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MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES

State policy for the protection of children's rights in Ukraine has become a priority of social policy. In recent years, the main direction of implementation was ensuring the right to family upbringing of orphans and children deprived of parental care, support for national adoption, development of foster families and family-type children's homes, reforming institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care, etc. Despite the active implementation, the phenomenon of social orphanhood still remains relevant for the country. Every year, several thousand children are left without parental care, in particular due to difficult life circumstances, irresponsible attitude of parents to fulfilling their duties, parents' use of alcohol and drugs, as well as due to their cruel treatment of the child. This necessitates the active implementation of policies aimed at the prevention of social orphanhood, the introduction of new technologies of social work with such children and families, aimed at preserving the family for the child.

In Ukraine, social protection institutions – shelters for children and centers of social and psychological rehabilitation – operate for children who find themselves in difficult life circumstances. Shelters for children are institutions of social protection created for the temporary stay of children aged 3 to 18 years. In accordance with the Model Regulation on the shelter for children of the Children's Service, children are in the shelter for the time necessary for their further placement, but no more than 90 days. The main tasks of the shelter are:

1. Social protection of children deprived of family upbringing, who found themselves in difficult living conditions, left educational institutions.

2. Creation of appropriate living and psychological and pedagogical conditions to ensure normal life activities of children,

providing them with opportunities for education, work and meaningful leisure time.

Traditionally, the vast majority of children are born, develop physically and spiritually, and are brought up in a family. In the family, the child receives the first knowledge about the world – elementary rules of behavior in society, norms of social and interpersonal relations, acquires the ability to navigate in larger social communities, and acquires communication skills with people of different age categories. The foundation of the child's outlook and beliefs, his value orientations, moral and ethical ideals, and behavior patterns is laid in the family.

The results of the study «Children in difficult LIFE situations» proved that the main reasons that provoke difficult life circumstances are parents' irresponsibility in raising their own children; alcoholism of parents, aggressive behavior of parents in relation to children; family conflicts and unemployment. Among other reasons mentioned by less than a third of the respondents, the illness of parents or children, labor migration, lack of housing and negative relations of children with one of their parents or relatives stood out.

In general, according to the results of the research, in families that find themselves in difficult life circumstances, relatively close or generally rather distant relationships prevail between parents and children, which complicates the adaptive capabilities of children who, according to their age characteristics, are not yet able to respond independently and adequately to difficult life circumstances.

Characterizing children who live in families that find themselves in difficult life circumstances, interviewed experts note a number of problems, among which the following are the most common:

1. problems with learning;
2. neglected appearance of children;
3. problems in relations with parents and peers, problems in communication with adults;
4. health problems.

The main problem of children in families who find themselves in difficult life circumstances is related to the inability of parents to effectively fulfill their parental duties. However, the most painful need, which is not fully satisfied and affects the course of many

other negative factors, is the need of children for love, respect and friendly support from all family members.

Another characteristic feature that characterizes modern parents is incompetence in the field of knowledge about the formation and development of a child's personality. Most of them claim that the baby should be taught to be independent as early as possible, since excessive attention and close physical and emotional contact can harm the child. At the same time, at the stage of the child's natural desire to separate from the object of the mother (from 1 to 3 years), there is a whole series of parental warnings and instructions that significantly limit the child's activity and contribute to the formation of dependent behavior.

It should be taken into account that the same child can be subjected to violence both by parents and by peers. As it turned out, such a high degree of manifestation of physical violence is caused by many factors, including the low pedagogical culture of parents, sometimes their lack of elementary moral qualities, a general culture of behavior, or imitation of an authoritarian style from their own parents. Quite often, being under the influence of alcohol or narcotic substances, parents have poor self-control and inflict physical punishment on the child or exert psychological pressure, which negatively affects its general condition and development.

Literature

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