

CultureTalk Turkmenistan Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Family Roles and Structure

Russian transcript:

- У кого в семье вообще авторитета больше, у отца или у матери?
- Интересный вопрос. Это наверно у детей надо спрашивать.
- Ну в вашей семье как было, когда вы ребенком были или сейчас как?
- А ну, в нашей семье, в моё, в моём детстве...хотя я отца меньше видел чем мать, но я больше уважал, не могу сказать что больше уважал отца, ну как-то, у меня с детство мысль такая...думал что отец выше, хотя большую часть времени со мной мать проводила. Ну считался отец главен, главнее.
- А сейчас как, сейчас вообще изменилось в Туркменских семьях или...?
- Да, сейчас большие изменения, я как говорил женщины больше независимость получили, сейчас наверно может быть даже так что женщина на первом месте.
- Вообще, типичная туркменская семья, кто там, родители и сколько детей обычно в семье?
- Ну раньше семья большие были, шесть, семь человек, шесть, семеро детей. Старшие уходили по достижении совершеннолетия, женились, замуж выходилик, младшие оставались с родителями. Это косательно сыновей...а дочери все замуж выходят и они другая семья считается.

English translation:

- Who has more authority at home [in the family], the father or mother?
- An interesting question. Probably we would have to ask the children about it.
- Well, how was it in your times, when you were a baby, or how is it now?
- Ah, well, in my family, in my, in my childhood...though I used to see my dad less than my mom, I respected more, I cannot say, I respected my dad more, but kind of, I have such an idea...I thought that the father was higher, though my mom spent most of the time with me. Well, the father was considered high, higher.
- What about now; has it changed at all in Turkmenistan families or...?

- Yes, there are big changes; as I said, women have a lot of independence; even now, probably, women are coming out on top.¹

- In general, a typical Turkmen family, who is it made up of? Parents, and how many kids are usually in the family?

- Families used to be big -- six, seven, people; six, seven kids. The elder ones would leave after getting old enough, get married; the younger ones would stay with the parents. It is for the sons...and the daughters all get married, and they are considered another family.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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¹ The speaker literally says “are in first place” to denote that women are also achieving high social status/roles.