

Human Values in Social Integration: A Sociological Study on Religion, Family, Respect, Love, Tolerance, Responsibility, Empathy and Patience

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Article Info	Abstract
Received: 17.06.2026 Accepted: 23.07.2026 Published: 15.10.2026 Keywords: Social Values, Religion, Empathy, Responsibility, Tolerance. Jel Code: Z00 Corresponding Author: İlhan BİNGÖL Research Article https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23372950	The value system is one of the most fundamental and indispensable elements of human history, ensuring the continuity of social structure, regulating interpersonal relationships, and enabling communal life. Values that guide individuals' attitudes and behaviors also form the spirit of society, serving as a unifying glue. The transformation wrought in the social fabric by modernization, digitalization, and global change has led to greater questioning of value systems today; consequently, rethinking the function of values in social cohesion has become a necessity. This study examines the values that ensure the continuity of social structure and play a regulatory role in individualsociety relations within the framework of the "social glue" metaphor. Based on a qualitative approach and literature review, the study emphasizes that values are not only individual ethical principles but also the fundamental pillars of social stability, belonging, and cultural transmission. Fundamental social values such as religion, family, respect, love, tolerance, empathy, patience, and responsibility are examined within a theoretical framework, revealing how these values shape individual attitudes and contribute to the continuity of social structure. While the central role played by institutions such as religion and family in the transmission of values is underscored, the functions of values such as love, tolerance, and empathy in fostering peace and solidarity in interpersonal relationships are highlighted. Furthermore, it is stated that values such as patience and responsibility are decisive not only for personal development but also for social functioning.

1. Introduction

Social values are defined as the totality of fundamental beliefs and principles that shape the behavior of individuals and groups and play a decisive role in maintaining social order. Within this framework, values are generalized moral assumptions formed by a society's historical accumulation, passed down from generation to generation through acceptance, and reflecting shared feelings and thoughts (Köse and Direkçi, 2022). This structure, which functions as a criterion in evaluating individuals' actions, consists of rules and opinions that offer a reference point for what is good, right, and beneficial (Akkaya, 2017). Values also function as deep and abstract sources of motivation that enable people to give meaning to their lives (Avcı and Faiz, 2019). This structure, which plays an important role in ensuring social harmony and continuity, expresses behavioral patterns shaped around common meanings adopted by the majority (Aydın, Öztürk, and Küçükoglu, 2020). In this respect, the value system provides a fundamental framework that guides individuals in determining their priorities in the face of situations they encounter in social life (Kavıracı, 2020). Social values, as fundamental beliefs that guide individual behavior and ensure the continuity of social order, are central to both individual and collective life. These values, forming the shared meaning of society, strengthen social cohesion by offering individuals a guide to correct and acceptable behavior.

Social values, as fundamental beliefs that guide individual behavior and ensure the continuity of social order, are central to both individual and collective life. These values, which construct society's shared worldview, contribute to strengthening social cohesion by providing individuals with a frame of reference for correct and acceptable behavior. In this context, examining the concrete manifestations of values is crucial for understanding social integration.

Societies are not merely structures formed by the physical presence of individuals; they also possess a social cohesion. This social cohesion depends on the existence of spiritual, cultural, and moral elements that bring individuals together and bind them around a shared ideal of life. The most prominent of these elements are values. Values are fundamental belief systems that guide individual behavior, shape social norms, and make individual-society interaction meaningful. In establishing and maintaining social order, values function like an invisible "social glue," building bonds of belonging, trust, responsibility, and solidarity among individuals. In this context, understanding the position of values within society from a sociological perspective becomes crucial.

Social values are defined in sociological literature as the totality of shared normative criteria, belief systems, and value judgments that a society has regarding what is 'good', 'right', and 'desirable' (İnce, 2017). These values, which are not merely individual preferences, are social criteria that shape the social structure, enabling individuals and groups to establish a "logic of choice" among their options for action (Ersoy, 2018). Shaped throughout historical processes and reflecting social memory, values, due to their abstract nature, lay the groundwork for the formation of social norms. According to the Parsonian approach, social values are among the main cultural elements that support the integration of the social system, ensure the continuity of social order, and contribute to the establishment of common consensus (Aksan, 2016).

From a sociological perspective, values are not merely criteria that determine an individual's inner world and ethical orientations, but rather cornerstones of the social structure that ensures the continuity of collective life. Values play a unifying, guiding, and balancing role for societies. The continuity and cultural transmission of a society across generations are largely ensured through the value system. However, processes such as modernization, urbanization, globalization, individualization, and digitalization have transformed the traditional form of social structures and led to significant erosion in value systems. In this new era, where cultural hybridization is accelerating, individual-centered lifestyles are coming to the forefront, and digital culture is pervading daily life, the weakening of shared value areas can lead to loosening of social bonds, identity fragmentation, and intergenerational rupture. Therefore, the fundamental problem of this study is: 'Can values still play a unifying and integrative role in contemporary societies?'

The rapid processes of social change, individualistic trends, and the spread of digital culture in today's world are leading to a weakening of shared values and a loosening of social bonds. In this context, re-examining the role of values in social cohesion has become an important need for both sociological theory and social practices. This study aims to highlight the constitutive and unifying role that values play in the sustainability of social order by examining values through the metaphor of "social glue."

This study aims to demonstrate that values function not only as ethical orientations at the individual level, but also as a mechanism that enables social integration, structures the rule-making order, and places social relations within an institutional framework. In this context, the "social glue" nature of values is examined within a conceptual perspective. Designed in accordance with a qualitative research approach, the study is a theoretical review based on a literature review. In this theoretically grounded review, the main human values that play a decisive role in the construction of social cohesion—religion, family, respect, love, tolerance, responsibility, empathy, and patience—are examined, and the aim is to contribute to the relevant literature in this regard.

2. Conceptual Framework

2.1. The Concept of Value

Values, which are generalized fundamental moral principles that maintain the existence, integrity, and functioning of society, reflect the common feelings, thoughts, and interests of individuals, and are accepted by the majority of society members (Aytaç, 2002: 182), are shared criteria or ideas that determine which social behavior is good, right, and desirable. Composed of abstract and general concepts, values are of great importance in terms of influencing the norms of the society in which they exist (Özkalp, 2017: 93). Shaped within the framework of social consensus processes that occur among individuals, values emerge not only as a reflection of individual preferences but also as a decisive regulatory force in the organization of co-existence.

Values, which are phenomena that enable individuals to rationally internalize their behavior, necessitate the presence of elements of belief and acceptance in every context in which they exist. Conceptually, a value refers to things that are desired, preferred, and considered important (Topçuoğlu, 1996: 2). The existence of values, which can change over time and are affected by the structural transformations of societies, is directly related to the existence of individuals at the micro level and cultures and civilizations at the macro level. However, the hierarchy of importance of values differs between societies and also changes over time within the same society in parallel with social transformations (Yazıcı, 2013: 1491).

Values, addressed from various theoretical perspectives by different disciplines of the social sciences, are examined in each field according to its own methodological and conceptual framework. Values are studied in fields such as philosophy, theology, ethnology, anthropology, psychology, and sociology within their own conceptual and methodological contexts (Şahin, 2022: 30). As can be seen, the subject of values has an interdisciplinary nature, and values are a multi-dimensional object of study in different scientific fields.

According to the prevailing view in sociological literature, social behaviors are goal-oriented, and values define the behavioral patterns that individuals desire, consider important, or adopt as a necessity. Social order is generally organized around certain fundamental values; the sharing and continuity of these values play a critical role in establishing social stability and strengthening intra-community integration (Korkmaz, 2013: 54). From this perspective, values are not only the motivational source of individual behaviors but also play a central role in ensuring social stability. Philosophically, values are concepts addressed in relation to both morality and the understanding of knowledge and existence, stemming from the question of how a person should live their life. Value is not only derived from objective facts but also gains meaning through emotional experiences, virtues, and moral judgments (Tüfenkci, 2023: 14-18).

From a theological perspective, religious beliefs and value systems provide a guiding conceptual framework for individuals in the process of making sense of life and directing their behavior. Although different religions have some differences on issues such as creation, the purpose of life, ethical principles, and the afterlife, they largely serve a common function in explaining human existence and giving it a life orientation (Koç, 2018, p. 2). Therefore, religions as social values play a decisive role in the formation of believers' worldview and philosophy of life.

2.2. Characteristics of Values

Values, which are among the fundamental elements that give meaning to culture and society, are guiding principles that ensure the continuity of the social structure. Fichter (2006: 167) systematically explains the distinctive characteristics of values under various headings. Accordingly, values are structures shared by broad segments of society and largely agreed upon. Values possess characteristics such as being shared, taken seriously, existing with enthusiasm, and being abstractable from other valuable objects in society.

Values, which are general principles and belief systems that guide individuals' behavior, provide motivation in achieving goals, and extend beyond a specific situation or action, serve as a bridge between individual identity and social norms. These abstract criteria, which shape individuals' tendencies and serve as guides in social life, also have a hierarchical structure. In an individual's value system, some values may be more dominant and prioritized than others. For example, the 'value of responsibility' may hold a more decisive position for a person than some other values (Yaşaroğlu, 2020).

Values, which are abstract belief systems and ideals that guide individuals' attitudes and behaviors, contribute to the development of feelings of unity and solidarity in society (Aytaç, 2002: 182). Values, which are part of society's collective memory, not only serve to maintain social order but also play a central role in the construction of individuals' identities, the development of a sense of belonging, and the ensuring of cultural continuity.

The value system that shapes an individual's intellectual, moral, and behavioral world also makes profound contributions to humanity's existential search for meaning. Values not only create a sense of identity and belonging at the individual level, but also serve as a cornerstone of cultural structure, playing a vital role in the construction and preservation of the social fabric (Türkyılmaz et al., 2020). Social values, which play a central role in the continuity of social life as shared standards or judgments among members of society, are transmitted to individuals through intergenerational interaction within the socialization process. Intergenerational communication is of great importance for the preservation and sustainability of social culture (Canatan, 2008: 62).

Values, which are regulatory structures shared and agreed upon by a large segment of society, ensure the preservation of order while also enabling social harmony, integration, and the realization of the ideal of shared life. The internalization of values at both individual and societal levels is an indispensable requirement for the long-term stability and development of society. Therefore, the recognition, transmission, and preservation of values must be continuously supported through education, cultural production, and social practices. While societal values guide the behavior of individuals and groups, they can also create a basis for disagreements and conflicts at the societal level. Disagreements, particularly those arising from moral, religious, or ideological issues, often stem from differences in values. However, values play a decisive role in the formation of cultural identity by determining what behaviors are expected of members of a culture and what behaviors should be avoided. Accordingly, different value systems lead to the emergence of different social practices and behavioral patterns.

Social change, accelerated by globalization and digitalization, increases the risk of losing traditional knowledge and cultural heritage passed down from previous generations. The erosion of social values weakens

existing social structures; therefore, the transmission of experiences and values from previous generations to new ones plays a critical role in preserving cultural continuity.

3. Social Values

Social values are fundamental principles and beliefs that express shared understandings of what is right, good, beautiful, and desirable within a society. These values transcend individual preferences, forming collective frames of reference that contribute to the maintenance of social order, solidarity, and continuity. Possessing a moral authority that surpasses the individual, values enable the integration of the social system and guide social roles. They also shape the individual's world of meaning, determining the direction of social actions. In this respect, social values act as intermediaries between social structure and individual action. This study examines, within a theoretical framework, the concepts of religion, family, respect, love, tolerance, responsibility, empathy, and patience as fundamental values that ensure social integration and hold society together.

3.1. Religion: Meaning and Social Integration

Religion, which offers God-centered answers to existential questions, is not only a metaphysical belief system but also a fundamental social institution that shapes individual attitudes and behaviors, determining the set of values and guiding daily life (Kirman, 2004: 61). In this function, religion guides the individual's search for meaning while playing a dominant role in the formation of social norms, the establishment of moral order, and the construction of cultural identity. Humans are by nature inclined to believe. This tendency to believe often leads to the creation of religion, directed towards a transcendent being. Even in cases where an individual denies God, traces of this tendency can be found. In this context, whether religion manifests as belief or denial, it plays a decisive role in the individual's life (Arslantürk and Amman, 2017: 283).

Religion, present in all human societies from primitive to modern, is a universal phenomenon. Each society has developed its own unique belief systems, rituals, and traditions in accordance with its historical and cultural context. Religion, born and developed within a social context, strengthens community consciousness by integrating individuals around a common spiritual belonging (Coşkun, 2024). As one of the institutional structures arising from the basic needs of society, religion is a universal, necessary, and functional institution. Both in traditional and modern societies, individuals and communities turn to religious beliefs and need this institution (Yavuzer and Cihan, 2023: 111).

Religion offers individuals and societies not only a belief system but also a comprehensive worldview and way of life. In this respect, religion has consistently influenced the shaping of daily life; it has played roles such as ensuring the continuity of the social structure, resisting change, or acting as a driving force for transformation. The reciprocal interaction between society and religion has been a decisive factor in the rise and fall of civilizations throughout history. Therefore, it is impossible to consider religion independently from the social structure (Abuzar, 2011: 143).

Religion, which played a significant role in the construction of civilizations, has also been decisive in shaping cultural structures. World religions have contributed to the institutionalization of unified cultures by bringing different communities together around shared values. Belief systems that have become universal over time have extended an individual's sense of belonging beyond tribal or national boundaries, paving the way for the formation of more inclusive identities. Etymologically, the concept of 'religion' encompasses meanings such as obligation, obedience, and judgment, functioning as a system of values that regulates an individual's responsibilities towards God and society (Frankel, 2012: 313).

Religion, which plays an effective role in building social justice, peace, and integrity, undertakes functions of both transforming and uniting society, while also being influenced by social structures. The continuity of society and the preservation of moral order depend on religious values and divine authority to which sanctity is attributed (Cilacı, 1995).

From a sociological perspective, religion, like other social norms, presents a functional structure. Its most fundamental function is to ensure individual peace and establish social cohesion. By bringing individuals together through shared rituals, it contributes to the strengthening of collective consciousness and emotions. The sacred values built around these rituals create a symbiotic bond between individuals, reinforcing social solidarity (Dönmezer, 1984: 261-264). Furthermore, religion, through its reward and punishment mechanisms, guides individual consciences, limiting social deviance and thus enabling the continuity of social harmony (Günay, 1998: 323).

Religion, one of the fundamental institutions ensuring the continuity of social structure, is not merely a realm of individual belief. It also contributes to the internalization of social norms by bringing individuals together around shared values. By providing a moral framework for establishing social order, religion guides individual behavior. Furthermore, it enhances psychological resilience by offering individuals a world of meaning during periods of crisis, uncertainty, and trauma. This demonstrates that religion plays a role in supporting both mental balance at the individual level and harmony and stability at the societal level.

Religion, a realm of thought where individuals seek answers to their existential questions, also functions as a structural institution ensuring the continuity of society, operating on both philosophical and sociological levels. From a philosophical perspective, humanity's search for meaning and its answers to fundamental ontological questions such as death, freedom, responsibility, and transcendence are often shaped through religion.

From a sociological perspective, religion is more than just a matter of individual belief; it is a powerful institution that contributes to the preservation of social order, the internalization of moral norms, and the formation of collective identity. As old as human history itself, religion, despite the secularization processes that emerged with modernity, has not ceased to attract individuals and societies; on the contrary, it has continued to exist through reinterpretations in various forms. In the postmodern era, religion has emerged not as a fixed structure, but as a flexible source of meaning in the construction of individual identity. This has paved the way for the development of an understanding of religion that emphasizes both individual freedom and social pluralism.

In conclusion, religion holds an indispensable place both in giving meaning to individual existence and in the construction of social structure. It should be considered not only as a dogmatic belief system, but also as a multifaceted field of thought and practice that shapes the ways in which humans relate to the universe, society, and themselves.

3.2. The Family as the Primary Space for Value Transmission

The family, which plays a central role in the process of individuals acquiring values, is the most fundamental institution of society. The family environment, where initial socialization takes place, is of vital importance as it is the first area where individuals' self-perception is formed and where they internalize social norms and moral rules (Kağıtçıbaşı, 2007).

Compared to other institutions in society, the family is an institution with a stronger social dimension (Aydın, 2016). Its value system, which shows individuals what is good, right, beautiful, and beneficial, forms the fundamental frame of reference that determines the direction of individual behavior. The family institution is not only a vehicle for carrying values but also possesses a cultural and moral value in itself. In terms of internalizing, living, and transmitting values to subsequent generations, the family stands out as the primary and most effective environment for socialization (Doğan, 2023). A multifaceted institution that enables both the biological continuity and social construction of human life, the family is the first environment in which an individual takes their first steps in the socialization process. The family, the first place an individual is born, is not only a union based on blood ties; it is also an area of interaction where cultural values, social norms, and historical accumulations are passed down from generation to generation. Beyond biological relationships, the family is a multi-layered social structure through psychological bonds, economic functions, legal regulations, and social roles (Sayın, 1990: 2).

Historically, the family institution, occupying a central position in almost every society as the individual's first area of socialization and the fundamental space for identity construction, has played a functional role in the internalization of social norms and the achievement of social integration. Rather than a static structure, the family is a dynamic institution shaped by historical and social processes, and within this context, it has experienced various ruptures and transformations in its structure and functions along with economic transformations, cultural differentiations, and changes in social values (Turgut, 2017: 93).

In the family institution, which is highly valued in individuals' lives and considered one of the fundamental building blocks of social life, individuals encounter phenomena such as difference, power relations, hierarchy, and belonging for the first time (Adak, 2015). The family functions as the smallest universe reflecting the value judgments, belief system, aesthetic understanding, and overall cultural structure of the society in which it exists. Although the relationships between family members may vary in intensity, these relationships are generally continuous (Erkan, 2010: 3). In short, the family is a multifaceted sociological institution that goes

beyond being a biological entity, undertaking fundamental functions in the internalization of social values and their transmission across generations, encompassing psychological, economic, legal, and cultural aspects.

The family, as a sociological institution, has been studied within the framework of various theoretical approaches. According to Hill and Hansen's classification, five main approaches stand out in family research: The interactionist approach examines the family through the dynamic interaction between individuals; the structural-functionalist approach considers it as a static subsystem of society; the situational approach focuses on the individual's responses to their social and psychological environment; the institutional approach positions the family within its historical and cultural context, viewing it as the basic unit of the social structure; and the developmental approach analyzes the family as a dynamic structure based on roles that transform over time (Yazan, 1989: 150-152).

The family, the primary institution where an individual experiences their first socialization process, can be considered a small model reflecting society. The forms of interaction, role distributions, and communication dynamics observed within the family structure are small-scale reflections of the broader social structure. The family stands out not only as a private sphere but also as a space where social relations are produced and reproduced. However, the family institution changes depending on historical conditions. The modernization process has led to radical transformations in the structural and functional characteristics of social institutions; one of the institutions most affected by this transformation has been the family. While in traditional societies the family was a central structure that ensured not only the biological reproduction of individuals but also economic production, social solidarity, and cultural transmission; with modernization, this multi-functional structure began to disintegrate (Bingöl, 2025).

Modernization dynamics such as industrialization and urbanization have detached the family from traditional solidarity networks, shifting it towards a more individual-centered and flexible structure (Kongar, 1985). In this process, the inclusion of women in the workforce has reshaped family authority and communication styles (Karşlı, 2019). Dynamics accompanying modernization, such as women's participation in the workforce, increased education levels, and globalization, have transformed both the internal workings and the social position of the family institution. This transformation has had a wide-ranging impact, from intra-family authority relations and gender roles to communication styles and individuals' expectations of the family. Today's family structures have moved away from traditional solidarity-based patterns towards more individual-centered, flexible, and pluralistic models. This change has brought with it value conflicts, intergenerational tensions, and institutional disintegration. With these fundamental functions, the family plays a decisive role not only in the individual's identity formation but also in their active participation in social life. The individual, born naked into the world, puts on a garment within the family. In this context, the family is not only a biological union but also a center for the production of values where cultural and social codes are transmitted. Essentially, the family is the first institution where the individual is transformed into a political being.

The family, besides being a fundamental institution that serves as a bridge between the individual and society, has been in constant and strong interaction with religion throughout history because it naturally constitutes a religious community. The family, which is at the center of religious life, complements religion in the preservation, perpetuation, and transmission of religious and moral values to future generations. Parents setting an example for their children facilitates both the upbringing of healthy individuals and the sustainability of these values (Selman, 2018: 13). Religion plays a decisive role in the functioning of the family institution and the relationships between individuals. To understand this influence, it is necessary to consider individuals' religious values, belief systems, and religious lives. Key milestones in family life, such as marriage, wedding ceremonies, birth, death, circumcision, fertility, and divorce, are often shaped by religious rules and traditions. This interaction reveals the regulatory effect of religion on the family and the mutual determinative role of the religion-family relationship in maintaining social functioning.

Many events within the family are reinforced and given a spiritual dimension through religious rituals. For example, in many societies, marriage is not limited to a civil ceremony; a religious ceremony is also performed to emphasize the sacred aspect of the marital relationship. In the process of choosing a spouse, individuals generally prefer those compatible with their religious beliefs, and society supports this preference through social norms and expectations (Adak, 2015: 26).

The role attributed to religion in maintaining social order has strengthened the relationship between religion and family throughout history. The family plays a decisive role in the transmission of religious values, while religion has a decisive influence in protecting the family. Indeed, many religions aim to ensure the continuity of both the family and the religious structure through regulations that encourage procreation and make divorce

more difficult (Tekin, 2011). There is a significant and positive relationship between religiosity and healthy family relationships. Religious beliefs and practices support trust and loyalty between spouses, and love and responsibility in parent-child relationships. There is a two-way and complementary relationship between religion and family.

Studies on the effects of religion and spirituality on marriage and family reveal that these two elements shape the family structure both directly and indirectly. Sharing common spiritual values, strengthening emotional bonds, increasing communication opportunities, and the socialization environment provided by religious activities stand out as important factors supporting family relationships. Furthermore, religious beliefs enhance psychological resilience by increasing the capacity of family members to cope with difficulties, and contribute to the sustainability of the marital bond (Glidden, 2016). In conclusion, there is a strong, reciprocal relationship between religion and family. While religious beliefs shape and strengthen intra-family relationships, the family functions as a fundamental means of transmission, ensuring the social continuity of religious values. This provides both spiritual support at the individual level and contributes to the stability of the social structure.

3.3. Respect as a Universal Ethical Value

Respect is a concept that expresses an individual's attitude towards a person or value, including appreciation, admiration, care, and reverence (TDK, 1998: 1268). Respect is expressed through words and actions that convey to individuals that they are valued and respected. As long as it conforms to general moral principles, it involves approaching people's opinions, beliefs, worship practices, traditions, customs, and lifestyles with understanding, attention, consideration, and moderation.

Respect, a universal ethical principle, holds significant value in social life. For people to survive and coexist, healthy co-existence requires individuals to treat each other with care, moderation, and respect. Neglecting the principle of respect leads to various problems in shared living spaces. However, individuals knowing their boundaries in shared living spaces and being respectful in their attitudes and behaviors towards others contributes to a healthier social order (Kıral, 2018: 4).

Therefore, it should be noted that respect is not only a necessity of daily life, but also a value grounded at the intellectual and theoretical level. Respect, a central value in many fields such as moral philosophy, political theory, human rights, education, and human relations, forms the basis of many moral theories. Indeed, Kant's categorical imperative, based on the principle of "never seeing man merely as a means, but always as an end," clearly demonstrates the importance given to human dignity and respect (Yazıcı and Yazıcı, 2015: 772). It is observed that respect has significant consequences not only at the social level but also at the individual level. Respect is a fundamental attitude reflecting an individual's desire to establish healthy and harmonious relationships with those around them; as a result of this attitude, it is observed that friendships are strengthened (Altunsoy and Namlı, 2021: 318).

Beyond its theoretical framework, respect plays a crucial role in the sustainability of social structures in daily life practices. It fosters healthy social relationships through individuals valuing each other, striving to understand differences, and showing tolerance. In a society where respect prevails, individuals express themselves more freely, conflicts are resolved constructively, and social peace becomes sustainable. Respect also contributes to the preservation of fundamental principles such as equality, justice, and democracy. Considering all these aspects, establishing a culture of respect in every environment, from education and family life to workplaces and public spaces, strengthens social solidarity and trust. Raising children and young people in line with these values contributes to the formation of more sensitive, understanding, and responsible individuals in the future. Thus, respect is not only essential for the sustainability of the existing social order but also a cornerstone for building a more inclusive and peaceful future. Ultimately, respect, one of the values that forms the foundation of social life, enables people to value each other, strive to understand differences, and show tolerance, fostering healthy social relationships. Respect also contributes to the preservation of fundamental principles such as equality, justice, and democracy. Therefore, individuals treating each other with respect is fundamental to peace and cooperation, both in personal relationships and at the societal level. Furthermore, respect is the cornerstone of healthy communication, a peaceful living environment, and strong social relationships.

3.4. Love as a Fundamental Human Value

One of the most fundamental human values that gives meaning to life, improves quality of life, and supports spiritual integrity is love. Love plays a unifying role by establishing emotional closeness and attachment between individuals; it also has a transformative function in meeting psychological needs and ensuring inner peace (Yolcu, 2022: 59). Love is a dominant value that forms the foundation of the family institution, and it possesses a constitutive quality that both develops in interaction with other moral and social values and makes it possible to internalize and sustain these values (Doğan, 2023: 542).

Love, as a societal value, is a universal emotion that forms the foundation of interpersonal relationships and makes it possible to establish and maintain social bonds. Beyond being an individual feeling, love is a multifaceted value intertwined with concepts such as solidarity, empathy, tolerance, and belonging, which ensure the integrity of society. In the continuity of the social structure and the construction of healthy human relationships, love is passed down from generation to generation, starting with the family and continuing through institutions such as education, religion, and culture.

Love is defined as a state of deep attachment and interest that an individual directs towards an object or person; however, it encompasses not only an emotional orientation but also a whole range of meaningful relationships that an individual establishes while preserving their sense of self. This emotional closeness, established without compromising individual integrity, strengthens interpersonal interaction, reinforces the sense of belonging, and deepens social bonds. In this respect, love has a direct and decisive influence not only on social integration but also on the individual's psychological well-being and emotional balance (cited in Doğan, 2023). By providing balance in the individual's inner world, love extends this influence to human-nature and human-society relationships, thus gaining meaning in a broader context.

The foundation of establishing healthy relationships with nature and other living beings lies in a love-based bond developed towards everything that exists in the universe. Human relationships shaped by love and respect not only strengthen interaction between individuals but also play a decisive role in establishing social peace and harmony. Indeed, a lack of love can lead to the development of negative attitudes such as resentment, anger, alienation, and selfishness in an individual, causing pathological tendencies that threaten both psychological health and social relationships. This situation is reflected in the individual's personality structure and behavioral patterns, leading to various adjustment problems at both individual and societal levels in the long term (Yolcu, 2022).

Love, a social and human value, is a fundamental principle that makes human life meaningful at both individual and societal levels, supports spiritual integrity, and enables the healthy continuation of social relationships. Transmitted through social institutions, starting from the family, love plays a decisive role in an individual's identity formation, capacity for empathy, and social adaptation skills. Its presence strengthens social bonds and reinforces social peace; its absence can lead to negative consequences such as conflict, alienation, and psychological disorders at both individual and societal levels. Therefore, developing the value of love in individuals from an early age and strengthening it at the societal level is an indispensable necessity for both individual well-being and societal stability. The impact of love on the individual, family, and society is undeniably significant.

Maslow, stating that humans cannot sustain themselves solely through physiological needs, placed the need for love and belonging at the third level of his hierarchy of needs. When individuals cannot adequately meet these needs, they may face feelings of loneliness, worthlessness, alienation, and abandonment. This situation can damage the individual's psychological balance and negatively affect their self-actualization process. As a social being, humans can improve their quality of life by strengthening both their inner peace and social bonds through love and belonging (Maslow, 1987).

Establishing a love-based connection with nature, animals, and all living things contributes to the development of empathy and the healthy progress of social relationships. In individuals lacking love and respect, negative attitudes such as resentment, hatred, and selfishness come to the forefront; this can lead to various behavioral and personality problems at both individual and societal levels. The first condition for an individual to develop love and empathy in their social relationships is to be raised in a healthy family environment where the foundations of these values are laid.

The family is defined as an environment where spiritual feelings such as love, affection, compassion, peace, and happiness are experienced, far from the stresses of daily life (Teyfurov, 2014). In this space where love first blossoms, the process of family members acquiring an understanding of love plays a significant role in

the individual's ability to establish healthy social relationships later in life (Gül, 2020). Children learn behaviors that will enable them to adapt to social life at an early age, and these learnings become deeply ingrained in the individual's personality structure. Indeed, many character traits, commonly referred to as "temperament," are shaped through the family during childhood (Aydın, 2003). In this context, the family's influence on the child is decisive in ensuring order, peace, and development in society. Because the family, which is the child's first socialization environment, contributes to the strengthening of the social structure by enabling individuals raised with love and attention to be happier, healthier, more self-confident, and more successful.

Achieving peace, reconciliation, and integration in society; preventing injustices; and preserving the social structure depend on love-based values being the determining factor in social relations. Values such as loyalty, honesty, tolerance, solidarity, sharing, and compassion only gain meaning within the framework of love. In today's rapidly changing society, where values are eroding, establishing relationships on a foundation of love has become essential. Establishing a climate of love in society requires the adoption of certain ethical behaviors. Avoiding fault-finding, controlling anger, forgiving, avoiding suspicion, refraining from mockery and offensive attitudes, being patient, and showing respect and compassion in family and social relationships form the basis of this process (Akın, 2007: 137-147). In addition to all this, the impact of love on education is undeniable.

Love is one of the most fundamental building blocks of education. However, teachers need to maintain balance in their attitudes in the classroom; they should avoid overly lenient or overly harsh behaviors (Çelebi, 2016). Authoritarian and harsh approaches, in particular, can lead to adjustment problems in students, the development of feelings of resentment and hatred, and even alienation from school. This situation can negatively affect both the psychological and physical development of students, as well as prevent the formation of a healthy learning process in the classroom (Bayraktar, 1994). Therefore, it is of great importance that the relationship between teacher and student in classroom management is shaped by a discipline based on love and tolerance. In such an environment, the learning process becomes more effective, and the emergence of undesirable behaviors can be largely prevented. Furthermore, students' development of self-confidence, acquisition of self-control skills, and internalization of critical thinking are possible through maintaining a flexible, supportive, and trust-based classroom atmosphere (Yeşilyurt, 2008).

Love-based bonds foster empathy and strengthen social relationships. The first and most effective environment for acquiring these values is the family. The family plays a decisive role in a child's personality development and social adaptation. Individuals raised with love and attention lead healthier and more successful lives, both individually and socially; this contributes to social peace and development.

3.5. A Value in Social Integration: Tolerance

Concepts such as tolerance, forbearance, and indulgence, while appearing etymologically similar, are phenomena with a deep historical background in terms of their content. Although these terms have been defined and conceptualized within modern thought systems, traces of these attitudes can be found in the earliest periods of human history, especially in the processes where social life and human relations began to develop. Therefore, although these concepts have found their place in the theoretical realm in later periods, they have existed in practice since the very beginning of human life (Aslan, 2001). The concept of tolerance is generally used in Turkish as the equivalent of the English word "tolerance." The word 'tolerance' is derived from the Latin verb "tolerare" and is used in the meanings of 'to endure', 'to allow', or 'to tolerate an unavoidable evil' (Batuhan, 1959). The Turkish word 'hoşgörü' (tolerance) is formed from the combination of the Persian word 'huş', meaning 'beautiful, pleasant, sweet', and the verb 'görmek' (to see). In terms of meaning, it signifies evaluating differences with a positive perspective and accepting them as having aesthetic value (Aslan, 2001).

Tolerance can be defined as the state of not perceiving the existence of individuals with different languages, genders, religions, beliefs, and thought structures as a threat and not feeling discomfort in the face of these differences. This concept is addressed in various disciplines such as philosophy, religion, sociology, psychology, and philology, and is generally associated with an individual's ability to exercise their fundamental rights and freedoms independently of external interference. On a philosophical level, the concept of tolerance means that an individual does not only close themselves off to their own inner world, but also accepts views outside their own thought system as legitimate and existential, approaching these views with respect and humility. In this context, avoiding the understanding that "mine is absolutely correct" forms the basis of a tolerant stance (Aslan, 2001: 363). With this understanding, tolerance is not only a form of intellectual

acceptance, but also considered a constructive communication process established in interpersonal relationships based on love, respect, and empathy.

Tolerance is a functional form of social interaction that involves an individual understanding the feelings, thoughts, and behaviors of those they perceive as similar or different from themselves; establishing a partnership based on love, respect, trust, and empathy without expecting anything in return (Büyükkaragöz, 1995: 22). In short, tolerance means "tolerating" individuals whose views and feelings contradict our own. Accepting different feelings and thoughts as natural, allowing these feelings and thoughts to be freely expressed, accepting differences without resorting to force or coercion, and perhaps most importantly, loving people are necessary preconditions for tolerance to be realized (Kavcar, 1995: 1-2). Tolerance is a fundamental value not only in interpersonal relationships but also for the peace and stability of social life. Accepting differences not as a cause of conflict but as an indicator of social richness is only possible with the establishment of a tolerant perspective. In this context, tolerance is considered an indispensable precondition for the development of a democratic society and the realization of the principle of pluralism. In an environment where people can freely express their thoughts, beliefs, and lifestyles, achieving social peace becomes more likely. Therefore, tolerance is not only an individual virtue but also a cornerstone of social integration and a sustainable peace.

The contribution of spiritual values to tolerance is directly related to an individual's ability to achieve inner harmony and balance. Individuals with inner peace exhibit more understanding and flexible approaches to environmental differences. In this respect, tolerance is the visible reflection of an individual's spiritual world in social relations. This is also emphasized in studies conducted within the context of religious education. For example, Kesimoğlu's (2019) study states that Islam highlights the principle of tolerance towards differences and others through written sources, and that this principle should be instilled in individuals through education. These findings show that spiritual education is not limited only to individual development; it is also an important factor that strengthens social harmony and the culture of coexistence.

In all respects, tolerance is a fundamental social value that refers to individuals developing a respectful attitude towards different belief systems, thought patterns, lifestyles, and identities. In today's societies, where cultural pluralism has become more pronounced due to the impact of globalization, tolerance plays an indispensable role in building a culture of coexistence. Considering that people have no control over elements such as ethnicity, language, religion, or cultural affiliation, these differences should be evaluated not as a cause of conflict, but as resources that nourish social development and cultural richness. Social relationships built on respect for diversity strengthen both individual learning and social solidarity. Tolerance, when considered both in terms of its place in interpersonal relationships and its function in the holistic structure of society, is an important value that contributes to social harmony and peace.

3.6. The Value of Responsibility as an Element of Social Structure

The concept of responsibility is defined by the Turkish Language Association (TDK) (2020) as an individual's assumption of the consequences of their own actions or any situation within their area of authority. It is observed that there are various deficiencies in value awareness in daily life; although there is awareness of values at the societal level, there are shortcomings in translating these values into behavior. In this context, it is noteworthy that individuals exhibit insensitivity towards the value of responsibility, avoid self-criticism, and do not make a meaningful effort towards their moral development. The fact that humans are social beings necessitates that they be aware of their responsibilities and shape their attitudes and behaviors in accordance with this awareness (Öncel, 2020: 873).

Responsibility means that an individual takes responsibility for the consequences of their own actions and fulfills their duties correctly and on time. As a social value, responsibility enables individuals to act with a sense of duty not only to themselves but also to their families, communities, and environments. A sense of responsibility contributes to individuals becoming reliable, consistent, and respectful; it also ensures the continuation of social order and cooperation. Education, family, and social environment play a major role in the development of this value.

The concept of responsibility is closely related to conscious awareness of the consequences of actions and the will to be accountable. According to Başaran (1974), the sense of responsibility is an internal attitude shaped by an individual's commitment to completing a given or undertaken task, despite all difficulties, and assuming responsibility for explaining the consequences of that action when necessary. This feeling develops as a result of the interaction between an individual's experiences from the social environment and ideals based on reason and ethical values. Similarly, Civelek (2006) defines responsibility as the awareness of complying

with rules, the use of intellectual capacity, and the obligation to act respectfully and carefully towards others and their rights.

Individuals with a sense of responsibility tend to exhibit more sensitive and considerate behaviors in pursuit of betterment. This attitude contributes not only to individual development but also to social well-being and leaving a more livable world for future generations. In this respect, education in the value of responsibility aims to enable individuals to become aware of their responsibilities and to contribute to the development of behaviors in line with this awareness (Aktepe, 2015: 151). The basic stages of responsibility can be listed as: showing sensitivity to the rights and feelings of others, being diligent, being able to manage one's own behavior (self-management), and being helpful. For the development of social responsibility awareness, it is primarily necessary for the individual to have internalized a sense of personal responsibility (Ay and Dal, 2014: 81).

As a social value, responsibility refers not only to individuals bearing the consequences of their own actions, but also to acting with a sense of duty towards their families, communities, and environments. This value forms the basis of virtues such as trustworthiness, consistency, and respect, and plays a vital role in maintaining social order and cooperation. A sense of responsibility develops through the influence of education, family, and social environment, and is strengthened by individuals demonstrating sensitivity to rights, utilizing self-governance abilities, and acting with the common good in mind. In this way, responsibility becomes an indispensable value contributing to both individual and societal development.

3.7. The Value of Empathy in Social Interaction

Empathy is the process by which an individual puts themselves in the place of another person, evaluates events from their perspective, accurately understands and internalizes the feelings and thoughts of the other party, and effectively reflects this understanding. Just as intelligence is a crucial factor in cognitive development, empathy plays a similarly critical role in interpersonal communication. Especially for children, social skills and positive social behaviors are fundamental requirements for healthy individual and social development (Ersoy and Köşger, 2016: 9).

Empathy, conceptually, is the process of an individual putting themselves in another's place and accurately perceiving and understanding their feelings and thoughts. An empathetic person sets aside their own thoughts and judgments, directing their attention and mental energy towards understanding the inner world of the other individual (Özbek, 2005: 9). The capacity of individuals to feel the joys and sorrows of others as if they were their own, which underlies empathy, highlights the necessity of a love-based approach in human relationships (Ayten, 2010: 79). Empathy is not only a skill that strengthens interpersonal understanding, but also plays a critical role in building social harmony and peace. Empathetic individuals are more adept at reducing conflicts, respecting differences, and developing cooperation. In this respect, empathy forms the basis of healthy relationships in social institutions such as family, school, and society. Empathy-based approaches in education develop children's emotional intelligence, enable them to gain a sense of responsibility, and contribute to their becoming more sensitive individuals to social values.

Empathy is a multifaceted concept with spiritual, ethical, and moral dimensions, beyond its function of regulating individual and social relationships. As an emotional faculty, empathy is situated within a value system and, associated with virtues such as compassion, justice, and empathy, supports an individual's spiritual maturation and sense of social responsibility.

Empathy, a process in which an individual tries to understand another's feelings and thoughts by putting themselves in that person's place, plays a fundamental role in establishing healthy interpersonal relationships (Derman and Bağ, 2021). An empathetic approach not only strengthens interpersonal understanding but also contributes to the development of social harmony, peace, and mutual respect. In the modern world, the increase in individualism and superficial relationships further increases the importance of empathy skills. Individuals who practice empathy are more sensitive to the needs of others, reduce interpersonal conflicts, and can communicate more effectively.

Furthermore, empathy benefits not only the other person but also the empathetic individual. It supports psychological development, facilitates self-expression, increases social adaptation, and develops a sense of responsibility (Derman and Bağ, 2021). Ultimately, empathy-based relationships are considered key to a healthy and sustainable life, both individually and socially.

In short, empathy as a social value is the ability of an individual to put themselves in the place of others, understand and internalize their feelings and thoughts, and effectively reflect this understanding. This value enables individuals to respect differences, reduce conflicts, and increase cooperation. Furthermore, empathy

supports individual psychological development while contributing to the strengthening of a sense of responsibility and social sensitivity.

3.8. The Concept of Patience and its Social Value

Patience is generally considered the virtue of waiting patiently for difficult and challenging situations to end without reacting. In the context of ethics, patience is defined as the fortitude shown in the face of sorrow, hardship, and calamities, with the aim of transforming negative conditions into positive ones (Çağrı, 2008: 337). The concept of patience appears in many verses of the Quran. Among these verses, there are recommendations regarding the importance of being patient, as well as explanations of what kind of situations patience should be shown. For example, in verse 155 of Surah Al-Baqarah, it is stated, "And We will surely test you with a little fear, hunger, and loss of wealth, lives, and crops. But give good tidings to those who are patient," emphasizing that patience is a test and that this test should be shown in the face of various difficulties. In general, patience is recommended in enduring trials and tribulations, and in adhering to religious commands and prohibitions. The verses immediately follow the plea for help from God with the command to "be patient," emphasizing that patience is only possible "with God's help."

The term patience, in its dictionary definition, is described as a virtue and resilience that refers to remaining silent in the face of negative and challenging situations such as suffering and poverty, and patiently waiting for these situations to end (Parlatır, 2011). The word "patience," which came into Turkish from Arabic, is derived from the verb "sabera." The word "sabera" includes the meanings of patience, endurance, calmness, inner peace, self-control, and keeping one's ego under control in accordance with reason and the requirements of Sharia (Mutçali, 2012:576). The word "sabr" is of Arabic origin and its basic meanings include imprisoning, restraining oneself or others from something, arresting someone to kill them (e.g., al-masburah: a person imprisoned to be killed), seizing tightly (e.g., katelehu sabran: he seized him tightly and killed him), binding someone, taking revenge on someone, punishing, retaliating, applying retaliation, and guaranteeing someone's safety (Demirci, 2002: 264).

The concept of patience, which entered Turkish from Arabic, originates from the verb "sabera." This concept specifically refers to self-control in the face of hardship and difficult circumstances. Furthermore, in Arabic, actions such as "intizar," meaning waiting or patiently observing, are also expressed with the word "sabr" (Doğan, 2017: 135). In line with these definitions, patience is not merely a state of waiting, but also expresses a conscious and determined stance in the face of difficulties.

Patience is defined as a strategy for rationally and effectively dealing with problems, rather than passively waiting in the face of life's difficulties, challenges, and obstacles. It also encompasses qualities such as resilience, fortitude, calmness, and courage. While some individuals may be more predisposed to patience due to their personality traits, in general, patience is considered a virtue acquired through time and experience.

In Islamic thought and Sufi literature, the concept of patience is addressed from various perspectives. For example, Ghazali (1976) examined patience in three distinct dimensions: cognitive (scientific), emotional (state), and behavioral (action), and defined two types of patience according to its difficulty level. The first type, easy patience, refers to the mental, emotional, and behavioral attitudes displayed in the face of relatively less challenging situations that do not place a heavy burden on the individual's self. The second type, called "tasabbur," is the state of patience that arises after experiences that are difficult for the individual to bear, usually from a spiritual and mental standpoint.

Patience is the ability to consistently and resolutely work towards achieving a goal believed to be attainable, and to calmly and steadfastly await the necessary process. It also involves resisting temptation and easy paths, and enduring difficulties and hardships without complaint. Patience, as the capacity to withstand hardship and suffering, is a manifestation of spiritual maturity. Various hardships in life, such as loss of life, loss of property, fear of death, illness, war, and hunger, are tests that an individual faces during their maturation process. Patience, then, is the expression of successfully overcoming these tests.

Patience, a multifaceted concept encompassing both individual virtue and profound religious and moral dimensions, is frequently emphasized in the Quran and holds a significant place in Islamic thought. The concept of patience is not merely a passive waiting in the face of difficulties, but also an expression of a conscious, determined, and resilient stance. Definitions from dictionaries, ethics, and Sufi contexts demonstrate that patience is a virtue shaped by cognitive, emotional, and behavioral dimensions, manifesting both in a person's inner world and social life.

When considered holistically, patience is not merely an individual trait but also a fundamental value that contributes to the establishment of order, solidarity, and peace in social life. Individuals acting patiently in the face of conflicts, crises, injustices, and difficulties in social relationships serves both to maintain social harmony and to foster a culture of coexistence. Patience, especially during processes of social transformation, enables individuals to exhibit sensible attitudes by avoiding impulsive reactions; it is also closely related to other values such as social solidarity, empathy, and tolerance.

As a societal value, patience enables the development of intergenerational understanding, especially within families, facilitates students' adaptation to learning processes in educational settings, and allows society to act together without disintegration during times of crisis. It also contributes to sound decision-making processes by preventing hasty and prejudiced attitudes in the administration of justice.

4. Methodology

4.1. Purpose of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to examine the functions of social values within individual and societal life from a sociological perspective and to elucidate their contributions to social integration. The study addresses the roles of fundamental social values—such as religion, family, respect, love, tolerance, empathy, patience, and responsibility—in shaping individual behavior, internalizing social norms, and sustaining the social order. Furthermore, by evaluating the impacts of modernization, globalization, digitalization, and individualization processes on social values, the study discusses whether these values retain their unifying and integrating functions in contemporary societies.

4.2. Significance of the Study

The sustainability of social life is largely dependent on the presence of shared values among individuals. However, the rapid processes of social change experienced today are causing significant transformations in traditional value systems. Concurrently, increasing tendencies toward individualization and the proliferation of digital culture can lead to the erosion of shared value spheres. This situation necessitates a re-evaluation of concepts such as social belonging, solidarity, and integration. By approaching social values through the metaphor of "social cement," this study aims to highlight their functions in preserving the social order and strengthening social bonds. In this regard, the research is expected to contribute to theoretical debates within the sociology of values and aid in the understanding of contemporary social issues.

4.3. Research Method

This study is designed as a theoretical inquiry based on a qualitative research paradigm, employing a systematic literature review as the primary data collection technique. Social values were examined in their conceptual and theoretical dimensions through a comprehensive review of relevant books, peer-reviewed articles, and dissertations. As a non-empirical study lacking field research, the obtained theoretical data were analyzed using a descriptive analysis approach. The impact of fundamental values on social integration was subsequently interpreted from a sociological perspective. Accordingly, the research aims to synthesize the existing literature to explain, on a theoretical level, the functions of social values in regulating individual-society relations, reinforcing solidarity, and ensuring cultural continuity.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study was prepared to explain the regulatory and unifying role of values in individual-society relations; in particular, the effects of fundamental values such as religion, family, responsibility, empathy, patience, tolerance, love, and respect on the social structure were evaluated within a theoretical framework. Based on the findings, it was concluded that social values have functions in guiding individual behavior, strengthening social bonds, and ensuring cultural continuity.

Values not only provide moral guidance but also form a common ground that holds society together. The transmission of values, beginning in the family and continuing through institutions such as education, religion, and culture, plays a significant role in the formation of an individual's identity and the development of social belonging. Emotionally based values such as love, respect, and tolerance reinforce empathy and understanding in interpersonal relationships, while behavioral values such as responsibility and patience contribute to maintaining social order.

However, in today's world, processes such as modernization, individualization, digitalization, and globalization are causing the dissolution of traditional value systems and the emergence of new value forms. This transformation also affects individuals' orientations and social affiliations; it can lead to a loss of values

and identity confusion, especially among younger generations. Therefore, values should be considered not only as a legacy of the past but also as dynamic elements that play an active role in building the future.

The metaphor of social glue suggests that values are not merely individual attitudes or abstract principles; they are a binding force that enables society to remain together and ensures harmony among different elements. For social cohesion and peace, preserving, reinterpreting, and actively integrating values into social life is essential. Otherwise, in societies where values weaken or are disregarded, trust between individuals decreases, social disintegration accelerates, and the functionality of social institutions is damaged.

Values represent a society's identity, cultural continuity, and moral integrity, going beyond individual behavior. The fundamental view advocated in this study is that values should not only be learned but also internalized, lived, and passed on to future generations. Upholding values as the social glue should be seen as a guarantee of both individual well-being and societal stability.

Based on the findings of this study, it is essential to approach values education holistically in order to preserve and transmit societal values from generation to generation. Values should be learned not only theoretically but also through experience in the individual's daily life. In this sense, each of the fundamental areas of socialization, such as family, school, media, and religious institutions, should play a complementary role in the transmission of values; teaching values should be based not only on words but also on behavior and example. In particular, individuals' introduction to and internalization of values during childhood and adolescence will contribute to their development as individuals who uphold these values and contribute to society in their later lives.

In today's world, rapid social changes, technological advancements, and the influence of digital media are transforming individuals' perceptions of values. Therefore, reinterpreting traditional values in a contemporary context and giving them meaning according to the demands of the age is crucial. Values should not be treated as fixed and static principles, but rather as social phenomena that can evolve and deepen over time, thus creating a structure that can be reproduced at both individual and societal levels. In this process, institutions such as universities, think tanks, and civil society organizations have a responsibility to conduct value-oriented studies. Furthermore, it is a vital need and necessity that media content be structured in a way that strengthens values and supports social cohesion, rather than undermining them.

To ensure the continuation of values, individual sensitivity alone is insufficient; this process must also be supported by public policies. Values education should be incorporated into educational curricula in a more systematic and applicable manner, and teachers should be equipped with the necessary skills in this area. Furthermore, awareness campaigns and social projects aimed at promoting fundamental values such as tolerance, respect, responsibility, patience, and justice at the societal level should be encouraged. These values, which guide society towards the common good, should be seen not only as an individual achievement but also as the foundation of societal resilience and unity. Preserving and strengthening values means not only protecting the legacy of the past but also building the future.

This study reveals that societal values are not merely value-based principles guiding individual behavior, but fundamental structural dynamics that play a decisive role in the construction of institutional continuity and collective identity through social integration. In this context, the sustainability of values necessitates holistic and strategic interventions across various fields, including education systems, family structures, cultural policies, and digital communication environments, extending beyond individual acquisitions. In particular, re-imagining values education not merely as theoretical content, but as an experience-based process integrated with practice, is critically important for individuals to internalize these values and reflect them in their daily lives. The preservation and intergenerational transmission of societal values should not be limited to cultural continuity; it should also be considered a strategic necessity for establishing social trust and maintaining social stability.

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Author Contributions

This study was conducted with equal contributions from both authors (50% – 50%)

Declaration of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Ethical approval

This study was designed as a theoretical research based on a literature review, and no fieldwork or applied research involving human participants was conducted. Therefore, ethical committee approval was not required, and no ethics committee approval was obtained for this study.

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