

FINAL CONFERENCE of the WELLCHI NETWORK

FAMILY CHANGE AND SOCIALIZATION OF THE NEW GENERATIONS. THE CASE OF SPAIN

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**Objective: Present some of the results of a research project
about how are changing generational relations among
Spanish families**

Structure of the presentation

- Introduction about family change in Spain**
- Objectives and operationalization**
- Data**
- Results**
- Conclusion**

Introduction:

With somewhat different paths and characteristics, family live in Spain is knowing also a profound change characterized by:

1. A pluralization of family forms

1.1 Though marriage continues to be the preferred form to give “stability” to a common live project, cohabitation is also growing slowly but steadily:

% of women in a consensual union among women in a union

	20 to 49	20-24	25-29
1981	1	2	1
2003	8	49	23

1. A pluralization of family forms

1.2 Divorce rates also, though lower than in other western countries, follows the same path:

	1991	2004
% of separations per 100 marriages	18	37

1.3 Dual earner families are also more and more frequent, particularly among skilled or semi-skilled population:

50 % of dualparents families with children less than 18 were dual earner in 2004

2. The erosion of the patriarchal family and the emergence of the “negotiating family”:

2.1 Negotiation of the gender roles among partner/spouses

According to women	Housework	Childcare	Education
Man does 0 - 20 %	52	25	18
Man does 21 - 40 %	13	11	6
Man does 41 – 60 %	29	58	73
Man does 61 – 100 %	7	5	3
TOTAL	100	100	100

2.2 Negotiation of the “generational roles”, where norms, obligations and spaces of autonomy are negotiated, sometimes explicitly, mostly implicitly.

Objetives:

The objective of the presentation is to show how this process of family change has affected the socialization process inside the family.

Dimensions to be considered:

- Values which parents would like to transmitt
- Involvement in the formal education
- Education in equal gender roles through children´s involvement in housework
- (Co)decision power in main areas of family and private life
- Individualization of use of free time during the weekends
- Conflict among generations
- Parental role overload

Data:

Methodology: Telephone survey

Target population: parents of children aged 10 to 18 living in Spain

Interviewed person: one of the parents

Unit of analysis: relationship between parents and a focus child and selfevaluation as parent

Sample size: 1.000

Geographical area: Spain

Period: april 2004

Results.

MOST IMPORTANT VALUES TO BE TRANSMITTED TO CHILDREN

	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
INDIVIDUAL LEVEL				
Independence	29	45	55	35
Determination, perseverance	27	33	29	29
Feeling of responsibility	80	84	89	82
Imagination	22	27	21	24
Hard work	43	46	42	44
TRADITIONAL VALUES				
Religious faith	25	20	13	23
Spirit of sacrifice	11	9	4	9
Obedience	52	45	42	50
Thrift, saving money and things	34	35	17	34
SOCIAL VALUES				
Good manners	89	86	88	88
Tolerance and respect for other people	81	81	81	81
Sample size	443	216	48	659

Source: European Values, 1999

IMPLICATION OF PARENTS IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN

	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
Control: % of parents who supervise if children study, do their homework, etc				
10-12 años	86	72	75	77
13-14 años	68	62	66	64
15-16 años	74	60	47	66
17-18 años	50	51	51	51
% of parents who do not supervise even if their children have not passed 1 or more exams	13	14	17	14
Support: % of parents who support actively their children helping with homework, etc.	67	73	65	69
School succes: % of children who have passed all the exams	49	56	43	51

EDUCATION IN EQUAL GENDER ROLES: CHILD IMPLICATION IN HOUSEWORK

	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
Male child				
Child does nearly anything	57	40	35	47
Child makes his room and his bed and some other minor housework	36	51	55	45
Child makes his room and his bed and Helps cleaning the house	7	8	10	8
Total	100	100	100	100
Female child				
Child does nearly anything	39	32	27	34
Child makes his room and his bed and some other minor housework	54	57	49	55
90Child makes his room and his bed and Helps cleaning the house	7	12	25	11
Total	100	100	100	100

INDIVIDUALIZATION OF THE USE OF FREE TIME: % OF CHILDREN WHO GO OUT ON THEIR OWN WITH FRIENDS DURING THE WEEK END

	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
10-12 years old				
Male child	37	21	40	29
Female child	22	20	40	22
13-14 years old				
Male child	64	54	65	60
Female child	67	72	58	68
15-16 years old				
Male child	75	84	67	79
Female child	90	95	70	90
17-18 years old				
Male child	89	91	100	92
Female child	94	92	91	92

INDIVIDUALIZATION OF DECISION POWER: DEGREE OF CODECISION POWER OF CHILDREN

	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
Male child				
Parents have the last say in general but clothes and TV time	61	61	52	60
Parents tend have the last say but children have more autonomy	28	26	33	28
Child has a great deal of codecision and autonomy	12	13	15	12
Total	100	100	100	100
Female child				
Parents have the last say in general but clothes and TV time	66	56	41	59
Parents tend have the last say but children have more autonomy	25	34	25	29
Child has a great deal of codecision and autonomy	9	11	35	12
Total	100	100	100	100
Simple size	342	305	90	745

INDIVIDUALIZATION OF DECISION POWER: DEGREE OF CODECISION POWER OF CHILDREN				
	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
10-14 years old				
Parents have the last say in general but clothes and TV time	84	81	69	80
Parents tend have the last say but children have more autonomy	14	16	20	16
Child has a great deal of codecision and autonomy	3	3	11	4
Total	100	100	100	100
15-18 years old				
Parents have the last say in general but clothes and TV time	50	38	33	43
Parents tend have the last say but children have more autonomy	35	43	35	38
Child has a great deal of codecision and autonomy	15	19	33	19
Total	100	100	100	100
Simple size	342	305	90	745

CONFLICT AMONG GENERATIONS				
	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
Male child				
Families without conflict	53	62	49	57
Families with relative frequent quarrels mainly on manners, housework and learning.	37	29	38	34
Families with frequent conflicts on all considered topics	9	9	13	9
Total	100	100	100	100
Female child				
Families without conflict	61	54	59	58
Families with relative frequent quarrels mainly on manners, housework and learning.	29	42	27	35
Families with frequent conflicts on all considered topics	10	4	14	8
Total	100	100	100	100
Sample size	443	216	48	659

SOCIALIZATION OVERLOAD OF THE FAMILIES:

Percentage of parents who agree with following statements

	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families	Total
Children are a problem you can never manage	28	24	32	27
Whatever the effort you do, at the end children will grow up as they want	42	35	51	40
Nowadays children do not respect their parents	44	39	49	42
For me, it is enough if children grow up healthy	40	33	38	37
I would have preferred not to have children	5	4	13	5

DIMENSIONS OF THE SOCIALIZATION PROCESS

	One earner families	Dual earner families	One-parent families
Values to transmit to the children	Traditional & Citizenship	Individual & Citizenship	Individual & Citizenship
Co-decision power of children	-	+	++
Individualization of free time use	+	-	+
Gender equality through			
1. housework	Male -	Male +	Male ++
2. Free time use	Male -	Male -	unclear
3. Co-decision power	Male +	Male -	Male --
Involvement in formal education:			
4. control	+	-	+
5. support	-	+	-
6. success	-	+	--
Intergenerational conflicts	-	-	+
Educational overload	+	-	++

Conclusion

Family change has not implied an erosion of the socialization abilities of the new family forms.

Though one-parent families are more frequently overloaded and are more often confronted with intergenerational conflicts than other types of families.

In any case nearly all parents are satisfied with their parental role and are proud to be parents.

Though different forms of families have different socialization styles and stress the importance of different kind of values, the “negotiating family” is the dominant type of family

