Elena Kuharevich

Economic empowerment and intra-household power

Intra-household decision-making in Belarus

Neuchatel, Switzerland, 15-17 May 2019
Source of information

National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus

Sample household living standards survey

Module «Decision-Making in Household»
Structure of the respondents by age
(percent of the total)

- 18-29 years: 3.7%
- 30-39 years: 10.9%
- 40-49 years: 26.9%
- 50-59 years: 21.8%
- 60-69 years: 16.0%
- 70 years and over: 20.7%
Questions and answers (2/1)

Who makes the decision in your household:

- about household finances?
- about making large purchases?
- about making everyday purchases?
- about the duration of your work?
- about the duration of your study?
- about your social commitment?
- about upbringing of children?
- about children’s education?
Questions and answers (2/1)

- own decision
- partner's decision
- other member's decision
- coordinated decision of partners

Most commonly:
- own decision
- partner's decision
- partner's decision
- other member's decision
Management of financial resources (2/1)

(percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Own Decision</th>
<th>Coordinated Decision</th>
<th>Partner's Decision</th>
<th>Other Member's Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29 years</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39 years</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49 years</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59 years</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>72.0</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69 years</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 years and over</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Management of financial resources (2/1)

(Percent)

Head of the household - man
- Own decision: 17.5%
- Coordinated decision: 77.1%
- Partner's decision: 1.8%
- Other member's decision: 5.1%

Head of the household - woman
- Own decision: 23.9%
- Coordinated decision: 74.2%
- Partner's decision: 0%
- Other member's decision: 100%
Purchasing behavior

**decision about large purchases**

- Own decision: 1.7%
- Coordinated decision: 87.4%
- Partner’s decision: 10.4%

**decision about everyday purchases**

- Own decision: 1.3%
- Coordinated decision: 73.5%
- Partner’s decision: 24.4%
Decisions about the life activity of women

(percent)

- Decision about duration of work:
  - Own decision: 65.5%
  - Coordinated decision: 31.5%
  - Partner's decision: 0.6%
  - Other member's decision: 2.4%

- Decision about study:
  - Own decision: 60.5%
  - Coordinated decision: 38.4%
  - Partner's decision: 0.7%
  - Other member's decision: 0.4%

- Decision about social commitment:
  - Own decision: 53.6%
  - Coordinated decision: 45.6%
  - Partner's decision: 0.8%
  - Other member's decision: 0.1%
Decisions about upbringing and education of children

(%)
Authority in household

- Management of financial resources
- Education of children
- Upbringing of children
- Social commitment
- Education
- Large purchases
- Everyday purchases
- Labor market participation

- Own decision
- Coordinated decision
- Partner's decision
Male decisions on issues important to the household

- management of financial resources
- large purchases
- everyday purchases
- labor force participation
- opportunity to study
- partner's decision
- social commitment
- upbringing of children
- education of children
90 women out of 100 families surveyed, called themselves the head of the family, and their husbands confirmed this. 10 husbands tried to claim the leadership, but almost all the wives objected to them. And only 1 woman said that the head of the family is her husband. They decided to award this only lucky person out of 100 by inviting him to choose a gift. And then the husband, turning to his wife, asked: «What do you think, dear, which one is better to choose?»
So no man has become the true head of the family.
What is next?

✓ parallel questionnaire about decision-making in the household of both spouses in order to study the perception of the role of the respondent in decision-making

✓ extension of the module with additional questions to evaluate the partner’s reaction to decisions made in the household by another partner
Thank you for attention!