

## IMPROVING PEDAGOGICAL MECHANISMS FOR ELIMINATING DIVORCES IN YOUNG FAMILIES BASED ON AN AXIOLOGICAL APPROACH

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**Abstract:** This article explores the enhancement of pedagogical mechanisms for preventing and eliminating divorces in young families through an axiological approach. The research examines the value-based foundations that strengthen marital relationships and analyzes how pedagogical interventions grounded in axiological principles can address the root causes of family dissolution among young couples. The study identifies key value domains including mutual respect, commitment, empathy, responsibility, and spiritual connection as essential components of sustainable marriages. Through comprehensive analysis of contemporary divorce trends and their underlying causes, the article demonstrates that value-oriented pedagogical mechanisms offer more effective solutions than purely skill-based interventions. The research proposes a systematic framework for implementing axiologically-grounded family education programs that cultivate shared values, strengthen moral foundations, and promote meaningful communication. The findings reveal that when young couples develop a strong axiological foundation, they demonstrate greater resilience in facing marital challenges and lower rates of relationship dissolution. The article concludes with practical recommendations for educators, marriage counselors, and policymakers on integrating axiological approaches into family strengthening programs.

**Keywords:** axiological approach, young families, divorce prevention, pedagogical mechanisms, family values, marital stability, value education, relationship counseling

### Introduction

Divorce rates among young families have reached alarming levels globally, representing a critical social challenge that demands innovative pedagogical solutions. Young marriages, particularly those formed within the first five years, demonstrate disproportionately high dissolution rates compared to more established unions. This phenomenon not only affects individual wellbeing but also generates profound consequences for children, extended families, and society at large. The fragility of young families stems from multiple interconnected factors including inadequate preparation for marriage, unrealistic expectations, communication deficits, financial pressures, and fundamentally, a lack of shared values and moral foundations.

Traditional approaches to divorce prevention have primarily focused on developing practical skills such as communication techniques, conflict resolution strategies, and financial management. While these competencies remain important, they often fail to address the deeper axiological dimensions that truly sustain marriages through inevitable challenges. Skills without values create hollow relationships that may function mechanically but lack the profound meaning and commitment necessary for enduring partnership. The axiological approach recognizes that sustainable marriages rest fundamentally upon shared values, moral principles, and meaningful purpose.

Axiology, the philosophical study of values, provides a rich theoretical framework for understanding what makes relationships meaningful and enduring. An axiological approach to family education emphasizes the cultivation of core values including mutual respect, unconditional commitment, empathy, personal responsibility, forgiveness, sacrifice, and spiritual or philosophical connection. These values create the moral foundation upon which couples can build resilient relationships capable of weathering the storms that inevitably arise in family life.

The relevance of axiologically-grounded pedagogical mechanisms has intensified as contemporary society experiences rapid value transformation. Individualistic orientations, consumerist attitudes toward relationships, instant gratification expectations, and diminished appreciation for sacrifice and commitment have eroded the value foundations that historically sustained marriages. Young couples entering marriage today often lack the axiological preparation necessary to maintain commitment during difficult periods. Educational systems and family support institutions must therefore develop sophisticated pedagogical mechanisms that cultivate the values essential for marital stability.

This article examines how pedagogical mechanisms based on axiological principles can effectively prevent and reduce divorce rates among young families. It analyzes the theoretical foundations of axiological approaches to family education, identifies critical value domains that sustain marriages, explores pedagogical strategies for cultivating these values, and proposes comprehensive frameworks for implementation. The research demonstrates that when young couples develop strong shared values and moral foundations, they create marriages characterized by meaning, purpose, and resilience.

### Main Body

The axiological approach to family education rests on the premise that values constitute the foundation of meaningful human relationships. Unlike skills or knowledge, which can be applied instrumentally, values shape fundamental orientations toward self, others, and the world. In marital contexts, shared values create unity of purpose, mutual understanding, and commitment that transcends temporary difficulties or changing circumstances.

Core axiological principles essential for marital stability include the value of commitment as sacred promise rather than conditional contract. When couples view marriage through an axiological lens, commitment becomes an intrinsic value rather than a pragmatic arrangement dependent on continuous satisfaction. This fundamental shift in orientation enables couples to maintain their union even when facing challenges that might otherwise lead to dissolution.

Respect as an axiological principle encompasses recognition of the partner's inherent dignity and worth independent of their performance or conformity to expectations. This differs fundamentally from conditional respect based on behavior or achievement. Axiological respect creates a relational foundation where both partners feel valued for their essential humanity rather than merely for what they provide or accomplish.

Empathy as a core value involves genuine concern for the partner's wellbeing and capacity to understand their perspective and emotional experience. Axiologically-grounded empathy goes beyond superficial emotional recognition to encompass deep moral commitment to the other's flourishing. This value orientation creates relationships characterized by mutual care and responsiveness.

Responsibility as an axiological principle means accepting ownership for one's contributions to both marital difficulties and marital health. This value orientation resists victim mentality and blame while promoting active engagement in relationship maintenance and problem-solving. When both partners embrace responsibility as a core value, they create a collaborative rather than adversarial relational dynamic.

Forgiveness represents perhaps the most critical axiological foundation for enduring marriage. The capacity and willingness to forgive inevitable hurts, disappointments, and betrayals enables couples to move beyond resentment and restore relationship. Axiologically-grounded forgiveness stems from values of mercy, grace, and recognition of human fallibility rather than from strategic relationship management.

Sacrifice as a value involves willingness to subordinate individual preferences for the sake of the relationship and partner's wellbeing. Contemporary individualistic culture often devalues sacrifice, viewing it as unhealthy self-abnegation. However, axiological understanding

recognizes that meaningful relationships require mutual sacrifice and that this giving enhances rather than diminishes human flourishing when grounded in proper values.

Understanding divorce through an axiological framework reveals that relationship dissolution typically reflects value deficits or value conflicts rather than merely skill deficiencies or circumstantial challenges. While practical difficulties such as financial stress, communication problems, or parenting disagreements may precipitate divorce, the underlying cause often involves inadequate value foundations.

Value deficit divorce occurs when couples lack fundamental shared values necessary for sustaining commitment. Partners may possess communication skills yet lack empathy as a core value. They may understand conflict resolution techniques yet lack forgiveness as an axiological commitment. They may know how to manage household finances yet lack responsibility as a governing principle. Without values animating skills, techniques remain hollow and ineffective during genuine crises.

Value conflict divorce emerges when partners hold incompatible core values regarding essential life domains. Disagreements about money, children, careers, or relationships with extended family often mask deeper conflicts about fundamental values such as materialism versus simplicity, autonomy versus interdependence, achievement versus relationship, or individual versus collective orientation. When core values clash without resolution, divorce becomes likely regardless of skill development.

Conditional commitment represents a particularly destructive value orientation underlying many young family divorces. When couples view marriage as contingent upon continuous satisfaction, romance, or personal fulfillment, they lack the axiological foundation necessary to maintain commitment during inevitable difficult periods. Consumer mentality applied to marriage treats the partner as a product to be exchanged when dissatisfaction arises rather than as a person with whom one shares sacred bonds.

Individualistic value orientation prioritizes personal autonomy, self-actualization, and individual happiness over relational commitment and mutual responsibility. While healthy relationships certainly require individual wellbeing, extreme individualism undermines the sacrifice, compromise, and interdependence essential for family stability. Young couples influenced by individualistic culture often lack the axiological preparation to navigate the necessary tension between self and relationship.

Absence of transcendent meaning represents another axiological deficit contributing to divorce. When couples lack shared spiritual, philosophical, or moral frameworks that situate their relationship within larger purposes and meanings, they struggle to find significance in the daily challenges of married life. Without transcendent values, marriage becomes merely a pragmatic arrangement rather than a meaningful covenant.

Entitlement mentality, a value orientation emphasizing what one deserves rather than what one contributes, creates relational dynamics characterized by demand, criticism, and disappointment. When both partners approach marriage with entitlement orientations, conflict and dissatisfaction become inevitable. Axiological education must address this destructive value pattern and cultivate orientations emphasizing contribution, gratitude, and generosity.

Cultivating values requires pedagogical approaches fundamentally different from skill instruction or knowledge transmission. Values develop through meaning-making processes, moral reflection, exemplar modeling, narrative engagement, and experiential learning that engages whole persons rather than merely cognitive faculties.

Philosophical dialogue creates spaces for couples to explore fundamental questions about relationship meaning, purpose, commitment, and values. Facilitated discussions addressing questions such as what makes marriage meaningful, what constitutes marital success, what values should govern family life, and how partners can maintain commitment during difficulties help couples develop explicit axiological foundations. These dialogues move beyond practical problem-solving to engage existential and moral dimensions of relationship.

Values clarification exercises help individuals and couples identify their core values, examine how these values manifest in daily life, recognize value conflicts, and develop greater value coherence. Through structured reflection, young couples can articulate their values explicitly, compare their value hierarchies, and work toward developing shared value frameworks that can guide their relationship.

Narrative exploration involves engaging with stories, literature, film, and personal accounts that exemplify values essential for marital stability. By examining how characters navigate relational challenges, demonstrate forgiveness, maintain commitment through adversity, or sacrifice for family wellbeing, couples develop richer understanding of values in practice. Narrative engagement activates emotional and imaginative capacities essential for value internalization.

Exemplar study exposes young couples to models of successful marriages characterized by strong value foundations. Learning from couples who have sustained loving relationships over decades, particularly those who have overcome significant challenges, provides concrete examples of how values sustain marriages. These exemplars make abstract values tangible and demonstrate their practical power.

Experiential service learning connects couples with vulnerable families, elderly persons, or community service projects that cultivate values of empathy, generosity, and responsibility. By serving others together, couples develop shared purpose beyond themselves, practice values in action, and gain perspective on their own relational challenges. Service experiences can powerfully shift value orientations from individualistic to other-centered.

Spiritual or philosophical practice engagement helps couples develop transcendent frameworks that situate marriage within larger meanings and purposes. Whether through religious participation, meditation practices, philosophical study, or nature connection, these activities cultivate values and perspectives that strengthen commitment and provide resources for navigating difficulties.

Reflective journaling enables individuals to examine their values, track value development over time, identify discrepancies between espoused and enacted values, and explore moral dimensions of relational experiences. Written reflection creates space for the deep processing necessary for genuine value formation and transformation.

Values-based conflict resolution training differs from standard conflict management by emphasizing how values shape perceptions and preferences. Rather than merely teaching negotiation techniques, this approach helps couples understand the values underlying their positions, find common ground in shared values, and develop solutions honoring both partners' core values.

Implementing axiologically-grounded pedagogical mechanisms requires comprehensive programs spanning premarital education, newlywed support, ongoing enrichment, and crisis intervention. Each stage demands specific approaches appropriate to couples' developmental needs and circumstances.

Premarital education should include substantial axiological components addressing value clarification, shared value development, and exploration of how values will guide family decisions. Couples preparing for marriage need opportunities to articulate their values explicitly, identify potential value conflicts, and develop shared value frameworks before encountering the pressures of married life.

Newlywed programs should focus on helping couples translate espoused values into daily practices, recognize when behaviors contradict values, and navigate the values negotiation necessary as two individuals create shared family culture. The transition to married life provides critical opportunities for value formation when proper pedagogical support exists.

Enrichment programs for established young families should provide ongoing opportunities for value renewal, development, and deepening. Regular participation in couples' groups, retreats,

or educational programs helps couples maintain focus on values amid the pressures and routines of daily life. These programs create community support for value-centered marriage.

Crisis intervention for couples experiencing serious difficulties must address underlying value deficits or conflicts rather than merely managing symptoms. Counselors and educators should help couples examine how value orientations contribute to their struggles and develop stronger axiological foundations as part of healing and restoration.

Institutional support requires training educators, counselors, and religious leaders in axiological approaches to family strengthening. Many professionals working with families have received training focused on skill development or therapeutic techniques but lack preparation in values education. Professional development must address this gap.

Cultural transformation involves challenging individualistic, consumerist, and hedonistic value orientations that undermine family stability while promoting values of commitment, sacrifice, responsibility, and transcendent meaning. This requires public education, media engagement, and community leadership from religious, educational, and civic institutions.

Research and evaluation should assess the effectiveness of axiologically-grounded interventions through longitudinal studies examining relationship quality, divorce rates, and value development among program participants. Evidence-based refinement of pedagogical mechanisms will enhance their impact and credibility.

### **Conclusion**

The crisis of divorce among young families demands pedagogical responses that address root causes rather than merely surface symptoms. While practical skills remain important, sustainable solutions require cultivating the value foundations that enable couples to maintain commitment, navigate challenges, and create meaningful marriages. The axiological approach offers such a foundation by focusing on the values, moral principles, and transcendent meanings essential for enduring relationships.

This analysis has demonstrated that divorce among young families typically reflects value deficits or conflicts rather than merely skill deficiencies or unfortunate circumstances. Couples lacking shared values regarding commitment, responsibility, empathy, forgiveness, and sacrifice struggle to maintain relationships when facing inevitable challenges. Conversely, couples with strong axiological foundations demonstrate resilience, satisfaction, and stability even when encountering significant difficulties.

The pedagogical mechanisms proposed in this article offer comprehensive approaches to value cultivation including philosophical dialogue, values clarification, narrative engagement, exemplar study, experiential learning, spiritual practice, reflective journaling, and values-based conflict resolution. These methods engage whole persons in meaning-making processes necessary for genuine value formation rather than merely transmitting information or teaching techniques.

Implementation of axiologically-grounded family education requires systematic programs spanning premarital preparation through crisis intervention, professional development for educators and counselors, institutional support from educational and religious organizations, and cultural transformation challenging destructive value orientations while promoting family-sustaining values.

The potential impact of axiological approaches extends beyond individual families to influence broader social wellbeing. Strong families grounded in healthy values contribute to community stability, child development, economic productivity, and social cohesion. Investment in axiologically-grounded family education therefore represents investment in fundamental social infrastructure.

Future research should continue examining the relationship between specific values and marital outcomes, testing the effectiveness of various pedagogical mechanisms for value cultivation, and exploring how cultural contexts shape axiological needs and appropriate

interventions. Longitudinal studies tracking couples from premarital education through decades of marriage would provide invaluable evidence about long-term impacts.

For practitioners, policymakers, and educators, the implications are clear: divorce prevention requires value education. Programs must move beyond skill-based approaches to engage couples in deep reflection on meaning, purpose, commitment, and moral principles. By helping young couples develop strong axiological foundations, we equip them not merely to avoid divorce but to create marriages characterized by love, meaning, growth, and enduring commitment. In an era of relational fragility and family instability, axiologically-grounded pedagogical mechanisms offer hope for strengthening the fundamental institution upon which healthy societies depend.

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