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Changing gender roles in the modern society of Russia and the USA

The gender roles of men and women are defined historically because of biological and psychical features and social nature. Gender roles are a distinctive model of behavior which is formed with the cultural norms of the society. It dictates the standards of people's behavior. Nowadays, the stereotypes related with the gender roles are being broken under the influence of cross-cultural communication. The social roles of men and women have undergone certain changes in modern society. These changes are due to social evolution. The legal equalization of sexes in the USA has given impetus to the Russian society.

By tradition, a man was considered to be a hunter who provides material comforts. The existence of a tribe depended on him. The social role of a woman was to be the mistress of the house raising children and taking care of them. American families focus on marriage contracts and building partnership. The man and the woman perform their duties; there is no real head in the family because of equality in American families. Russia, in its turn, remains faithful to traditions. A woman is basically a hearth keeper who should support a man, whereas he is responsible for the external living conditions of the family. So, the duties of men and women hardly intersect in the life of the family. However, American the style of life affects the Russian one. A woman may become a breadwinner while a man dedicates himself to running a household and bringing up children. The family institute is not the only sphere which has undergone changes.

Significant changes occurred due to the women's democratic movement in the 20th century. Women got their rights for education and work on an equal basis with men. The number of women who work in those spheres previously considered only masculine has greatly increased. Examples include a female pilot. About 10% of both American and Russian women work in civil air-craft. Also, women are not afraid to dedicate themselves to the heavy industry, blacksmith's work. The military is not an exception. Women in the USA army make up 14% of all military personnel. Some of them even have hold the rank of captain and general. As for Russia, almost 50,000 women serve in the navy and army. A modern American woman is a strong, independent and self-confident person who can take a leading position. The Forbes list is constantly replenished with the names of the richest and most successful businesswomen. Women drew up with men even in the political sphere. It has become increasingly common to see women-politicians. Statistics shows that America has 17% of women in their parliaments. There is no serious support for women promoting for government positions in Russia. Nevertheless, there are examples of women who have been able to overcome the barrier of gender prejudice and built a successful political career in Russia.

A certain model of behavior of a 'true' man is fixed in the consciousness of society. Tough guys are brought up from an early age. Men do not cry, complain, take care of themselves and so on. It has left a negative impact on their characters. Today a man can abandon the standards imposed by society. This is largely due to the cross-cultural communication. America is considered to be free from any conservative convictions. It becomes an example for Russian young people. The lifestyle of a modern man depends on his own preferences and desires. Men can chose a job to their taste without the fear of being condemned for femininity. There are a lot of men who have found themselves in female professions and reached great success. The good example is men in the fashion and beauty industry. They are skillful makeup artists, stylists and even manicurists. Also, modern men do not hold a abhorrence for traditionally female duties like taking care of sick people and children. Moreover, representatives of the stronger sex accept these kind of work because they feel a real sense of vocation for it, and a high salary does not play an important role.

The boundaries between the traditionally accepted behaviors of both sexes are blurred in America and Russia with the development of the society. America is not afraid to change traditions, making more and more attempts on the way to equality. And it cannot but touch Russia under the conditions of open cross-cultural communication. Although the traditional ideas about gender roles are still preserved, we can observe their changes depending on usefulness to the society and people preferences.

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