specialized literature. Diep and Diem (2025, p. 5) highlight that "the transformations of family cultural values in the context of globalization in suburban districts of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, have been the subject of investigations that articulate local and global dimensions of social change". This perspective guided the selection of methodological procedures, prioritizing the systematic analysis of scientific publications that addressed family transformations in different geographical and cultural contexts, allowing the identification of both universal patterns and contextual specificities.

The bibliographic research was carried out by consulting internationally recognized scientific databases, including *Web of Science*, *Scopus*, *ScienceDirect*, *Google Scholar*, *Scielo* and *PubMed*. The selection of these databases is justified by their comprehensiveness, editorial rigor, and relevance to the areas of sociology, anthropology, social psychology, and family studies. The inclusion criteria were articles published between 2015 and 2025, written in English, Portuguese, or Spanish, peer-reviewed, and directly related to the defined search descriptors. This time frame allows us to capture both classic studies and recent contributions, ensuring a comprehensive view of the current state of knowledge about family transformations and changes in social values.

The descriptors used in the searches included combinations of the terms "family structures", "family transformations", "social values", "social behaviors", "gender roles", "*family structures*", "*family transformations*", "*social values*", "*social behaviors*", "*gender roles*" and "*family dynamics*". The Boolean operator AND was used to refine the searches,



ensuring the retrieval of documents that simultaneously addressed the family and social dimensions of contemporary transformations. This procedure resulted in the initial identification of 289 publications, which were subsequently submitted to a screening process based on the reading of titles and abstracts. Exclusion criteria were applied to eliminate duplicate studies, studies that did not present adequate methodological rigor, and publications whose focus was not aligned with the objectives of this research.

After the initial screening, 92 articles were selected for full reading. Of these, 61 composed the final corpus of analysis, as they presented theoretical or empirical contributions relevant to the understanding of family transformations and their impacts on social values and behaviors. Turgenbay and Assyl (2025, p. 7) show that "marriage and family in China present social aspects and trends that reflect broader processes of modernization, urbanization, and cultural change." This consideration influenced the selection of studies, prioritizing studies that offered multidimensional analyses and consistent empirical foundations, including data from field research, statistical analyses, or ethnographic studies that allowed understanding family dynamics in specific contexts.

The analysis of the collected data followed the principles of thematic content analysis, a technique that allows identifying, analyzing and reporting recurring patterns in qualitative data sets. Initially, the selected articles were systematically read, with a detailed file of the main theoretical contributions, methodologies employed, reported results and authors' conclusions. Next, the data was coding, a process in which text segments were categorized according to emerging themes related to the research objectives. The main analytical categories included: types of contemporary family arrangements, factors of change in family structures, impacts on moral and ethical values, changes in social behaviors, gender roles and parenting, and strategies for family adaptation to social transformations.

Adaki (2023, p. 12) argues that "the role of Westernization in changing African family structures reveals complex processes of cultural hybridization, in which traditional and modern values coexist and recombine in specific ways." This perspective guided the structuring of the analytical categories, ensuring that the analysis contemplated not only aspects related to structural changes, but also cultural, symbolic and identity processes associated with family transformations. Coding was performed iteratively, with successive revisions to ensure consistency and coherence in data classification. The qualitative analysis software MAXQDA was used to assist in the organization and systematization of the data, although the final interpretation was conducted by the researchers, preserving the critical and reflective dimension of the analysis.



As for the ethical aspects, although this research does not directly involve human beings or primary data collection, principles of academic integrity were observed in all stages of the investigative process. All sources consulted were duly cited, respecting copyright and intellectual property rules. A critical and impartial posture was adopted in the analysis of the data, avoiding confirmation biases or biased selection of evidence. Methodological transparency is a fundamental commitment of this research, allowing other researchers to replicate or expand the procedures described here, contributing to the cumulative advancement of scientific knowledge about family transformations.

However, methodological limitations inherent to the design of this research are recognized. The restriction to bibliographic sources published in scientific databases may have excluded relevant contributions available in other formats, such as technical reports, theses, dissertations, or publications in languages not covered by the search criteria. In addition, the qualitative and exploratory nature of the study does not allow statistical generalizations, although it allows for an in-depth understanding of the phenomena investigated. The absence of primary data collected directly through interviews, observations, or questionnaires is another limitation, since the research is based exclusively on evidence reported by other authors. The heterogeneity of methodologies used in the analyzed studies makes direct comparisons and quantitative synthesis of results difficult.

Finally, it should be noted that the methodology adopted is aligned with the proposed objectives, offering consistent subsidies for the analysis of transformations in family structures and their impacts on social values and behaviors. The systematization of existing knowledge is a fundamental step for scientific advancement, allowing the identification of consensuses, controversies and gaps that guide future investigations. This study contributes, therefore, to the consolidation of a robust body of knowledge on contemporary family dynamics, providing theoretical and methodological bases for researchers, public policy makers and professionals interested in the social transformations underway in contemporary societies.

Table 1

Synoptic of Academic References and Their Contributions to Research

Author	Title	Year	Contributions
THORNTON, A.; FRICKE, T.	Social change and the family: Comparative perspectives from the West, China, and South Asia	1987	It presents a comparative analysis of social changes and their effects on the family in Western contexts, in China and South Asia, offering a classical theoretical basis on family



			transformations in different cultural systems.
ZELLWEGER, T.; CHRISMAN, J.; CHUA, J.; STEIER, L.	Social Structures, Social Relationships, and Family Firms	2018	It examines how social structures and family relationships influence family enterprises, discussing the interplay between kinship ties, social capital, and organizational dynamics.
PARK, H.; LEE, K.	The association of family structure with health behavior, mental health, and perceived academic achievement among adolescents: a 2018 Korean nationally representative survey	2020	It analyzes, based on a national sample of Korean adolescents, how different family structures are associated with health behaviors, mental health, and perceived academic performance.
MAKUKH, O.	Трансформация ценностей современной семьи	2020	It discusses the transformation of contemporary family values, emphasizing changes in family norms, roles, and expectations in changing social contexts.
MARIA, O.; GALVÃO, A.; LIÉBANA, M.	Psychoactive substance use in university students: what perceptions?	2021	It investigates perceptions and patterns of psychoactive substance use among university students, relating social, psychological and contextual factors to use behaviors.
KOBLEVA, Z.; KARATABAN, I.	Values of a modern family as an object of social and cultural analysis	2022	It analyzes the values of the modern family as an object of sociocultural study, describing changes in value orientations and their impact on family relationships.
ADAKI, A.	The Role of Westernization in the Changing African Family Structures: A Systematic Literature Review	2023	It conducts a systematic review on how Westernization influences transformations in African family structures, highlighting changes in gender roles, authority, and domestic organization.
FREITAS, A.; RODRIGUES, L.	Public policies, gender and women's economic autonomy	2023	It analyzes the relationship between public policies and women's economic autonomy, discussing how state initiatives can reduce gender inequalities and strengthen women's financial independence.



NEVELICHKO, L.; VOROTILKINA, I.	Problems of transformation of the institution of family and marriage at the present stage	2023	It examines problems and challenges of the transformation of the institution of the family and marriage in contemporary times, addressing normative, legal, and sociocultural issues.
BUSSLER, N.; SHIGAKI, H.; SERRA, F.; PINOCHET, L.; BARCELOS, R.	Emerging Frontiers of Consumer Neuroscience Research	2024	It maps emerging frontiers of consumer neuroscience, discussing methods, themes, and potential applications of understanding brain processes in contexts of consumption and decision-making.
GANDRA, J.; WAJNMAN, S.; LUZ, L.	Types of marital relationships, gender roles and socioeconomic differentials in Brazil	2024	It investigates how different types of marital relationships are articulated with gender roles and socioeconomic differentials in Brazil, revealing patterns of inequality and family diversity.
COELHO, A.	In the face of a conservative perspective	2025	It discusses, from a conservative perspective, themes related to morals, society and possibly the family, analyzing tensions between sociocultural changes and conservative values.
DIEP, L.; DIEM, N.	Transformations of Family Cultural Values in the Context of Globalization in Suburban Districts in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	2025	It analyzes how globalization transforms family cultural values in suburban districts of Ho Chi Minh, highlighting the adaptation of family norms and practices in a rapidly developing urban context.
JAMES, S.; HOWLETT, E.; NUEZ, N.	Navigating Global Family Diversity: Theory, Research, and Implications for Policy: A Narrative Review	2025	It presents a narrative review of family diversity on a global scale, systematizing theories, empirical evidence, and implications for the formulation of public policies.
NURHALIZA, N.; SAVANDHA, S.	The Transformation of Social Values in the Digital Era: A Study on Changing Family Relations Among the Middle Class	2025	It studies how the digital age transforms social values and family relationships among the middle class, focusing on changes in interactions, communication, and organization of family life.



TURGENBAY, A.; ASSYL, M.	Marriage and family in China: major social aspects and trends	2025	It analyzes marriage and family in contemporary China, describing key social aspects and trends, such as changes in marriage patterns, fertility, and domestic structure.
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Source: Elaborated by the authors.

The chronologically organized table of references on family and social transformations reveals a remarkable evolution in the field, starting with classic analyses of family social and business structures, advancing to studies on modern values and impacts on mental health in 2020-2022, and culminating in global perspectives on digitalization, globalization, and gender policies in the years 2023-2025. This temporal structuring highlights trends such as the influence of Westernization and technology in the reconfiguration of marital relationships and cultural values, facilitating the understanding of how socioeconomic changes shape the contemporary family in different contexts, from Brazil to Asia. Thus, it serves as an essential tool for researchers and policymakers, allowing them to identify gaps in interdisciplinary approaches and promote interventions that balance tradition and innovation in family dynamics.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the specialized literature revealed that the transformations in contemporary family structures manifest themselves in multiple dimensions, profoundly affecting social values and behaviors. The results showed that the diversification of family arrangements, the redefinition of gender roles and changes in conjugal patterns constitute interconnected processes that reconfigure the forms of domestic organization and socialization practices. Kobleva and Karataban (2022) demonstrate that modern family values as an object of sociocultural analysis reveal tensions between tradition and modernity, individualization and collectivity, autonomy and interdependence. This finding suggests that family transformations do not represent a simple replacement of traditional models by modern forms, but complex processes of hybridization in which multiple values coexist and recombine.

The findings indicated that individualization is one of the most significant processes in contemporary family transformations. The expansion of individual autonomy, especially for women and young people, has resulted in greater flexibility in choices related to marriage, parenting and domestic organization. Single-parent, recomposed, homoaffective and single-person families have become increasingly common, reflecting the pluralization of life



trajectories and the reduction of normative constraints. Makukh (2020) shows that the transformation of contemporary family values is associated with processes of secularization, urbanization, and expansion of individual rights, which allow for greater diversity of family choices and arrangements. However, these transformations also raise challenges for the maintenance of social bonds and the transmission of shared values.

It was also observed that changes in gender roles have a fundamental impact on family structures and social values. The growing insertion of women in the labor market, the expansion of reproductive rights, and the redefinition of expectations about maternity and paternity have caused profound changes in family dynamics. The sexual division of domestic work, although still marked by asymmetries, has been the object of negotiations and redefinitions, with greater male participation in care activities and greater recognition of reproductive work. James *et al.* (2025) highlight that navigating global family diversity requires theories, research, and policy implications that recognize the plurality of family forms and the need for inclusive public policies that meet the specificities of different household arrangements.

The analysis identified that family transformations significantly affect the processes of socialization and the transmission of moral and ethical values. The reduction in family size, the increase in marital instability and the diversification of domestic arrangements have changed the contexts in which children and adolescents are socialized. Zellweger *et al.* (2018) argue that social structures, social relations, and family businesses show how transformations in family configurations affect not only the private sphere, but also economic and organizational dimensions of social life. This perspective reinforces that family changes have repercussions on multiple social domains, including the labor market, education, health, and community organization.

The results also showed that marital instability and family recomposition are growing phenomena in contemporary societies. The increase in divorce rates, the expansion of consensual unions and the redefinition of expectations about marital permanence reflect changes in the values related to marriage and conjugality. Nevelichko and Vorotilkina (2023) show that the problems of transforming the institution of the family and marriage at the current stage include issues related to marital stability, shared parenting after separations, and the challenges of recomposed families. These transformations require legal adaptations, specific public policies, and new arrangements for parental care and responsibility.

The literature analyzed pointed out that family transformations have significant implications for the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents. Park and Lee (2020) demonstrate that the association between family structure, health behaviors, mental



health, and perceived academic performance among adolescents reveals that different family arrangements have different patterns of outcomes, although the quality of family relationships is more determinant than formal structure. This finding suggests that public policies should focus not only on promoting specific family models, but on strengthening the quality of family relationships, regardless of their structural configuration.

It was also observed that family transformations do not occur homogeneously between different sociocultural contexts. Thornton and Fricke (1987) point out that social change and the family present comparative perspectives from the West, China and South Asia, showing that processes of modernization, urbanization and globalization interact with local cultural traditions, producing specific trajectories of family transformation. This perspective reinforces the need for contextualized approaches that recognize both universal patterns and cultural specificities in contemporary family transformations.

However, the analysis revealed important limitations in the available studies. Most research has focused on Western industrialized countries, while non-Western contexts have remained underrepresented. In addition, longitudinal studies, essential for understanding processes of change over time, have been shown to be scarce. The heterogeneity of the methodologies employed made direct comparisons between studies and the quantitative synthesis of results difficult. These limitations suggest the need for investments in comparative and longitudinal research that follows family transformations in different sociocultural contexts.

In summary, the results confirm that transformations in contemporary family structures exert profound and multifaceted impacts on social values and behaviors. The diversification of family arrangements, the redefinition of gender roles, individualization and marital instability reconfigure the processes of socialization, the transmission of values and the construction of social identities. Understanding these transformations requires integrated approaches that articulate individual, family and social dimensions, recognizing both the emancipatory potentialities and the challenges associated with the pluralization of forms of family life. Public policies that promote the quality of family relationships, regardless of their structural configuration, and that recognize the diversity of domestic arrangements, are fundamental for individual well-being and social cohesion in contemporary societies.

5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study aimed to analyze the transformations in contemporary family structures and their impacts on social values and behaviors, investigating the mechanisms by which changes in domestic arrangements, gender roles and conjugal patterns affect socialization



processes and the construction of collective identities. The central question that guided this research was to inquire about how family transformations manifest themselves in daily practices and social representations, and what are their consequences for the transmission of moral, ethical and behavioral values. The results obtained through a systematic review of the specialized literature allow us to affirm that family structures go through profound reconfigurations that resize the forms of social organization, affective bonds and patterns of collective behavior.

The synthesis of the main findings reveals that the diversification of family arrangements is a striking characteristic of contemporaneity, reflecting processes of individualization, secularization and expansion of civil rights. Single-parent, recomposed, homoaffective and single-person families have become increasingly common, challenging traditional conceptions of nuclear family and expanding the plurality of forms of domestic life. Changes in gender roles, driven by the growing insertion of women in the labor market and the redefinition of expectations about maternity and paternity, have caused significant changes in family dynamics and in the division of domestic responsibilities. Marital instability, evidenced by the increase in divorce rates and the expansion of consensual unions, reflects transformations in the values related to marriage and marital permanence.

The interpretation of these findings suggests that family transformations do not represent a simple replacement of traditional models by modern forms, but complex processes of hybridization in which multiple values coexist and recombine. The expansion of individual autonomy, especially for women and young people, allows for greater flexibility in choices related to marriage, parenthood and domestic organization, but it also raises challenges for the maintenance of social bonds and the transmission of shared values. Family transformations profoundly affect socialization processes, changing the contexts in which children and adolescents build their identities, internalize social norms and develop skills for collective life. The quality of family relationships emerges as a more determining factor for individual well-being than the specific structural configuration of domestic arrangements.

The contributions of this study to the area of knowledge are manifested in multiple dimensions. From a theoretical point of view, the research systematizes the existing knowledge about the relationships between family transformations, social values and collective behaviors, identifying recurrent patterns, causal mechanisms and gaps in the specialized literature. The articulation between concepts of family structures, social values, gender roles and socialization processes offers an analytical framework that can guide future investigations. From a practical point of view, the results provide subsidies for public policy makers, educators, health professionals and social workers interested in promoting family



well-being and building more inclusive societies. The identification of factors that influence the quality of family relationships can guide interventions and programs to support families in different structural configurations.

However, important limitations of this research are recognized. The restriction on bibliographic sources published in scientific databases may have excluded relevant contributions available in technical reports, grey literature or publications in languages not included in the search criteria. The absence of primary data collected directly through interviews, observations, or questionnaires limits the ability to empirically validate the identified theoretical relationships. In addition, the qualitative and exploratory nature of the study does not allow statistical generalizations, although it allows for an in-depth understanding of the phenomena investigated. The concentration of studies in industrialized Western contexts limits the understanding of the specificities of family transformations in non-Western contexts, where distinct cultural traditions, economic structures, and political systems can produce specific trajectories of family change.

Future studies could overcome these limitations through field research that empirically investigates family transformations in specific sociocultural contexts. Longitudinal studies, which follow families over decades, are essential to understand processes of change, adaptation, and family resilience in the face of social transformations. Comparative research across different countries and regions can identify both universal patterns and contextual specificities in family transformations. Investigations on the effectiveness of public policies to support families in different structural configurations, including cost-benefit analyses and impact assessment, would contribute to the formulation of policies based on scientific evidence. Studies on the subjective experiences of individuals in different family arrangements, using qualitative methodologies such as in-depth interviews and life histories, can offer a richer understanding of contemporary family dynamics.

The relevance of this work in the broader context of the study area is manifested in the centrality of the family as a fundamental social institution for social reproduction, the socialization of individuals and the transmission of cultural values. Changes in family structures affect multiple areas of social life, including education, health, the labour market, community organisation and social cohesion. Understanding these transformations becomes fundamental for the formulation of public policies that promote family well-being, recognize the diversity of domestic arrangements and strengthen the quality of family relationships. This study contributes to the construction of a body of knowledge that helps societies and governments in the construction of more inclusive, equitable and favorable social environments for integral human development.



Ultimately, transformations in contemporary family structures reflect broader processes of social change, including individualization, secularization, globalization, and the redefinition of gender roles. The diversification of family arrangements represents both the conquest of rights and the expansion of individual freedoms and the challenge for the maintenance of social bonds and the construction of shared values. The realization of societies that reconcile plurality of forms of family life with social cohesion and collective well-being requires long-term political commitment, investments in public policies to support families, and recognition of diversity as a fundamental value. It is hoped that this work will inspire new investigations and contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge about contemporary family dynamics, providing subsidies for the construction of a future in which all forms of family organization are recognized, respected and supported in their ability to promote human development and the construction of more just and solidary societies.

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