



A.Sultanova<sup>1</sup> , A.Khairuldayeva<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

<sup>2</sup>Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University Almaty, Kazakhstan

\*e-mail: [Sultanova8012@gmail.com](mailto:Sultanova8012@gmail.com)

## CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF MODERN LARGE FAMILIES

### Abstract

The article presents a theoretical overview of scientific works by foreign researchers who have studied large families. This research aims to identify the main problems, opportunities, and limitations faced by modern large families. Due to the sharp increase in the number of crises in large families in the country, the relevance of studying such families has grown. The main problems of large families are social, psychological, and economic in nature.

The goal of the study is to identify the main problems, opportunities, and limitations of modern large families. A qualitative study of large families in Almaty (N=10) was conducted in the article. The research was carried out using in-depth interviews. The study revealed that large families still face material and household problems. The primary type of assistance provided by the state includes government allowances and services provided in schools to school-aged children in the form of “school meals.”

It was found that the financial situation of large families is only satisfied by the family income (wages). Additionally, it was determined that a mechanism for providing systemic assistance from public and charitable organizations is in place. These organizations play an important role in solving material and household issues for large families. Moreover, economic factors lead to family crises in large families.

The practical significance of the study can contribute to resolving crises in large families and addressing related issues, as well as assisting in the development of state and local additional programs aimed at improving social policies and the situation of large families.

**Keywords:** large family, family behavior, crisis situations, family values, social assistance.

A.M. Султанова<sup>1</sup> , A. M. Хайрулдаева<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ Ұлттық университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

<sup>2</sup>Абай атындағы Қазақ Ұлттық Педагогикалық Университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

## ҚАЗІРГІ КӨПБАЛАЛЫ ОТБАСЫЛАРДЫҢ МӘСЕЛЕЛЕРІ МЕН МҮМКІНДІКТЕРІ

### Аңдатпа

Мақалада көпбалалы отбасыларға қатысты зерттеген шетелдік зерттеушілердің ғылыми еңбектеріне теориялық шолу жасалған. Бұл зерттеу қазіргі көпбалалы отбасылардың алдында тұрған негізгі мәселелерді, мүмкіндіктер мен шектеулерді анықтауға бағытталған. Елімізде көпбалалы отбасылардағы дағдарыстар санының күрт өсуіне байланысты қазіргі уақытта мұндай отбасылардың зерттеу өзектілігі артып отыр. Көпбалалы отбасылардың басты проблемалары әлеуметтік, психологиялық және экономикалық сипатта.

Зерттеудің мақсаты қазіргі көпбалалы отбасылардың басты мәселелерін, мүмкіндіктері мен шектеулерін анықтау. Мақалада Алматы қаласындағы көпбалалы отбасылармен (N=10) сапалық зерттеу жүргізілді. Зерттеу тереңдетілген сұқбат әдісі көмегімен жүргізілді. Зерттеу нәтижесі бойынша көп балалы отбасыларда материалдық және тұрмыстық мәселелер әлі де орын алып жатқаны анықталды. Мемлекет тарапынан ұсынылатын басты көмек түрі ретінде:

мемлекеттік жәрдемақы мен мектеп жасындағы балаларға мектепте «тамақтану» түріндегі қызмет түрі ұсынылады. Көпбалалы отбасылардың материалдық жағдайларын отбасы кірісі (жалақы) ғана қанағаттандыратыны айқындалды. Сонымен қатар, қоғамдық және қайырымдылық ұйымдардың жүйелі көмек көрсету механизмі жұмыс жасайтыны анықтады. Бұндай ұйымдардың көпбалалы отбасылардың материалдық-тұрмыстық мәселелерін шешуде маңызы зор. Сонымен қатар, көпбалалы отбасыларды экономикалық факторлардың себебінен отбасылық дағдарыс орын алуы кездеседі.

Зерттеудің тәжірибелік маңыздылығы көпбалалы отбасылардағы орын алатын дағдарыстар бойынша шешім қабылдауға және әлеуметтік саясат мәселесін шешуге, сонымен қатар көп балалы отбасылардың жағдайын жақсарту бойынша мемлекеттік және жергілікті деңгейде қосымша бағдарламаларды әзірлеуде көмек көрсетуі мүмкін.

**Түйін сөздер:** көпбалалы отбасы, отбасылық мінез-құлық, дағдарыстық жағдайлар, отбасы құндылықтары, әлеуметтік көмек.

*Султанова А.М.<sup>1</sup>, Хайрулдаева А. М.<sup>2</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>Казахский национальный университет имени аль-Фараби, Алматы, Казахстан*

*<sup>2</sup>Казахский национальный педагогический университет имени Абая, Алматы, Казахстан*

## **ПРОБЛЕМЫ И ВОЗМОЖНОСТИ СОВРЕМЕННЫХ МНОГОДЕТНЫХ СЕМЕЙ**

### *Аннотация*

В статье представлен теоретический обзор научных трудов зарубежных исследователей, изучавших в отношении многодетных семей. Это исследование направлено на выявление основных проблем, возможностей и ограничений, с которыми сталкиваются современные многодетные семьи. В связи с резким ростом числа кризисов в многодетных семьях в стране в настоящее время актуальность исследования таких семей возрастает. Основные проблемы многодетных семей носят социальный, психологический и экономический характер.

Цель исследования - выявить основные проблемы, возможности и ограничения современных многодетных семей. В статье проведено качественное исследование многодетных семей г. Алматы (N=10). Исследование проводилось методом глубинного интервью. По результатам исследования установлено, что в многодетных семьях по-прежнему существуют материальные и бытовые проблемы. В качестве основного вида помощи, предоставляемого государством, выступают: государственные пособия и услуги, предоставляемые в школе детям школьного возраста в форме «школьного питания».

Выявлено, что материальное положение многодетных семей удовлетворяет только доход семьи (заработная плата). Кроме того, было определено, что работает механизм оказания системной помощи общественными и благотворительными организациями. Такие организации имеют большое значение в решении материально-бытовых вопросов многодетных семей. Кроме того, из-за экономических факторов в многодетных семьях происходит семейный кризис.

Практическая значимость исследования может способствовать возникновению кризисов в многодетных семьях и решению проблемы, также при разработке государственных и местных дополнительных программ, для улучшения социальной политики и положения многодетных семей.

**Ключевые слова:** многодетная семья, поведение семьи, кризисные ситуации, семейные ценности, социальная помощь.

## MAIN PART

Today, large modern families face several challenges, including economic difficulties, a lack of time and resources, and issues with access to quality education and medical care, as illustrated in Table 1.

This article addresses the aforementioned issues and proposes potential solutions. As a result of the conducted research, it was identified that respondents' speech often indicates that these families usually live on a limited budget, making meeting their children's needs difficult. Parents of large families are compelled to work harder to provide for their offspring, sometimes resulting in insufficient time for meaningful communication and nurturing.

Nevertheless, information searches on official websites and literature reviews have allowed us to underline that large modern families also encounter unique opportunities despite these challenges. One of the primary advantages is that children learn early to interact with one another, share, assist, and support each other. A strong family bond and a sense of responsibility develop within large families. Furthermore, these families can rely on various social programmes and benefits that help them navigate financial hardships. Modern technology is crucial, enabling parents to work remotely and manage their time flexibly between work and family. Large families can effectively utilise the resources provided by government and public organisations, such as free clubs and activities for children, travel benefits, and cultural events. Thus, despite the prevailing issues, modern large families hold significant potential for development and prosperity in contemporary life.

Thus, the practical significance resides in the article's potential to inform and guide decisions regarding social policy issues affecting large families, assisting in addressing the challenges they encounter.

Challenges	Description
Economic difficulties	Large families often struggle with financial resources to meet all their children's needs. Limited resources hinder access to quality education, medical care, and necessary conditions for children's holistic development.
Housing issues	Housing is a pressing concern for large families. Many families live in cramped conditions, causing discomfort and restricting personal space for each family member.
Time constraints	Parents of large families are often compelled to work harder to support their children, leading to insufficient time for meaningful communication and upbringing.
Education and healthcare	In remote and rural areas, the availability of quality education and medical services is limited, creating additional hardships for large families.

**Table 1-** Basic challenges of large families

## INTRODUCTION

In the history of humanity, the family has evolved from a primitive form of social development to a fundamental social institution. In the current context, multigenerational families are closely tied to the fundamental social problems faced by the population, often linked to material difficulties. In society, assessing the family's significance has led to its classification into several categories. Typically, in social states, the concept of a «multigenerational family» is considered by the state as a fundamental social group in need of state assistance. This is because each child's birth affects the family and plays a significant role in society, as demographic issues and their solutions are key concerns at the state level. The government emphasizes supporting multigenerational families to increase the birth rate. Currently, demographic issues are addressed through multigenerational families. Numerous studies have been conducted on the relationship between the number of children in a family and the level of family income. The perception of multigenerational families in society is often characterized by duality and negativity associated with poverty and the overall social status of the family.

Various circumstances characterize the genesis of large families. First, the number of children in a family is often influenced by the family's and its members' religious beliefs and practices. Second, low-income large families may result from parents' irresponsible behaviour, low education levels, alcoholism, and other negative behaviours. Such families generally face numerous social problems. Third, the birth of additional children may occur due to multiple marriages. Naturally, each family's challenges vary depending on their structure and specific circumstances [1].

In Kazakhstan, the concept of a large family is defined explicitly in the «Marriage and Family Code». According to this Code, a large family is defined as a family with four or more children under the age of majority (Marriage (Family) Code) (Marriage (Family) Code, 2011). There are several legislative documents in the country related to the social protection and support of large families. The state provides allowances to families with four or more children under the age of majority or full-time students (up to 23 years old). The allowance amount is determined based on the number of children in the family and the family's income. Additionally, if the family's average income is below the poverty line, the large family may apply for targeted social assistance.

Large families are awarded «Silver Alka» and «Gold Alka» to elevate the status of mothers. Recipients of these medals may receive state support for housing, with the government covering the cost of renting an apartment if they live in a state housing fund or rented accommodation. Additionally, large families may be exempt from certain state taxes. However, the social assistance provided by the state and local authorities does not fully cover all the needs of large families.

As a result of the analyses, research hypotheses can be put forward:

1. the amount of financial support is not enough for their daily life expenses;
2. low efficiency of charitable foundations in providing social support to large families;
3. in large families, the conflict between spouses was influenced by socio-economic factors.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The concept of large families is multifaceted, and it has become the focus of various scientific studies in recent years. The issues of large families are examined from psychological, pedagogical, social, and other perspectives. Each scientific discipline brings unique methods and approaches to studying the problems of large families. Researching large families is crucial for a country's social and family policies and planning social security. This is because the problems these families face are diverse, and understanding them requires an open-minded approach that considers economic, cultural, social, geographical, and religious factors.

This section will explore foreign researchers' theoretical approaches and models regarding large families. D.Stamoulis and G.Pierrakos investigate how economic, social, and cultural changes affect large families. They examine how societal changes, such as women's widespread higher education, financial independence from men, increased financial resources, and cultural shifts, impact family composition and structure. They found that a large family is measured by socio-economic conditions and described and interpreted within traditional and religious contexts. The concept of a large family varies across different countries. For example, in many European countries, a large family is considered one with three children, while in some countries following Islamic principles, a family with six or more children is classified as a large family. Stamoulis, Pierrakos consider the status of a large family, the size of the family. According to the researchers, the status of a large family is measured in different ways for different countries. In this regard, the authors suggest the need for legal and demographic aspects of accounting for the size of a large family [2].

J. Bergsvik and others have studied the lives of large families living in urban areas. The researchers found that large families' choice of specific neighbourhoods is influenced by various factors, including economic opportunities, access to specific services, and cultural and social connections. The study, which was conducted using qualitative and quantitative methods, revealed that the cost of renting apartments in high-standard, desirable areas is often too high for large families, making them inaccessible. At the same time, neighbourhoods that match their social conditions often lack necessary social services. This underscores the need for a comprehensive approach that considers economic, familial, and cultural factors in social policy and urban infrastructure planning [3].

According to geographical characteristics, large families are more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas. Kulu and Washbrook, in their research, found that large families living in urban areas are mainly located on the city's outskirts rather than in the city centre itself. This is because it is more convenient for such families to live in spacious homes on the outskirts of the city rather than in high-rise buildings in the city centre [4]. Large families are often associated with urban areas that have well-developed infrastructure, such as kindergartens, schools, and playgrounds. As the number of children in a significant family increases, the importance of such amenities in choosing a place to live in the city also grows. This is because, for parents in large families, established social connections, such as friendly neighbours and close acquaintances, are highly significant [5]. Large families are often inclined to plan to have more children in the future, which can also influence their choice of residence [6]. Of course, living in urban areas with high standards of infrastructure and services designed for large families is also related to the financial situation of these families [7].

S. Desai, in his research, examines the accessibility and limitations of resources such as education and health for children in large families across various countries. He finds that in countries with high living standards, children from large families generally do not face significant difficulties, and the living conditions for children in many large families are high. The research highlights the importance of state policies and programs that have socio-economic impacts on large families and their children, which are essential for the country's sustainable development and for creating a just society [8].

In Kazakh society and many post-Soviet countries, there is a stereotype that large families are a vulnerable group requiring socio-economic assistance from the state or charitable organizations. In contrast, in Scandinavian countries, the concept of a large family is not considered a vulnerable group needing social support and protection. Instead, large families are regarded as having a high status in society, with good material and social conditions, and their children have access to quality early childhood education and high-quality education. In Norway, there are numerous state provisions to encourage large families. For example, paid parental leave continues until the child turns one year old.

Financial support, also known as «state child care» is provided for children over one year old. This financial aid covers the child's medical, social, and other needs. Such social payments and guarantees reinforce the high status of large families and contribute to forming positive stereotypes about large families in society. Despite the material difficulties in large families, there are also positive aspects. Compared to children in smaller families, children in large families tend to be more caring, empathetic, and responsible, and they can quickly establish communication with others. In contrast, children in smaller families may often be more individualistic, less responsible, and have difficulties interacting with people, resulting in lower diligence [9].

Large families face several problems compared to families with one or two children, including socio-economic, housing, psychological, medical, and others. Each additional child requires extra financial resources, attention, and time from the parents [10]. Among these problems, economic issues are considered the most significant. The family's economic situation affects the psychological and social environment. Since the concept of a large family is multifaceted, it is crucial to study the issues such families face from a comprehensive perspective, not just from psychological, economic, or social science viewpoints [11].

Parents often cannot leave their children alone, resulting in the need to stay at home with only temporary income. Limited opportunities for children's development in rural areas force some families to move to urban centres for better prospects. Single-parent families, in particular, struggle with the problem of unstable employment. While families with many children have housing priority in local areas, the speed of construction and progress in the housing queue are determining factors. Some families move to cities hoping for more significant financial benefits from state aid, fostering a sense of dependency [12].

The low-income levels of large families can lead to child poverty. Klimantova's works highlight the impact of economic factors on the crises faced by large families. Today, as the primary unit of society and a social institution, the large family is undergoing significant changes. In the current economic and political climate, characterized by a general decline in living standards, there is a consistent trend of decreasing material conditions, psychological health, and educational

opportunities within large families [13]. Bukhtiyarova and Grudina present two contrasting perspectives on large families. On the one hand, they are seen as unacceptable and associated with numerous difficulties, such as disorders, harsh living conditions, lack of parental attention, and various material challenges. On the other hand, having many children is viewed positively and associated with respect, love, organization, and mutual assistance among family members [14]. Large families are not only formed from adverse circumstances but also from positive attitudes. Scholars such as M. Shlemko argue that in large families, children develop good relationships with each family member, learn to adapt to order, assert their opinions and needs, get along well with members of the opposite sex, and develop flexible behaviour. Children in such families learn from each other and become socialized, and older children significantly influence younger ones [15]. While interactions between parents and children, spouses, and siblings are well-studied aspects of family socialization, considering only these units of analysis is insufficient to understand the family as an object of analysis fully. Families evolve as units in response to changes in individual members, life circumstances, and planned or unplanned changes [16]. They develop unique climates, styles of responding to events, identities, and clear boundaries that provide different socialization situations for children. Family-level processes such as myths, stories, and rituals are increasingly recognized as important for understanding family socialization.

The number of large families in the country is increasing yearly, with variations in the count across different regions. For example, official data for 2022 shows that the Republic of Kazakhstan will have 300,241 large families. Turkestan, Almaty, and Zhambyl are the top three regions with the most large families. Specifically, there are 86,585 registered large families in the Turkestan region, 40,428 in the Almaty region, and 30,040 in the Zhambyl region. In contrast, the lowest number of large families is observed in the Karaganda region, with 12,670 registered large families (Figure 1).



**Figure 1** – The number of large families in the Republic of Kazakhstan

According to Figure 1, large families in the Republic of Kazakhstan represent a social group that warrants comprehensive research.

## METHODOLOGY

The research aims to identify the issues faced by large families in a globalised society and propose possible solutions for the identified problems. The object of the study is large families, while the subject is the problems and opportunities of these families.

Based on these objectives, the central hypothesis of the study is that large families in the Nauryzbai district face significant socioeconomic and emotional challenges that existing support systems do not adequately address. It is also assumed that these families demonstrate unique coping strategies and forms of resilience that should be recognised and supported. Housing issues are a major challenge for large families, affecting their overall quality of life and stability.

This study employs a qualitative research approach to effectively explore the experiences of large families residing in the Nauryzbai district of Almaty. The qualitative approach is well-suited for understanding the subjective meanings, emotions, and narratives that quantitative methods might overlook. This research focuses not on generalisation but on gaining deep, nuanced insights into the daily challenges and coping strategies of large families—topics that require open-ended, exploratory tools. We gain valuable insights into their unique challenges and perspectives by conducting in-depth interviews. The in-depth interview lets our participants express themselves freely, share personal experiences, and discuss sensitive issues in a more comfortable and trusting environment. The research utilises the «snowball» sampling method, allowing us to reach various respondents and enrich our findings. The snowball sampling method was selected because accessing a specific and relatively underrepresented population—namely, large families who may not be easily reachable through random sampling—is difficult. Through this interview-driven study, we aim to illuminate the voices of these families and contribute to a deeper understanding of their lived realities. The study involved 10 participants, each with an average of 5 children of school age. The participants had an average age of 40 (the data on the respondents are presented in table 2). The study was conducted from September to November 2023. With the respondents' consent, the preliminary schedule, date, and location of the interviews were arranged. Ethical standards were carried out in the study. Participants were informed that their responses would be used solely for research purposes and that their names would be changed if necessary. The in-depth interview questions were organised into four logically sequenced sections. The in-depth interview tool provides an excellent opportunity to obtain answers to questions prepared during the conversation and analyse the respondent's reactions and attentiveness. It allows for uncovering the root of the problem with various details. The first section includes general information about the respondent, the structure and nature of the family, and questions related to housing issues. The second block consists of questions about the types of social assistance the state provides to large families. The third section addresses issues and difficulties large families face, interventions, and crises. The fourth section is focused on suggestions for solving problems within large families and gathering information on ways to motivate and support large families. Interview duration: not less than 60 Minutes.

The interview method was conducted anonymously, adhering to ethical principles in social research. The data obtained during the interviews were transcribed and coded. The coded data were processed using the MAXQDA 20 software, designed for text analysis. The information collected during the interviews was analyzed using examples from social structural research, and the results were determined. The use of MAXQDA 20 for coding aids in systematically organising and interpreting data. It also helps identify themes and categories (like «financial strain», «lack of housing», «emotional stress», etc.).

Name	Age	Number of children	Spouse's Job	Spouse's Salary (tenge)	State Allowance (tenge)	Monthly Income (tenge)	Family Situation
Meruyert	33	4	Irregular jobs	150,000	59,000	209,000	Average
Aisha	43	7	Stable job	180,000	115,000	295,000	Average
Roza	41	4	Security guard	250,000	60,000	450,000	Average
Aisulu	39	4	Irregular jobs	150,000	59,000	209,000	Average
Gulnur	45	4	Teacher	200,000	59,000	259,000	Average
Gulnar	46	7	Security guard	130,000	115,000	245,000	Average
Aikun	39	4	Security guard	171,000	59,000	230,000	Average
Aigul	37	4	Teacher	311,000	59,000	370,000	Average
Nursulu	45	7	Teacher	345,000	115,000	460,000	Average
Bakhyt	35	5	Security guard	62,000	59,000	120,000	Average

**Table 2** – Background information about respondents



## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The increase in the number of children in a large family creates many issues and requires additional needs. Among these, the main difficulties are financial and economic. In order to assess the financial situation of the respondents who took part in the study, we asked them to answer the question “do you assess the financial situation of your family” and received the following answers.

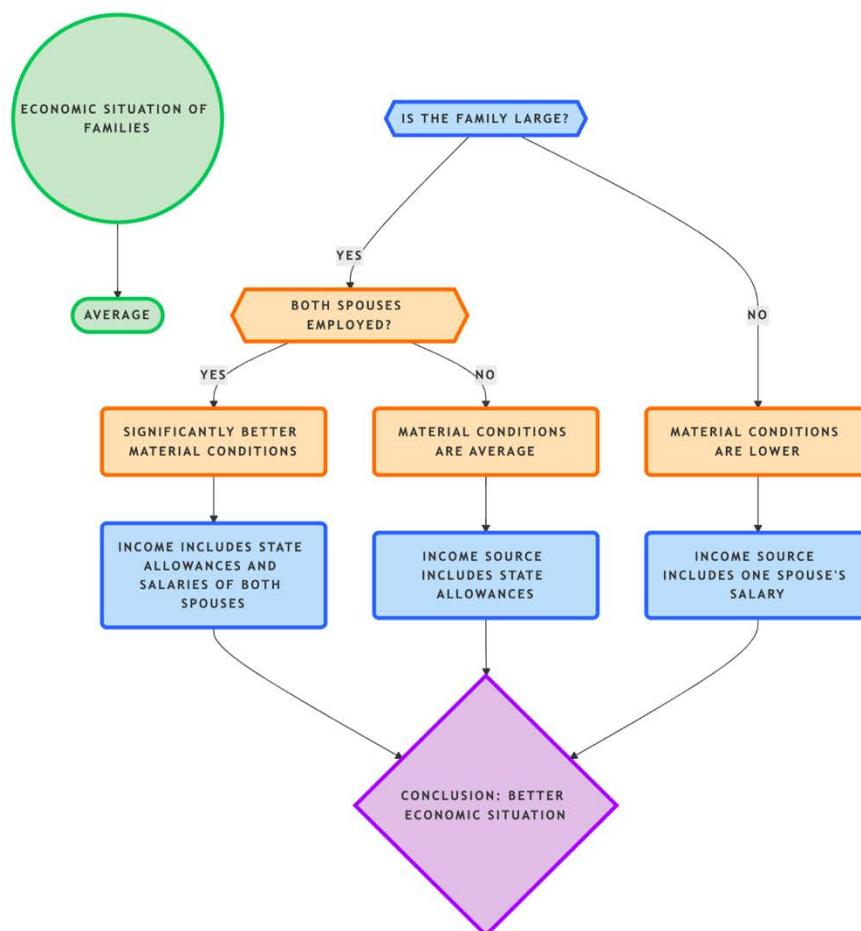
*Our family's material situation is average. Our primary sources of income are the state allowances for each child and my spouse's salary. The state allowance is 59,000 tenge for four children, while my spouse's monthly salary is 150,000 tenge. The diaper allowance will stop after my youngest child turns 1.5 years old. My spouse takes whatever job he can find, and since his work is irregular, his income is very low. This does not cover our family's basic needs and our children's needs. Therefore, we register with charity organizations and receive assistance. We get food aid every three months from the «Bakitty otbasy – Almaty» public foundation and various charitable organizations. This food usually lasts only one month (Meruyert, 33 years old).*

*My spouse has a stable job and earns a fixed monthly salary of 180,000 tenge. Our family situation is average. Additionally, we receive a monthly state allowance of 115,000 tenge for each child. My spouse's salary and state allowances cover all our family's needs (Aisha, 43 years old).*

*I work, and my monthly salary is 200,000 tenge. My spouse earns 250 tenges as a security guard at a private medical centre. Our family's average monthly income is 450,000 tenge. Additionally, we receive a monthly state allowance of 60,000 tenge for each child. I do not buy costly items, so our family's income is sufficient for our basic needs. Therefore, I consider our family's material situation to be average (Roza, 41 years old).*

When analyzing the data obtained, most of the families assess their financial situation as satisfactory. The main resource of this type of family is wages. Families in which both spouses work in large families rated their financial situation as «average» and showed that it is large enough for the basic needs of the family. From the responses provided by the respondents, it can be inferred that their families' economic situation is considered average. Large families where both spouses are employed have significantly better material conditions than those where only one spouse works. This is because the family's income source includes state allowances and the salaries of both spouses. In a manufacturing society, the financial situation of children depends on the paid employment of both parents. Justifying these data, we decided to present the economic situation of large families in the form of a diagram (diagram 1).





**Figure 2 – Financial status of the large family**

Apart from material and financial issues, housing is one of the main problems for large families. Although the government provides certain housing benefits, such as discounts, low-interest loans, and social assistance, the existing social and state programs have not fully resolved the housing problem in our country. Often, such families live in rented apartments or their tiny homes. It is well-known that such small homes usually lack separate rooms and personal space for each child. The absence of adequate housing conditions can affect children's development, potentially leading to shyness, lack of confidence about their future, and even the formation of aggressive and hostile behaviour. The performance of these works requires additional investments both financially and morally.

Today, in order to ensure a socially comfortable life and social support for large families, the state is carrying out certain work and measures, and an active state policy is being pursued in this direction. In this regard, in order to obtain an assessment and effectiveness of the work carried out by the state on the part of the families who participated in the interview, respondents should ask the question: «What types of assistance provided by the state to provide social support to large families do you use?» a question was asked.

*My children attend public schools, which provide hot meals for children from large families. I receive a state allowance of fifty-five thousand tenge designated for large families. Of course, this amount is insufficient. Therefore, it would be helpful if the government considered additional types of social assistance (Aisulu, 39 years old).*

*From the government, in addition to the benefits provided at school, there is no other assistance for large families. This year, our children started receiving free meals, and I periodically receive food every three months from charitable organizations. Local authorities connected gas to our home for free (Meruert, 33 years old).*

*From the government, there is no assistance provided to us as a mother of many children. We were not able to get free school meals because my husband should have an official income. He works, but unofficially. He receives his salary in cash, not on a bank card, so we couldn't get free meals. We haven't received any free medications, and there are no discounts for utility payments. I am registered with the charitable organization «Ana Tili». I receive food from this organization every 3-4 months. As a suggestion, it would be good if the school provided free hot meals and also offered free extracurricular activities and sports sections for children to help improve their academic performance. This would greatly benefit children's development and education (Rosa, 41 years old).*

*From the government, as assistance, we receive child benefits. The government installed gas and connected it to our home for free. I am part of a group formed by sponsors for large families. A charitable foundation has been opened for large families called «Qaiyrymdylyq Keruen». Through this foundation, we receive food every 3-4 months. Since my husband works, we have an income source, and we did not qualify for free hot meals (Dina, 34 years old).*

*For large families with school-aged children, the government has provided free hot meals at school. Based on data analysis, we observed that various charitable foundations, especially in terms of providing material assistance to large families, are working effectively. Charitable organizations provide food and, if necessary, offer legal, moral, and psychological support.*

The problems in various socio-economic aspects in large families also directly affect relationships between spouses. Issues arising from financial reasons can lead to crises in relationships. In this regard, we asked the respondents to answer the question: «Have there been any crisis situations in your family?».

*Social and material problems lead to family crises. The lack of funds, low income, and the absence of stable work cause disagreements between my husband and me. Of course, such situations occur in every family. But to avoid this, I work on weekends. When crises arise due to material difficulties, I have not turned to additional centers or psychologists. However, I believe that in such stressful situations, it is better to turn to specialists who can offer advice, listen, and also go through professional counseling courses. I think that instead of waiting for help from the state, every family should work and act on its own. It would be good if the government organized free extracurricular activities and sports sections for school-aged children (Rosa, 41 years old).*

*In our family, there is a lack of material resources. This causes conflicts and arguments between my husband and me. I believe these situations happen because I am occupied with household chores and taking care of the children. When I want to send the children to daycare and go to work, the daycare fee is too heavy and expensive for us. In the summer, when the children are on vacation, I try to work. When conflicts arise between spouses and there is psychological fatigue, I would like to visit specialists or attend courses. But at the moment, I don't have the opportunity (Meruert, 33 years old).*

Several respondents noted that their families do not experience crisis situations, and all socio-economic conditions do not cause conflicts.

*In our family, there are no crisis issues. The only request is, since I am a mother of many children, it would be helpful if the government and local authorities could assist by reducing utility payments and providing free hot meals and clothing in school (Aisha, 35 years old).*

*There are no crisis situations in our family. There are no problems. This is because my husband and I are religious people. We approach all difficulties with patience and try to understand each other (Aysulu, 39 years old).*

According to the results of the study, the main cause of crisis situations and conflicts in the family is related to material and economic factors. Thus, it was found that an economic type of crisis arises in large families. Additionally, respondents noted that religious factors play an important role in families without crisis situations. Therefore, it can be concluded that crisis situations in large families are primarily caused by economic factors.

Based on the data analysis, we have presented the problems of large families in the form of a table (Table 3).

Government Benefits	Existing Problems	Living Conditions	Impact on Children
Discounts	Housing problem not fully resolved	Rented apartments or tiny homes	Shyness
Low-interest loans		Lack of separate rooms	Lack of confidence
Social assistance		Lack of personal space	Aggressive and hostile behaviour

Table 3 – Socio-economic problems

Analyzing the data, it becomes evident that the primary focus of today's large families is not on raising children but on prioritizing socio-economic activities to meet their essential needs. Therefore, the practices of advanced countries must be implemented in the existing programs and types of assistance provided by the state and local authorities.

Based on the findings of this study, the central hypothesis is confirmed: large families in the Nauryzbai district face substantial socioeconomic and emotional challenges that current state support systems do not sufficiently address. Interview data revealed that financial instability, limited access to government benefits, and inadequate housing significantly impact the quality of life for these families. Furthermore, emotional stress and marital conflict—often rooted in material hardship—highlight the psychological toll of these conditions. Despite these difficulties, many families demonstrated resilience through proactive strategies, including informal work, support from charitable organizations, and personal or religious coping mechanisms. These findings validate the hypothesis and emphasize the need for more responsive and comprehensive support policies tailored to the specific realities of large families.

## CONCLUSION

Analyzing the problems and opportunities of large families, we have observed that the institution for assisting such families is not sufficiently developed. Although our country's demographic policy is on the right track, more attention still needs to be paid to the main issues large families face. Many large families participating in the study pointed out that the amount of state allowances is insufficient, covering only basic needs and leading to a «survival strategy» rather than a «sufficient standard of living». Considering the vital role of state social policy for large families, it is necessary to reconsider the amounts of payments and allowances provided by the government. Only through state social support can the socio-economic conditions of large families be improved. Although the volunteer sector and charitable organizations are growing in our country today, it is evident that government authorities provide stable social support and assistance.

During the analysis of the data, it was found that in large families, the father is usually the one earning income, while the mother often handles household chores. Because the woman is engaged in household management, she is economically and socio-psychologically dependent on the man. As a result, their problems and needs often go unnoticed. The study revealed that family members with higher education typically work in «stable» jobs and rate their situation as «good». This suggests that the living strategies and opportunities of large families are also related to the educational level of the family members. Large families, for whom state allowances are the primary source of income, rated their socio-economic condition as «average». So, the 1<sup>st</sup> hypothesis was that the amount of financial support is insufficient for their daily life expenses, which was proven.

Based on the interviews' results, we noticed that charitable and public foundations are becoming increasingly important in Kazakhstani society. These organizations aim to address various material

and household issues, such as clothing and food, faced by large families. As a result of the data analysis, our 2nd hypothesis was not confirmed.

Today, many families face crises characterised by misunderstandings between spouses and financial hardships, which result in stress within the family. Through interviews, two distinct types of families were identified based on their perceptions of crisis triggers. The first type attributes conflicts mainly to financial difficulties, while the second type does not view socio-economic problems as the cause of crises. Instead, these families may be influenced by religious and spiritual factors, adopting a mindset of contentment. Thus, we noticed that our 3rd hypothesis was also confirmed.

Nowadays, Kazakhstan provides various forms of government support to citizens in need of housing: provision of rental housing - from the communal housing stock; rent subsidies are provided for housing rented in the private sector; preferential mortgage loans are used to ensure housing affordability for the general population. In addition to rental housing assistance, the government is implementing various mechanisms to support large families in purchasing their own homes. This is being carried out through government programs such as «Happy Family», «Affordable Housing», «7-20-25», and others. However, despite social support, not all parents with many children have their own housing and a stable income. The research respondents mentioned housing issues, which supports our hypothesis regarding the housing shortage for large families. In conclusion, when working with large families, it is crucial to introduce new methods, scientific approaches, and modern, flexible programs to improve existing practices.

In conclusion, when we talk about large families, they are often described in a negative context. However, the role of these families in forming stable demographic indicators in the country is significant, and many problems also arise within such families. Therefore, large families can be seen as a social group in need of social support. To address the issues large families face, it is necessary to develop additional forms of assistance and implement the models of advanced countries. By evaluating the effectiveness of the work of charitable foundations and volunteers, it is important to introduce a system in the future where such organizations collaborate with government authorities.

Based on these findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Descriptions</b>
Reform and Increase Financial Support	Reassess and increase state allowances for large families to reflect inflation and rising living costs. Ensure allowances support a dignified standard of living.
Address Housing Needs	Expand access to affordable housing programs for large families. Prioritize large families in state housing projects and simplify mortgage or rent assistance application process.
Promote Employment Opportunities for Both Parents	Encourage flexible or part-time employment options for mothers in large families. Provide affordable childcare services to enable both parents to work if desired.
Expand Access to Education and Extracurricular Programs	Offer free meals, school supplies, and access to after-school activities for children from large families. Introduce programs supporting educational attainment for parents, especially mothers.
Strengthen Psychological and Family Counseling Services	Establish free psychological support services tailored to large families. Promote public awareness of emotional well-being and conflict resolution within families.
Foster Collaboration Between the State and Civil Society	Develop partnerships between government agencies and charitable foundations for coordinated support. Encourage community-based initiatives empowering large families through local leadership and peer support networks.

Table 4 – Recommendations

These recommendations aim to shift the focus from temporary assistance to long-term development and empowerment. Large families play a vital role in sustaining the country's demographic balance. Thus, addressing their needs is not merely an act of social welfare, but an investment in Kazakhstan's future.

*References:*

1. Rahmi R. et al. *Challenges of Parents Educating Children's Morals in Muslim Families*. 2021. Vol. 4, №3. P. 104-110.
2. Stamoulis D., Pierrakos G. *What Constitutes a Large Family Today? A Multi-Dimensional Approach*. 2023. Vol. 1, №4. - 6-12 p.
3. Bergsvik J., Cools S., Hart R.K. *Explaining Residential Clustering of Large Families* // *European Journal of Population*. Springer Science and Business Media B.V., 2023. Vol. 39, №1.
4. Boyle P., Kulu H. *Premarital cohabitation and divorce: Support for the "Trial Marriage" Theory?* // *Demogr Res. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research*, 2010. Vol. 23. - P. 879-904.
5. Ermisch J., Steele F. *Fertility expectations and residential mobility in Britain* // *Demogr Res. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research*, 2016. Vol. 35, №1. - P. 1561-1584.
6. Kulu H., Steele F. *Interrelationships Between Childbearing and Housing Transitions in the Family Life Course* // *Demography*. 2013. Vol. 50, №5. - P. 1687-1714.
7. Kalfin K., Andrian R., Hadiaty S. *Coping Strategies for Work-Family Conflict Among Working Housewives in Cipatujah Village, Tasikmalaya Regency, Indonesia*. 2024. Vol. 1, №4. - P. 84-88.
8. *Population Investigation Committee When Are Children from Large Families Disadvantaged? Evidence from Cross-National Analyses* Author(s): Sonalde Desai Source: *Population Studies*. 2010.
9. Cinotti A. *Families and Disability. Building an Inclusive Framework: A Cultural Challenge* // *Rivista Italiana Di Educazione Familiare*. 2023. Vol. 22, №1. - P. 29-39.
10. Tkachenko I. V. et al. *Representations Of Ideal Motherhood Among Senior School Students: Age And Gender Aspects*. European Publisher, 2020. - P. 797-804.
11. Туганова П.А., Уфимцева Н.Ф. *Основные проблемы многодетных семей в России. – Социально-экономические и демографические аспекты реализации национальных проектов в регионе: сборник статей X Уральского демографического форума. – Екатеринбург: Институт экономики УрО РАН, 2019. – С. 257-262.*
12. Ghorai B.C., Hazra B. *Parenting Stress of Challenged and Non-Challenged Children: A Comparative Perspective* // *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research*. 2024. Vol. 6, №6.
13. Боваева А.В. *Многодетная семья: особенности психологического климата и детско-родительских отношений* // *Проблемы современного педагогического образования*. – 2019. №2 (65). – С. 303-305.
14. Бухтиярова И.Н., Грудина Т.Н. *Образ многодетной семьи глазами общественного мнения* // *Социодинамика*. Aurora Group, s.r.o, 2017. Vol. 5, №5. P. 108-119.
15. Шлемко Н.В. *Многодетная семья и особенности ее функционирования в современном обществе* // *Молодой ученый*. – 2022. №16 (411). – С. 311-313.
16. Mulder C. H. *Putting family centre stage: Ties to nonresident family, internal migration, and immobility* // *Demographic Research*. -2018. - №1 (39). - p. 1151-1180.

*References:*

1. Rahmi R. et al. *Challenges of Parents Educating Children's Morals in Muslim Families*. 2021. Vol. 4, №3. - P. 104-110.
2. Stamoulis D., Pierrakos G. *What Constitutes a Large Family Today? A Multi-Dimensional Approach*. 2023. Vol. 1, №4. 6-12 p.
3. Bergsvik J., Cools S., Hart R.K. *Explaining Residential Clustering of Large Families* // *European Journal of Population*. Springer Science and Business Media B.V., 2023. Vol. 39, №1.
4. Boyle P., Kulu H. *Premarital cohabitation and divorce: Support for the "Trial Marriage" Theory?* // *Demogr Res. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research*, 2010. Vol. 23. P. 879-904.

5. Ermisch J., Steele F. *Fertility expectations and residential mobility in Britain* // *Demogr Res. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research*, 2016. Vol. 35, №1. - P. 1561-1584.
6. Kulu H., Steele F. *Interrelationships Between Childbearing and Housing Transitions in the Family Life Course* // *Demography*. 2013. Vol. 50, №5. - P. 1687-1714.
7. Kalfin K., Andrian R., Hadiaty S. *Coping Strategies for Work-Family Conflict Among Working Housewives in Cipatujah Village, Tasikmalaya Regency, Indonesia*. 2024. Vol. 1, №4. P. 84-88.
8. *Population Investigation Committee When Are Children from Large Families Disadvantaged? Evidence from Cross-National Analyses* Author(s): Sonalde Desai Source: *Population Studies*. 2010.
9. Cinotti A. *Families and Disability. Building an Inclusive Framework: A Cultural Challenge* // *Rivista Italiana Di Educazione Familiare*. 2023. Vol. 22, №1. P. 29-39.
10. Tkachenko I. V. et al. *Representations Of Ideal Motherhood Among Senior School Students: Age And Gender Aspects*. European Publisher, 2020. P. 797-804.
11. Tuganova P.A., Ufimceva N.F. *Osnovnye problemy mnogodetnyh semej v Rossii. – Social'no-jekonomicheskie i demograficheskie aspekty realizacii nacional'nyh proektov v regione: sbornik statej X Ural'skogo demograficheskogo foruma. – Ekaterinburg: Institut jekonomiki UrO RAN, 2019. – S. 257-262.*
12. Ghorai B.C., Hazra B. *Parenting Stress of Challenged and Non-Challenged Children: A Comparative Perspective* // *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research*. 2024. Vol. 6, №6.
13. Bovaeva A.V. *Mnogodetnaja sem'ja: osobennosti psihologicheskogo klimata i detsko-roditel'skih otnoshenij* // *Problemy sovremennogo pedagogicheskogo obrazovanija. – 2019. №2 (65). – S. 303-305.*
14. Buhtijarova I.N., Grudina T.N. *Obraz mnogodetnoj sem'i glazami obshhestvennogo mnenija* // *Sociodinamika. Aurora Group, s.r.o, 2017. Vol. 5, №5. P. 108-119.*
15. Shlemko N.V. *Mnogodetnaja sem'ja i osobennosti ee funkcionirovanija v sovremennom obshhestve* // *Molodoj uchenyj. – 2022. №16 (411). – S. 311-313.*
16. Mulder C. H. *Putting family centre stage: Ties to nonresident family, internal migration, and immobility* // *Demographic Research*. -2018. - №1 (39). - p. 1151-1180.