Gender Roles and Wellbeing in Parenthood within the European Union (GROW-EU)





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Keywords

birth rate, equality, family roles, parental identity, reproduction, stress

Main Research Objective

This research cluster explores the evolving roles of mothers and fathers in the European Union, focusing on the equality and inequality of parental responsibilities. Specifically, it will investigate the disparities in the time and emotional burden between parents, their social and psychological effects, and the influence on family planning decisions, particularly emphasizing the low fertility rates in EU countries.

We will investigate how the unequal distribution of parental responsibilities between mothers and fathers affects parents' mental health, career progression, and social well-being. We also review the effectiveness of current family policies in the EU, such as parental leave and childcare support, in promoting gender equality (Rodríguez, 2018).

We will explore how modern fatherhood expectations influence men's psychological health and family dynamics in developed countries and assess the impact of paternal engagement in caregiving on societal perceptions of masculinity and the tensions it creates (Taniguchi et al., 2015).

We will examine how equality or inequality in parental duties impacts decisions about having additional children (e.g., second or third child), considering the declining fertility rates across the EU (Puur et al., 2008).

The declining birth rates in many EU countries are not solely due to a reduction in people having children but because families choose to have fewer children than in previous generations (Casse et al., 2018). This research cluster will provide policy recommendations to address this trend, helping countries promote gender equality in parenting roles and, in turn, potentially influence procreation decisions.

Main Research Outcome

Comprehensive analysis of how current family policies either reinforce or mitigate gender inequality;

Insights into the challenges and pressures faced by fathers in modern parenting roles;

Policy recommendations aimed at supporting family growth and reducing the burden of parenthood on both mothers and fathers;

Evidence-based recommendations to counteract opting out of having children based on exhaustion and social inequality.

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