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Transforming the role of modern family: Ethical Challenges

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Abstract: The research is aimed to explain the transforming role of modern family and outline the existing ethical challenges. The research is to achieve the following objectives: description of the concept of family within the society; explanation of the characteristics and functions of modern family; presentation of the ethical challenges that family members face; and revealing the changes characterizing the family in future. To conduct the research, four theoretical approaches were used: conceptual, empirical, interdisciplinary, ethical and normative. The sample involved 112 participants aged 24-73 representing 98 households from four different regions of Ukraine (Khmelnitskyi, Kyiv, Odesa, and Sumy). The data was collected through online questionnaires, one-to-one interviews, focus group discussions, and secondary data. The data was analyzed using the interpretive synthesis that created a comprehensive understanding of the problem. The findings showed that modern families are characterized by diverse structures, changing social norms, shared parenting, different gender roles as well as increasing multiculturalism. The functions of modern family relate to socialization, emotional support, economic stability, cultural and religious transmissions across generations, long-term care planning, civic responsibility, formation of ethical values, and community engagement. The ethical challenges refer to integration of digital technology, work-life balance, gender equality, generation gaps, cultural diversity, the adoption of eco-friendly practices, and equity. The changes of family in future include the increased recognition and acceptance of diverse family structure, technology integration, work-life integration, changes related to economics, growing emphasis on sustainable living practices, increased mobility, changing social norms and values, and the necessity of building resilience during uncertainty. The research on the transforming the role of modern family has significant implications for the social understanding and adaptation to the changing family dynamics. Practically, this research emphasizes the necessity for the development of the educational programs to help family members cope with the challenges above-mentioned.

Keywords: micro-society, emotional support, cultural diversity, technology, gender roles

Introduction

Modern society is experiencing significant transformations associated with the development of economic, scientific and technical potential. At the heart of social development there lies the natural institution of the family (Ganiyeva, 2022). A number of native and foreign researchers state the fact of the crisis of its traditional form, which is the result of the development of the entire system of social relations, which created the need for a qualitatively different family organization (Sharlamonov & Petreska, 2022; Sliusar, 2023). These deep transformations are manifested as the emergence of new types of families, the increase in the number of out-of-wedlock births, and divorce rates. The family, as a complex social phenomenon, requires the special attention in modern times due to its foundational role in formation of individual identities and social structures. Families are the primary social units where individuals first learn values, norms, and behaviors, making them integral instrument for the enhancement of social capital and creates the basis for civic community (Ganiyeva, 2022).

The modern family is undergoing the rapid changes due to globalization and digitalization (Weerarathna et al., 2022). On the one hand, globalization has increased mobility and allows family members to live and work in different parts of the world. These families maintain relationships across borders, using digital communication tools to stay connected despite physical distances. This shift has redefined traditional family roles, as technology enables real-time interaction, creating a sense of presence despite geographical separation. On the other hand, digitalization has profoundly impacted the structure and functioning of modern families. In addition, the rise of digital economies and remote work has blurred the lines between home and work life, affecting work-life balance. The constant connectivity required in the digital economy can create a so-called “always-on” culture, adding stress and reducing the quality of family interactions.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on families worldwide, fundamentally altering daily routines, relationships, and economic stability (Malaczewska & Malaczewski, 2022; Weerarathna et al., 2022). Firstly, the widespread lockdowns and social distancing measures forced families to spend unprecedented amounts of time together at home. This sudden shift intensified the dynamics within households, leading to both positive and negative outcomes. Secondly, the economic consequences of the pandemic had a substantial impact on family finances. Many families faced job losses, reduced income, and economic uncertainty, leading to financial strain and anxiety. Acting as a catalyst for significant changes in work arrangements, and economic conditions, COVID-10 highlighted both vulnerabilities and resilience within households.

The realities of modern Ukrainian society are quite complex and uncertain. Ukrainians are losing not only their material wealth, but life and personal values are changing in their minds (Kruty et al., 2023). Actually, war has a profound and multifaceted impact on the institution of family in Ukraine, disrupting social structures, economic stability, and psychological well-being. The immediate and most devastating effect of war is the physical separation and loss of family members. Many families are torn apart as individuals are displaced, seek refuge in other regions or countries, or join the military.

Also, war significantly disrupts the economic stability of families. The economic tensions lead to altered family roles, with women and children sometimes taking on new responsibilities to support the household, further complicating traditional family dynamics. According to Sliusar (2023), continuous exposure to violence, displacement, and loss leads to high levels of stress, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Additionally, the social fabric of communities is weakened as families lose their support networks, leading to increased isolation and vulnerability.

Obviously, the functioning of the modern family is accompanied by several ethical challenges that originated from the changing social norms, technological advancements, and economic uncertainty (Sharlamonov & Petreska, 2022; Weerarathna et al., 2022). They relate to the strong influence of digital technology in family life raises significant ethical concerns related to privacy and digital security. Families increasingly rely on digital devices for communication, entertainment, and education, which often involves sharing personal information online.

Moreover, as work increasingly interferes on personal and family time, families face the ethical issue of maintaining boundaries to ensure quality interactions and emotional support. Other challenges concern divorce, change of gender roles, single parenthood, blended family, and balancing individual freedom of expression with family harmony. Naturally, such a number of challenges raise the problem of fostering the ethical awareness within families through cultivating values such as honesty, respect, responsibility, and empathy within the household. Ferraro and Cristiano (2021) state that these values form the foundation for healthy relationships and effective communication in the modern conditions as well as contribute to the supportive and harmonious environment.

Research Problem

The notion of family typically refers to a group of individuals who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, or cohabitation (Beer, 2022; Ganiyeva, 2022). Families share emotional bonds and often reside together, providing mutual support, care, and socialization. The concept of family varies culturally and can include nuclear, extended, blended, and chosen families (Eerola, Paananen, & Repo, 2021; Kane, 2019). In philosophical context, the family extends beyond biological or legal definitions to encompass broader notions of relationships, and social roles (Kraus, 2020). Philosophers explore the family as a fundamental unit of society that shapes individual identity, moral development, and social structures. Family in philosophy often involves examining the ethics and dynamics within familial relationships, the impact of family structures on personal autonomy and identity formation, and the role

of family in transmitting cultural values and traditions across generations (Hämäläinen, Chen, & Zhao, 2019).

The current philosophical literature states that the role of family is significant as it serves as a foundational unit for exploring fundamental aspects of human existence, ethics, and social organization (Kraus, 2020). Family provides a primary context where individuals first encounter moral values, social norms, and cultural practices. Historically, philosophers emphasized the family's role in transmitting virtues such as compassion, justice, and devotion, which are essential for ethical behavior (Kramer, 2021). The family environment forms the individuals' identity and moral development, influencing how they understand the relations and society. The problems of parental authority, children's rights, and family responsibilities are discussed in the works of Bellettini, Berti Ceroni, Cantoni, Monfardini, and Schafer (2023).

Modern philosophical perspectives on the functioning of family include the questions of ethical implications of the balance between family duties and personal freedoms, gender roles, child education (Bellettini et al., 2023). Modern philosophy also addresses the diversity of family configurations (Hämäläinen et al., 2019). Some researches explore the ethical implications of blended families, same-sex parenting, chosen families, and alternative kinship arrangements (Eerola et al., 2021). According to Zeng, Yang, and Man (2022), an intergenerational conflict poses a significant ethical challenge within modern families as differing values, perspectives, and expectations between generations can lead to tensions and misunderstandings. This challenge arises from social changes, technological advancements, and evolving cultural norms that shape the beliefs and behaviors of different age groups. Ethical dilemmas emerge when conflicting views on issues like education, career choices, marriage, and lifestyle preferences create barriers to mutual respect and understanding (Ganiyeva, 2022).

Certain investigations name domestic violence as a profound ethical challenge within modern families by violating fundamental principles of human dignity and justice (PenzeyMoog & Slakoff, 2021). Philosophers explore the abuse of power and the infringement upon victims' rights to safety, the moral obligations of family members and society in general. In addition, modern families face the problems related to cultural and religious diversity (Knoblauch, 2023; Lin et al., 2022). This often involves balancing respect for different cultural and religious identities with the finding the mutual understanding and harmony.

Studying the Ukrainian context of the problem, it was found some aspects were revealed. For instance, Slozanska, Stelmakh, and Krynytska, (2022) define the vulnerable families and the present the moral considerations to ensure support, respect for autonomy, and the promotion of well-being within such family. The process of formation of moral values among modern Ukrainian citizens due to their connection with the outside world as well as the variety of social relations was described by Kruty et al. (2023). Borodenko and Sitarchuk (2022) presented the concept of family through the religious perspective. Some findings are devoted to the practices of marital and family partnership and their post-modern interpretations (Yatsyna, 2020).

It is worth mentioning that situations of uncertainty and war correlate the phenomenon of modern family in the Ukrainian scientific discourse. The impact of COVID1-19 was significant for divorce rates and marital relationships because of the increase stress, changing priorities, and economic factors. At the same time, the pandemic introduced new challenges and ethical considerations for how families navigate health, safety, relationships, and social responsibilities (Malaczewska, & Malaczewski, 2022). Averianova and Voropaieva (2020) investigated the transformations of the collective identity of Ukrainian citizens after the Revolution of Dignity, and the special attention was paid towards re-remembering their family histories. Besides, a number of works describe the Ukrainian family in the

conditions of war, particularly moral challenges shaped by the extreme circumstances of conflict, displacement, and survival (Sliusar, 2023).

Therefore, the problem of transformations of modern family and ethical challenges they face is significant for philosophical research as it reveals the fundamental questions about human relationships, moral obligations, and the nature of justice within the complex dynamics of family life. Philosophical examination of the ethics of family addresses a number of issues such as parental authority, children's rights, gender roles, and offers the possibility to analyze how ethical principles such as autonomy, kindness, honesty, and fairness apply within the family, challenging traditional assumptions and exploring new ethical frameworks of family relationships.

Research Focus

While numerous scientific works explored the philosophical phenomenon of family and the ethics of family functioning (Borodenko & Sitarchuk, 2022; Hämäläinen et al., 2019), the problem of transformation of modern family and the ethical challenges it presents is especially important in today's rapidly evolving society. As families undergo significant changes due to globalization, technological advancements, and shifting cultural norms, traditional structures and roles are being redefined (Weerarathna et al., 2022). These transformations bring new ethical questions that require careful examination. The COVID-19 pandemic further demonstrated the urgency of these ethical challenges, highlighting the need for resilience and adaptability within the household during crisis (Malaczewska & Malaczewski, 2022). War and socio-economic problems in Ukraine necessitate a deeper understanding of how families maintain the integrity and support in adversity (Sliusar, 2023).

Obviously, the investigations related to modern family characteristics and transformations, ethical challenges, and philosophy of human relationships within the household is important for enhancing the understanding of the family as a fundamental social unit and for improving broader social relations. Philosophically, examining these transformations deepens the interpretation of the concepts such as autonomy, justice, and moral responsibility within the intimate context of family life. This may help to address the contemporary issues like gender equality, mutual respect, and digital privacy within the family.

Research Aim and Research Questions

The research aim is to explain the transforming role of modern family and outline the ethical challenges it faces nowadays in order to estimate the changing trends of the family in the society of future.

The research is to answer the following questions:

- 1) How is the concept of family understood within the society?
- 2) What are the characteristics and functions of modern family?
- 3) What ethical challenges do the family members face nowadays? What are the reasons for these challenges?
- 4) What changes will characterize the family in future?

Theoretical Overview

In the scientific literature there are many interpretations of the family. Firstly, the family is defined as a micro-society, a small-scale social system that mirrors the broader dynamics and structures of larger

societies (Krainatee, Dhammasaccakarn, & Sungkharat, 2020; Slozanska et al., 2022). Within this intimate unit, members interact through established roles, norms, and relationships, forming a cohesive and interdependent group. The family provides emotional support and economic cooperation, fostering a sense of belonging and identity (Žerebecki, van der Vliet, & Kneer, 2022). As a micro-society, the family possesses all the qualities of social organization, including interactions and decision-making processes, conflict resolution, and collaboration (Bellettini et al., 2023).

Also, the family is seen as a social institution that plays a significant role in the organization and functioning of society (Kraus, 2020). This approach often focuses on external factors of the functioning of family, such as social norms, economic conditions, and politics, influence family life. Some findings interpret the family from the cultural and historical perspective (Kramer, 2021). In this context the family is a cultural construct, where family practices and roles vary by culture, tradition, and historical events (Kane, 2019).

In philosophy, families are categorized based on various criteria that reflect their structure, function, and principles of functioning (Hämäläinen et al., 2019). The literature analysis shows that the types of families include nuclear family, extended family, blended family, single-parent family, same-sex family, and chosen family (Eerola et al., 2021; Kane, 2019). Nuclear family includes two parents and their biological or adopted children living together. It is often called the traditional family where the roles, authority, and moral education are important (Svatenkova, 2022; Sullins, 2021). Extended family has relatives beyond the nuclear family; it focuses on intergenerational relationships, collective living, and the broader social support network (Vogt, 2019). Blended family is formed when one or both partners in a marriage have children from previous relationships (Perry & Fraser, 2020).

Philosophical issues here include orientation towards complex relationships, step-parenting ethics, and the integration of different family cultures (Schaefer, Gatrell, & Radcliffe, 2020). Single-parent family consists of one parent raising their children alone (Gupta & Kashyap, 2020). This type of family raises questions about the distribution of parental responsibilities, social support, and the impact on children's development (Schaefer et al., 2020). Currently, there is a phenomenon when same-sex couples raise children. These same-sex families center around the issues of equality, the definition of marriage and family, and the social and legal recognition (Drabble et al., 2021; Prakasha, 2023). And chosen family related to the group of individuals who are not biologically related but choose to form a family-like bond based on mutual support (Jackson Levin et al., 2020; Kim & Feyissa, 2021).

At the same time, it is necessary to reveal the characteristics of modern family. According to Eerola, Paananen, and Repo (2021), diverse structures since modern families come in various forms that take in the contemporary society. Unlike the more traditional explanation of the family as a nuclear unit consisting of parents and children, modern families exhibit a variety of structures that reflect changing social norms, legal recognition, and personal choices (Vogt, 2019). Gender roles in modern families refer to the roles, responsibilities, behaviors, and expectations traditionally associated with men and women within the household (Chen, Tang, & Saba, 2023). In recent decades, these roles have changed significantly and it has become one of the long-lasting characteristics (Chen et al., 2022).

Other characteristics include flexibility and adapting to changing circumstances such as job relocation, remote work, and varying childcare arrangements; the use of digital technology in daily life that transformed communication, entertainment, education, and work; increased mobility; emphasis on personal fulfillment and self-actualization within the family context (Daks, Peltz, & Rogge, 2022). Tram, Wojda, and Anderson (2021) differentiate cultural and ethnic diversity reflecting the increasing multiculturalism and globalization of the contemporary society. In addition, some scholars indicate that

more families adopt the model of shared parenting where both parents actively participate in raising children, promoting gender equality and collaborative decision-making (Merson, Tuffin, & Pond, 2023).

Studying the functions of modern family is important for the analysis of trends in socialization, economic cooperation, education, and health that influence social development (Morrissey et al., 2020). Also, the knowledge of family functions informs policies and interventions aimed at supporting family well-being and social welfare (Chernyak, 2022). The research related to the functions of modern family reflects diverse values, traditions, and experiences (Russell, Ganong, & Beckmeyer, 2022). And it addresses the social challenges such as aging populations, healthcare access, caregiving responsibilities, and environmental sustainability. Obviously, understanding family functions helps to identify the changes and develop the innovative solutions to promote family resilience and social progress (Aivalioti & Pezirkianidis, 2020; Zhang, Huang, & Yang, 2023).

The findings show that the functions of the modern family concern emotional support, socialization of a child, and economic stability through shared budgeting (Leung, Mukerjee, & Thurik, 2019). Knoblauch (2023) states that the family provides cultural and religious transmissions across generations and brings a sense of identity and continuity with cultural roots. And Wang and Luo (2022) consider modern families navigate the challenges of aging populations, long-term care planning, civic responsibility, ethical values, and community engagement.

At the same time, modern family faces some ethical challenges that require individuals to engage in moral reasoning and critical thinking (Syahira & Qudsyi, 2021). Addressing ethical challenges contributes to the development of societal norms and ethical standards that work for the common good. These challenges refer to work-life balance, gender equality, digitalization, generation gaps (Bellettini et al., 2023; Weerathna et al., 2022). Han, Lee, & Kim (2022) enumerate the following challenges of modern family: ethical considerations about quality of life, diverse cultural practices within the household, and adoption of eco-friendly practices. Some scholars emphasize the importance of ensuring equity, accessibility, and support for family members with disabilities or PTSD promoting inclusion when every family member feels valued, respected, and fully integrated into family life (Thompson-Hollands et al., 2022).

The problem seems particularly important during war when a large number of men and women joined the army and were wounded. Here, it is important to consider the ethics of marriage and divorce that concerns a set of moral principles and considerations guiding the individuals and society through the complexities of marital relationships and separation (Kalmijn, 2020). Considering the number of ethical challenges of modern family, it is important to systematize the scientific data on the transforming role of modern family and reveal the ethical challenges the family members may face nowadays.

Research Methodology

General Background

The research on the ways of transforming modern families and the ethical challenges facing the family members was designed according to four theoretical approaches: conceptual, empirical, interdisciplinary, ethical and normative (Kampourakis, 2019; Zach, 2019). The conceptual approach enabled to examine the family as a philosophical concept and build the logical structure of notions related to the topic to clarify their definitions, assumptions, and implications. The empirical approach used empirical methods such as observations and interviews to integrate the empirical evidence with philosophical understanding of the problem. the interdisciplinary approach facilitated the using of methodologies from other disciplines (philosophy, psychology, education, sociology, politics, and

anthropology) to reveal the complex questions on transforming the institution of family under the modern conditions.

And the ethical and normative approach investigated the moral principles, values, and ethical frameworks of modern family as well as analyzed the normative knowledge to outline the ethical challenges typical for family relationship. Table 1 shows the reasons of selecting the theoretical approaches above-mentioned.

Table 1

Selection of the theoretical approaches within the research

Approach	Reasons for selection
Conceptual approach	Clarification and definition of the key terms and concepts; Explanation of the assumptions and implications related to the concepts; Critical evaluation of philosophical beliefs and practices concerning the modern family. Ethical reflection of the values, norms, and ethical principles relevant to family life.
Empirical approach	Providing the empirical evidence and data that support the philosophical theories and arguments about the modern family; identification of the main trends and patterns that are typical for modern family structures; Development of possible practical interventions related to the modern family.
Interdisciplinary approach	Development of a more comprehensive understanding of the complex problems on family roles, ethical challenges of modern family, gender equality, parenting rights, and intergenerational relationship; Providing the diverse perspectives and methodologies for studying the family; Facilitation of the comparative studies across cultures and societies.
Ethical and normative approach	Evaluation of the existing social practices concerning the modern family critically; Making the ethical and normative analysis of the family context; Contribution to the moral development of society regarding family roles and responsibilities.

Source: authors' own development.

Sample and Participants

The sample involved 112 participants aged 24-73 representing 98 households from four different regions of Ukraine (Khmelnitskyi, Kyiv, Odesa, and Sumy). When selecting participants, several factors were considered. They included diversity (different socioeconomic, ethnic, and religious backgrounds); family type (nuclear, single-parent, blended, and extended families); age; gender; educational level of family members; geographic locations, including urban, suburban, and rural areas. All participants were willing and able to engage in the research since the voluntary participation is important for obtaining honest and accurate data. Table 2 shows the demographic data of the survey participants.

Table 2

Demographic data of the survey participants

	Category	Number
Age	24-30	12
	31-40	35
	41-50	43
	51-60	10
	61-70	8

	71 and above	4
Gender	Male	46
	Female	66
Educational level	Secondary school	3
	Bachelor's	53
	Master's	47
	PhD	9
Region	Khmelnyskyi	14
	Kyiv	38
	Odesa	41
	Sumy	19
Geographic location	Urban	32
	Suburban	58
	Rural	22
Family type	Nuclear family	31
	Single-parent family	18
	Blended family	46
	Extended family	17
Socioeconomic background	Lower	12
	Middle	75
	Upper-class	25
Ethnic background	Ukrainian	82
	Polish	13
	Bulgarian	5
	Russian	8
	Tatar	4
Religious background	Orthodox	93
	Catholic	15
	Muslim	4
Voluntary participation	Yes	112
	No	0
Received the details about the survey	Yes	112
	No	0

Source: authors' own development.

Instruments and Procedures

The data was collected through online questionnaires and one-to-one interviews via phone or online platforms find out the participants' perceptions on the transformations of modern family and the ethical challenges they face. The interviews were reordered for accurate transcription that allowed the researchers to focus on the conversation rather than being distracted by trying to write everything down. As a result, the interview was carried out as a natural process.

Also, focus group discussions were facilitated to verify the participants' answers and present the objective outcomes. The secondary data was collected on the basis of official institutional reports, online databases and archives as well as media resources to provide the additional context and depth to the research findings. Table 3 describes the instruments used during the research.

Table 3

The organizational details of application of research instruments

Instrument	Period	Organizational details
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Online questionnaire	February, 2023	Included 22 close-ended questions with predefined response options; Included the following topics: Changes in family roles and dynamics, Parenting styles and responsibilities, Work-life balance, Impact of technology on family life, Influence of socio-economic factors, Effects of social policies on family transformations, Problem facing family members; Google Forms were selected to conduct the questionnaire; The questionnaire was distributed through the list of e-mails; The special attention was paid towards participants' anonymity and confidentiality.
One-to-one interview	March-April, 2023	Using Zoom or Microsoft Teams for the interview; Consisted 15 open-ended questions; Demanded the availability of a quiet, private location free from distractions; Removal of any identifying information from the transcript to maintain confidentiality of participants,
Focus group	April, 2023	Creation of the dynamic and interactive environment where participants discussed the research problem; A skilled facilitator was essential to guide the discussions.
Secondary data collection	May-June, 2023	Determination of potential sources of secondary data relevant to the research topic; Searching online databases and accessing library archives; Checking the accuracy of the data collected.

Source: authors' own development.

Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using the interpretive synthesis. This method integrates findings from multiple qualitative sources like online questionnaires, one-to-one interviews, focus groups, and secondary data, to create a comprehensive understanding of the problem related to the evaluation of transforming the role of modern family and the ethical challenges of family relationship. The interpretive synthesis enabled to recognize the patterns of the research problem and integrate the findings into broader themes that reflect significant aspects of the changes in family life under the modern conditions. Besides, the method of interpretive synthesis reflected on the philosophical implications of the findings and contributed to existing knowledge and theories related to the institution of family, transformations of modern family caused by the existing socioeconomic, political, cultural, and psychological factors.

Research Results

RQ1: Understanding of the concept of family within the society

The findings show that respondents understand the concept of family differently. It depends on cultural norms, traditions, and values accepted within the household, socioeconomic factors, personal experience, level of education of family members, peer influences, and media representations of the family. Thus, 21,1 % of individuals define the family as a social institution that performs essential functions for society, such as socializing children and contributing to economic stability. 18,3 % of

respondents consider the family to be a group of individuals related by blood, including parents, siblings, and extended relatives. A fairly large number of people (17,9 %) define the family as a group of people legally recognized through marriage, civil unions, and adoption. At the same time, 17,7 % treat family members of people living together. Besides, it was found that the family is a primary source of emotional support, love, and bonding for 15,2 % of people, and the structure defined by cultural norms and traditions for 9,8 %. Figure 1 presents different understandings of the concept of family within the society.

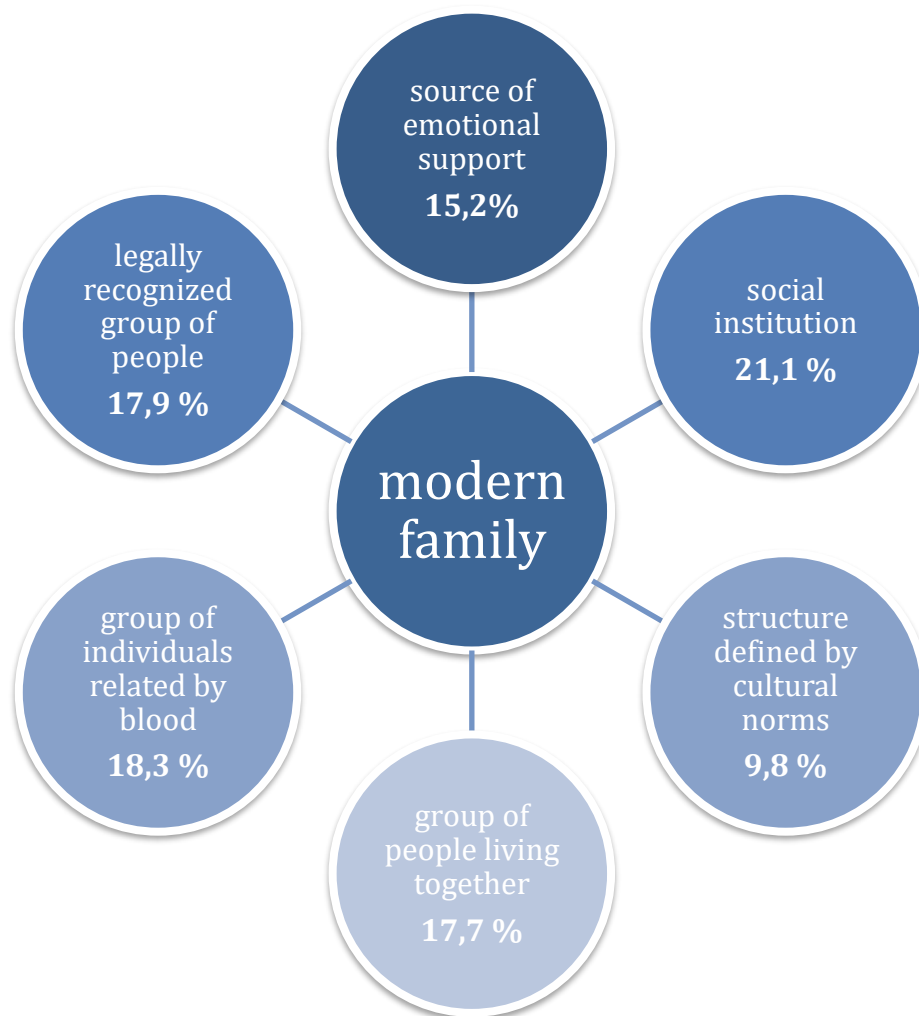


Figure 1. *The concept of family within the society*

Source: authors' own development.

RQ2: Characteristics and functions of modern family

Studying the characteristics of modern family, it was found that they include diversity, flexibility, gender equality, technology integration, delay in marriage, alternative family types, emotional support, community engaging, cultural identity, different parenting styles, adaptability, and orientation towards personal growth. 23,2 % of respondents consider that modern families embrace diverse structures, including nuclear, extended, blended, single-parent, and chosen families. 21,7 % of people indicated that modern families apply diverse styles to parenting, including authoritative, permissive, and collaborative. 20,6 % of participants indicated celebration of cultural identity as a characteristic of modern family, and 20,4 % - alternative family type, including single parenthood, same-sex parenting. At the same time, 19,5 % of individuals said the family is characterized by the flexibility in roles and

responsibilities, adapting to changing social and economic dynamics. 19,9 % of participants indicated that modern families strive for equality in roles, decision-making, and responsibilities between genders. 19,5 % of respondents think that adaptability is important for navigating the challenges, transitions, and crises taking place within the society as well as flexibility that helps to orient towards rapidly changing world in the times of uncertainty. Comparatively fewer people indicated the following characteristics of modern family: emotional support (19,7 %), delay in marriage (18,9 %), community engaging (18,5 %), orientation towards personal growth (17,8 %), and technology integration (14,7 %). Figure 2 shows that characteristics of modern family.

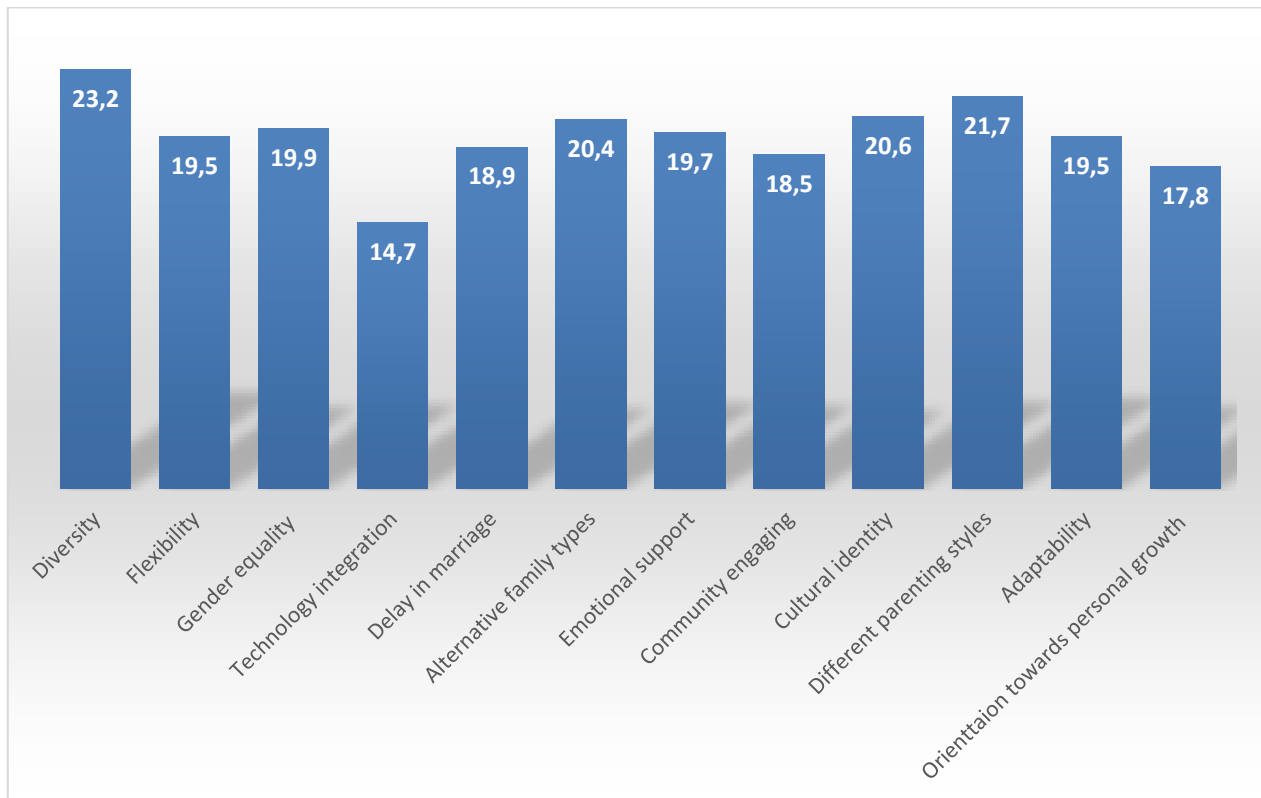


Figure 2. Characteristics of modern family

Source: authors' own development.

Modern families serve a variety of functions that reflect their roles in the contemporary society. The study enables to reveal 8 functions commonly associated with modern families according to the survey respondents, including: stability and security (25,9 %), cultural preservation (24,2 %), role modeling (23,6 %), caregiving (22,8 %), identity formation (20,7 %), financial support (19,6 %), emotional support (17,4 %), and socialization (12,8 %). According to the findings, the largest number of respondents emphasize stability and security as the function of modern family. They indicate that families create stable and secure environments where members feel safe, valued, and supported. Especially this function is important during war.

Thus, stability provides a sense of predictability and emotional security. And having the stable routines and daily structures helps families cope with uncertainty, providing a sense of normality and control in the chaos. At the same time, the smallest number of individuals indicated socialization as a family function. It was revealed that modern families play an important role in socializing children by teaching cultural norms, values, and behaviors necessary for integration into the society. These outcomes demonstrate the diverse roles that modern families play in educating children, supporting

communities, and contributing to social progress. Figure 3 shows that functions of modern family seen in the society.

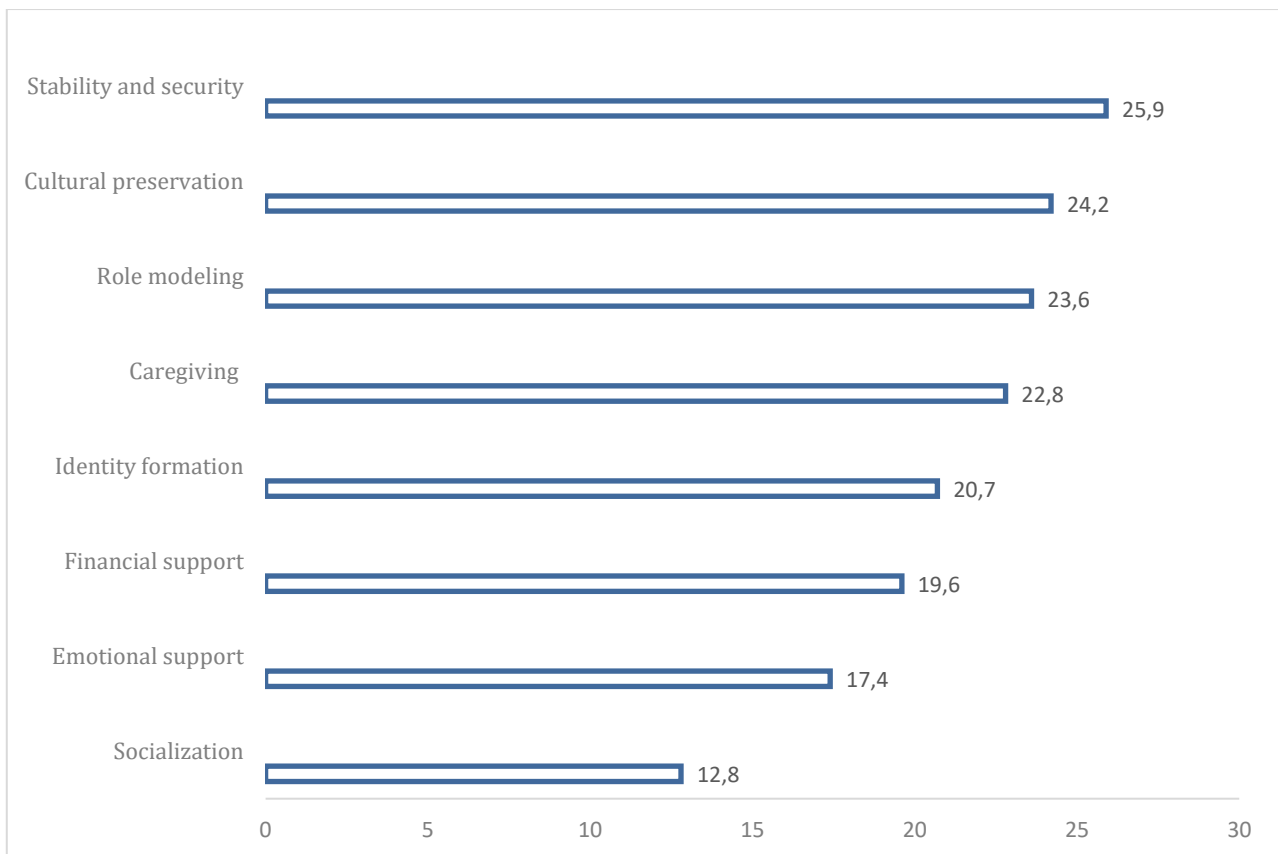


Figure 3. Functions of modern family

Source: authors' own development.

RQ3: Analysis of ethical challenges the family members face nowadays

The comprehensive analysis of transformation of modern family revealed 10 ethical challenges that family members may face in the contemporary society. The findings demonstrate that 13,8 % of respondents suffer from work-life balance, especially when remote work is introduced in many companies or organizations and it is difficult to manage the time and perform home responsibilities. 13,4 % of participants think that crisis response is a permanent challenge within the Ukrainian family due to the full-fledged armed conflict in the territory of the country. 11,8 % of people always face the ethical challenges concerning gender roles and equality within the family unit.

Other challenges include the following: the choice of parenting style, such as disciplinary methods, educational methods, and fostering independence of children (11,2 %), ethical problems related to cultural traditions, religious beliefs, and rituals (10,7 %), financial matters within the family, including transparency, budgeting, and responsible spending (9,6 %). Such challenges as use of technology, legal responsibilities, and decision-making in the family constituted 8 % and less. These challenges proved the complex ethical landscape faced by modern families, requiring thoughtful consideration, open communication, and collaborative efforts to establish family harmony under the existing conditions. Table 4 analyses the ethical challenges facing the family members nowadays.

Table 4

Ethical challenges facing the family members

Ethical challenge	Respondents' answers (%)				
	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Use of technology	4,5	28,9	41,5	18,6	6,5
Parental style	11,2	23,6	37,8	21,0	6,4
Work-life balance	13,8	25,1	40,6	17,6	2,9
Financial transparency	9,6	29,4	38,7	22,3	0,0
Gender roles and equality	11,8	31,5	36,8	22,0	0,5
Cultural and religious practices	10,7	33,5	35,2	16,5	4,1
Generation gap	10,1	29,6	24,6	21,1	14,6
Crisis response	13,4	30,8	32,1	22,7	1,0
Legal responsibilities	5,6	23,4	45,9	14,5	10,6
Decision-making	8,3	26,3	38,5	23,1	3,8

Source: authors' own development.

RQ4: *Possible changes of the family in future*

The research focused on transformative family and the problem of changes of family in future was deeply studied. To make the outcome more accurate, some instruments were applied in five periods to follow the change of thoughts and among family members and to represent the attitudes dynamics. The respondents named the possible changes that could shape the future of family.

Thus, these changes include increase recognition and acceptance of diverse family structure, including single-parent families, blended families, same-sex couples, and chosen families; technology integration within family the life, influencing communication, education, entertainment, and work; work-life integration; changes related to economic stability, income inequality, and access to comfort housing; growing emphasis on sustainable living practices and environmental consciousness within family lifestyles, influencing consumption habits; necessity of continuous education to achieve economic stability; increased mobility; changing social norms and values regarding marriage, parenting, and relationships, influencing family expectations and practices; building resilience and adaptability as families may face economic and political uncertainties, technological advancements, and crises such as pandemic or war. Figure 4 represents the changes of the family in future according to the survey results.

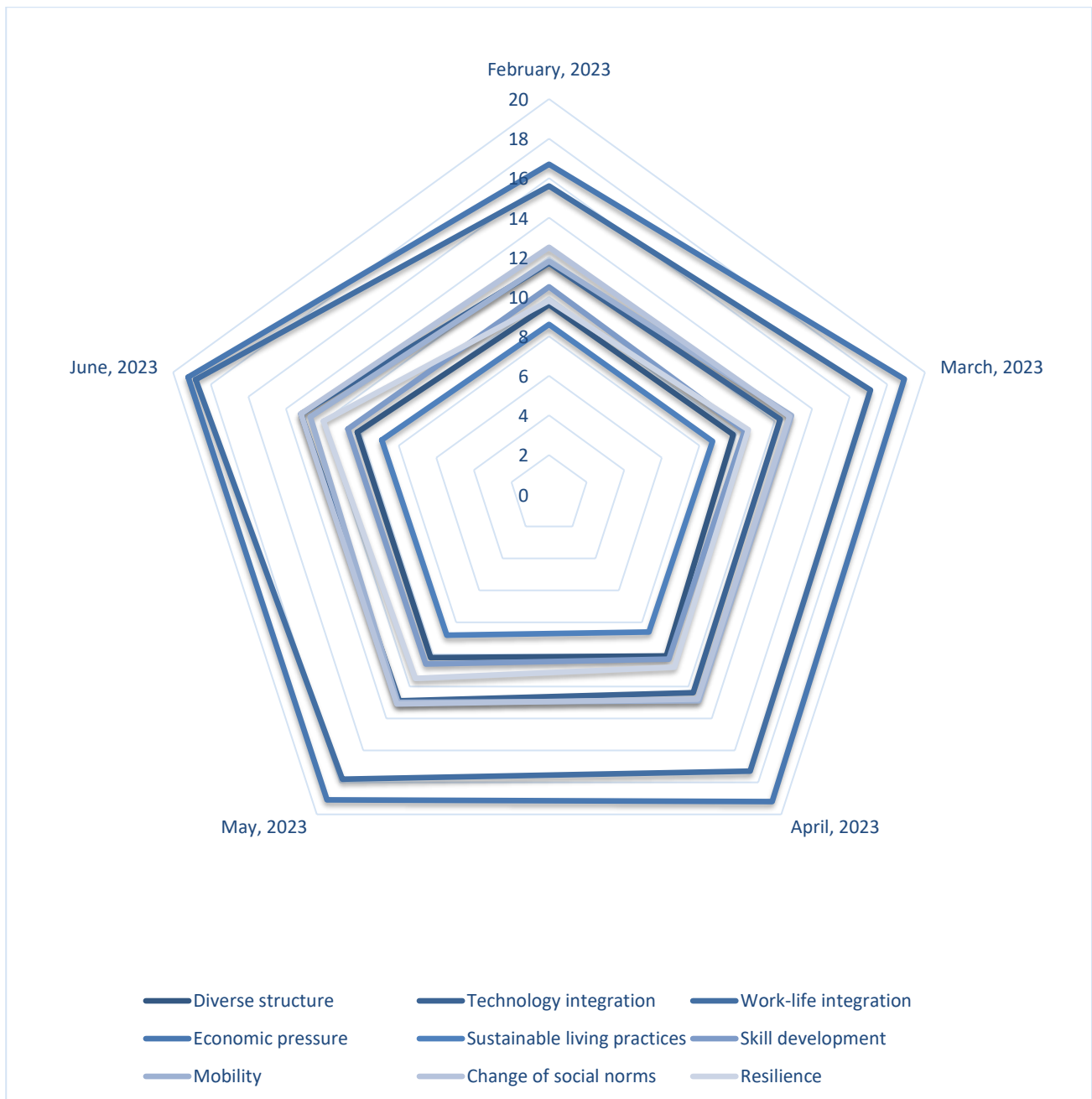


Figure 4. Changes of the family in future

Source: authors' own development.

Therefore, studying the transforming role of modern family provided the necessary knowledge how the family is developing under the existing conditions and represented the impact of various social, economic, political, and cultural structures upon family life. Obviously, understanding these changes may help philosophers create the theoretical and applied frameworks to enhance family well-being and preserve cultural identity through the family in the globalized world. Additionally, this knowledge fosters the development of inclusive and resilient communities, especially during the uncertainties.

Discussion

The literature review showed that the problems of family transformations is an important topic of contemporary philosophical discourse (Beer, 2022; Borodenko & Sitarchuk, 2022; Hämäläinen et al., 2019). Defined as a micro-society, the family suggests the established roles, norms, and relationships; it

also forms an interdependent unit within the human community (Krainatee et al., 2020). Also, the family is described as a social institution that plays an integral role in the organization and functioning of society (Kraus, 2020). Culturally, the family is a complex cultural construct, where family roles depend on traditions and historical background (Kane, 2019).

The current scientific works pay the special attention towards the analysis of different types of families. Firstly, they differentiate nuclear family (Svatenkova, 2022; Sullins, 2021), extended family (Vogt, 2019), single-parent family (Gupta & Kashyap, 2020). Also, alternative types of families are widely introduced, particularly blended family (Perry & Fraser, 2020), same-sex family (Drabble et al., 2021), and chosen family (Kim & Feyissa, 2021). According to the survey outcomes, that respondents understand the concept of family differently depending on cultural norms, socioeconomic factors, or personal experience.

Thus, individuals define the family as a social institution that performs essential functions for society, such as socializing children and contributing to economic stability. Also, it is considered as a group of individuals related by blood, including parents, siblings, and extended relatives or a group of people legally recognized through marriage, civil unions, and adoption. Besides, the survey showed that the family is a primary source of emotional support as well as the structure defined by cultural norms and traditions.

Presenting the characteristics of modern family, it is important to mention that they include diverse structures (Eerola et al., 2021), changing social norms (Vogt, 2019), different understanding of gender roles (Chen et al., 2023). Besides, the family is characterized by flexibility (Daks et al., 2022), increasing multiculturalism and globalization (Tram et al., 2021), and shared parenting (Merson et al., 2023). The research enabled the researchers to present the comprehensive analysis of the characteristics of modern family.

Thus, the respondents indicated the following qualities: diversity, flexibility, gender equality, technology integration, delay in marriage, alternative family types, emotional support, community engaging, cultural identity, different parenting styles, adaptability, and orientation towards personal growth. The outcomes demonstrated that the most family members indicated diverse structure of the family unit, application of diverse styles to parenting, and cultural identity due to globalization and digitalization processes.

During the investigation, the special attention was paid towards the functions of modern family. The theoretical analysis revealed socialization and positive social development as the main function of modern family (Morrissey et al., 2020). Other findings indicate emotional support, economic stability (Leung et al., 2019), and cultural and religious transmissions across generations (Knoblauch, 2023). Additionally, the family contributes to long-term care planning, civic responsibility, formation of ethical values, and community engagement (Wang & Luo, 2022; Truong et al., 2021). The study outlined eight functions associated with modern families according to respondents. These functions related to stability and security, cultural preservation. The outcomes demonstrated the fact that modern families play the diverse roles within the society and they are changing over time depending on social, cultural, economic factors, and individual dimensions as well.

The functioning of modern family is accompanied by several ethical challenges. They involve digital technology that resulted in a number of ethical concerns like privacy and digital security (Weerarathna et al., 2022). Other challenges refer to work-life balance, gender equality, and generation gaps (Bellettini et al., 2023). Some findings discuss cultural diversity and introduction of different cultural practices within the household (Han et al., 2022). The adoption of eco-friendly practices was indicated in the works of Zhao, Gong, Li, Zhang, and Sun (2021).

Besides, the equity, accessibility, and support for family members with disabilities or PTSD was investigated by Thompson-Hollands, Rando, Stoycos, Meis, and Iverson (2022). Additionally, the ethical challenges of modern families include the problems of marriage and divorce (Kalmijn, 2020; Willoughby et al., 2020). In comparison, respondents revealed ten ethical challenges that family members face in the contemporary society. They concern work-life balance, crisis response, gender roles and equality within the family unit, the choice of parenting style, the problems related to cultural traditions, religious beliefs, and rituals, financial matters within the family, legal responsibilities, and decision-making in the family.

It is worth indicating that these challenges above-mentioned proved that the family exists in the complex ethical landscape that can be transformed under internal and external factors. Consequently, the study concerned the problem of changes of family in future. According to the survey participants, these changes include increase recognition and acceptance of diverse family structure, technology integration, work-life integration, changes related to economics, growing emphasis on sustainable living practices, increased mobility, changing social norms and values, and the necessity of building resilience in the times of uncertainty.

Conclusions and Implications

The family typically refers to a group of individuals who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, or cohabitation. In philosophical context, the family extends beyond biological or legal definitions to encompass broader notions of relationships, and social roles. The findings showed that philosophically the family is a fundamental unit of society that shapes individual identity, moral development, and social structures. Also, the family is a cultural construct, where family practices and roles vary by culture, tradition, and historical events. The literature analysis shows that the types of families include nuclear family, extended family, blended family, single-parent family, same-sex family, and chosen family.

According to the recent findings, modern families are characterized by diverse structures, changing social norms, shared parenting, different understanding of gender roles as well as increasing multiculturalism and globalization. At the same time, the functions of modern family relate to socialization and positive social development, emotional support, economic stability, and cultural and religious transmissions across generations. Additionally, the findings differentiated long-term care planning, civic responsibility, formation of ethical values, and community engagement.

The special attention was drawn towards the analysis of ethical challenges. They refer to digital technology that resulted in a number of ethical concerns like privacy and digital security, to work-life balance, gender equality, and generation gaps. Other ethical challenges involve cultural diversity, the adoption of eco-friendly practices, the equity, accessibility, and support for family members with disabilities or PTSD. Besides, the ethical challenges of modern families include the problems of marriage and divorce. Moreover, the study represented the changes of family in future. These changes include the increased recognition and acceptance of diverse family structure, technology integration, work-life integration, changes related to economics, growing emphasis on sustainable living practices, increased mobility, changing social norms and values, and the necessity of building resilience in the times of uncertainty.

The research on the transforming the role of modern family has significant implications for the social understanding and adaptation to the changing family dynamics. As family structures diversify, with increasing acceptance of single-parent families, blended families, and chosen families, the society must develop greater inclusivity and flexibility in its legal norms and official practices. This research may help to navigate the researchers through a number of complex ethical challenges, such as balancing work and family responsibilities, gender equality, application of technologies in the family life. The findings can result in the creation of supportive frameworks to promote family stability and resilience.

Practically, this research emphasizes the necessity for the introduction of community support systems that address the unique needs of modern families. The ethical challenges, such as the choice of parental style, economic pressure, adoption of eco-friendly practices, or generation gap, require the development of more comprehensive solutions to correspond with the realities of modern family life. Besides, the study reveals the importance of promoting gender equality within the family, encouraging shared responsibilities and decision-making. As a result, the educational programs can be elaborated to help family members cope with the challenges above-mentioned. Obviously, the presentation of ethical challenges in philosophical discourse can contribute to the emotional, social, and economic well-being of society members, bringing positive social and progress.

The future research can explore the impact of technology on family dynamics in details. As digital communication tools, social media, and remote work become increasingly widespread, understanding their influence on family interactions, privacy concerns, and work-life balance is of vital importance. The research can also examine how technology reshapes the choice of parental styles, affects children's development, and changes the way family members connect with each other. Another promising subject for the future research is examining the cultural and regional differences in the transformation of family roles and the ethical challenges faced by family members. In future, the researchers can conduct the comparative studies across various regions and cultures to explain the ways in which families adapt to changing social and economic conditions. Also, the special attention must be paid towards the analysis of specific needs and experiences of vulnerable families to develop the targeted interventions and policies that promote equity and inclusivity.

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Conflict of Interest

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