



# Preferences of different partnership formations in the light of values and attitudes



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**OBJECTIVES:** The purpose of the study was to examine value system and attitudes among high school students aged 14-18 years in terms of their preferences of partnership formation.

**HYPOTHESIS:** Young people in this age deny traditional attitudes in family life and accept the new postmodern values. They may prefer the new partnership forms as cohabitation, LAT, single lifestyle or avoid marriage.

**SAMPLE:** randomly selected schools and classes, random sample of high school students, 55,7% boy and 44,3% girl

**METHODS: Questionnaire Survey (N=551)**

Scales of Hungarian Survey of Behavior and Values-male roles, fatalism and obligations of the children-(Unger, 2002) and the American Multiple Role Planning Survey-commitment, involvement and flexibility (Peake & Harris, 2002) and demographic background

## RESULTS:

	Factor 1 (2,3)	Factor 2 (1,5)	Factor 3 (1,6)
Factor labels	Support for Marriage	Support for Cohabitation	Hesitators
Attitudes on partnership	Factor loadings		
It's important to live with one spouse all life long	0,507	-	0,343
Cohabitation is as good as marriage	-	0,648	-
Better to have law sanctified couple	0,717	-	-
Divorce is the solution if the spouses don't agree	-	0,454	-
People don't accept Single lifestyle	-	-	0,674
Divorce is a big social problem	-	-	0,586
Couples with common child should marry	0,328	-	0,608
For the children it is better to grow up in a family with married parents	0,499	-	0,443
Marriage is old-fashioned	-0,755	-	-
Cohabitation is perfect before marriage to get to know each other better	0,353	0,699	-
The paper is superfluous if two people love each other	-0,576	0,517	-
Cronbach alfa	0,68	0,45	0,55
% of variance	22,5	11,3	11,5

	Support for Marriage	Support for Cohabitation	Hesitators
<b>Sociodemographic variables</b>			
Gender (1=male; 2=female)	0,03	0,05	0,07
Age (years)	-0,04	0,03	0,10*
Settlement (1=town; 2=village)	0,05	-0,01	0,05
Education level of the fathers	0,02	0,01	-0,01
Education level of the mothers	0,09	-0,08	0,18
SES	-0,02	0,06	0,02
<b>Family characteristics</b>			
2-parent family	0,05	-0,10	0,06
Married parents	0,05	0,03	0,14
Divorced parents	-0,05	-0,02	0,06
Widowed parent	-0,01	0,03	0,05
<b>General value system</b>			
Religiousness	0,20***	-0,32***	0,01
Obligations of the children	0,17***	-0,07	0,13***
Male dominance	0,10*	0,13**	-0,16**
Fatalism	-0,04	0,18***	-0,04
<b>Opinions about multiple roles</b>			
Commitment	0,16**	0,12*	0,14*
Lack of involvement	-0,23***	0,13**	-0,16**
Flexibility	0,06	0,01	0,03
Constant	13,019***	7,456***	7,066**
R Square	0,35***	0,21***	0,23***

\*p<0,05 ; \*\*p<0,01 ; \*\*\*p<0,001; one-tailed test

**CONCLUSIONS:** The adolescents overwhelmingly described the traditional values as desirable principle. They feel that there are new trends, but they unambiguously evaluate the traditional forms of family life, they appreciate marriage as future relationship. The attitudes showed some connections. Those who prefer marriage as a partnership form are more likely to have a larger level on the commitment scale regarding combining roles, are more likely to be religious and more likely to feel the children's obligations in the family and respect the parents better. There are no differences in their attitudes based on sociodemographic characteristics.

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