

Elizaveta Gavrilievna Soboleva: A Goal From Childhood

Elizaveta Gavrilievna Soboleva was born in Hatassy in the Sakha Republic, one of seven children. She is the mother of three and the grandmother of four.



Elizaveta Gavrilievna Soboleva grew up in the Sakha Republic during Soviet times. “My mother and father were people who worked hard during Soviet times. They were very, very hard workers and they received a lot of recognition for that.”

Elizaveta said of her family of seven brothers and sisters, three, including her, are in the medical field. “We all have families and children and all of our children are educated.”

As a young child, Elizaveta dreamed of becoming a doctor. “I am very fortunate. I really didn’t have difficulties in my life because I had a goal from childhood that I was able to achieve. The goal was clear. I wanted to become a doctor and I became a doctor. Even if I was born a second time, I would choose the same field.”

“I have had many proud moments in my life. Graduating from the university and becoming a doctor and birth of all my children were some of the highlights of my life. My parents are still alive and recently we were able to celebrate their golden anniversary, and that was a very proud moment as well.”

While Elizaveta has no regrets about her career, she said she wishes that she would have spent more time with her husband and focused more on family life over the years and less time on her career. “I would advise young women to pay more attention to their family life, and not focus solely on their career.”

“I don’t have any regrets though. I think we shouldn’t have regrets because we all learn from our mistakes.”

As a doctor working with seriously mentally ill and alcoholic patients, Elizaveta faces head on every day some of Yakutia’s greatest difficulties. “I can see from my

work experience in the medical institute, how difficult it is for those with alcohol problems. Many of the men we treat have lost their jobs and their families. They have lost everything.”

“I think that life has changed a lot here. For example, the political structure of the country has changed a lot. During the Soviet era we were going toward communism and now we are all going to capitalism. These changes have caused problems in our society. Every day on television, radio and everywhere we see all these commercials that give a distorted view of life. People don’t have the ground under their feet anymore. I think that is partly why we have so many of these problems now.”

“My advice is that people should treat each other with respect and respect each other. You need to have a certain attitude toward people, as if they are you. You need to have this kind of attitude toward everyone. It’s important not to think of people as beneath you.”

“In my work I see people who are alcoholics, who come from the street, who have lost their jobs and often they have nothing. But I try to remember that they used to be someone’s father, someone’s beloved husband. They used to be respected people before, and I try to always give them that same attitude of respect.”

A photograph of a snowy winter scene. In the foreground, a wooden post with intricate carvings and a snow-covered top stands in a snowdrift. The post has a small white label near its base. In the background, a house with several windows is partially visible, and trees are heavily laden with snow. The overall atmosphere is cold and serene.

An Attitude of Respect

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