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DYNAMICS AND FACTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ORPHANHOOD IN UKRAINE

Summary: The crisis in economic and socio-cultural spheres in Ukraine promotes the growing number of children who may be treated as social orphans. At the same time, the number of factors, causing this phenomenon and complicating its structure increases. The following reasons may be considered as the most important: children born out of wedlock, violence in a family, labour migration, alcoholism or drug addiction, disability, purity, criminal behaviour, socio-cultural deprivation, etc. Analysing the reasons and the rates of the growth of social orphanhood, stable tendencies in the increase of volumes and deepening of the pathology of this phenomenon may be discovered. Thus, the effective and preventive measures of social orphanhood and development of compensatory forms of the upbringing must take into consideration above mentioned potential dangers and improve the consequences of their influences.

Keywords: social orphanhood, dynamics, labour migration, violence in a family, pedagogical neglect.

The sphere of social protection must guarantee necessary conditions for normal life to all categories of socially unprotected groups of people. Orphans are among the most impressionable categories, who need a peculiar care, upbringing and socio-psychological rehabilitation. Nowadays the orphanhood is largely caused not by biological but socio-pedagogical factors. The care of them requires a lot of attention, since psychological and pedagogical neglect of children may be displayed in addictive, deviant or criminal behavior. That is why the overcoming of social neglect of orphans is impossible without studying the preconditions of

this situation, the prevention of further development and improving the system of its negative displays.

Development of social orphanhood in our country is shown in the diagram 1 (Дворецька, 2014).

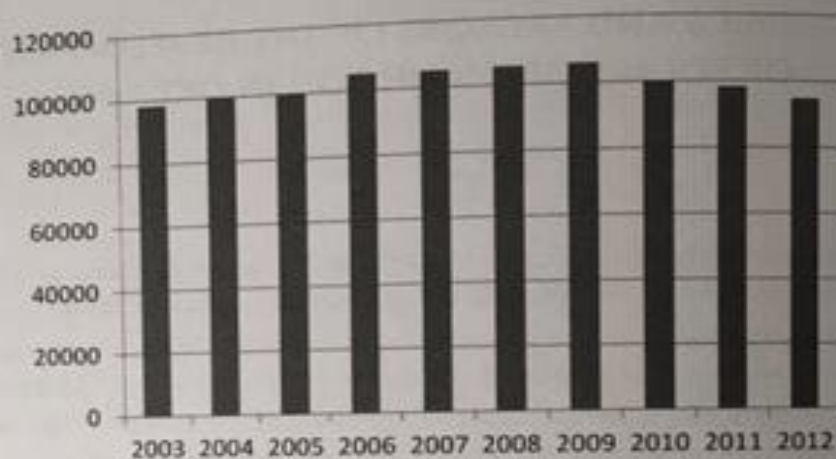


Chart 1. Development of social orphanhood in Ukraine

The analysis of the diagram may give a false impression about the existence of a decreasing tendency of the number of social orphans. However, such a conclusion is wrong, since the decrease must be examined only on the basis of the decrease of the general number of children, so a part of social orphans in our society in the last 5 years does not decrease (diagram 2) and form 1.2% (Комарова, 2012). (Забезпечення рівних ..., 2010).

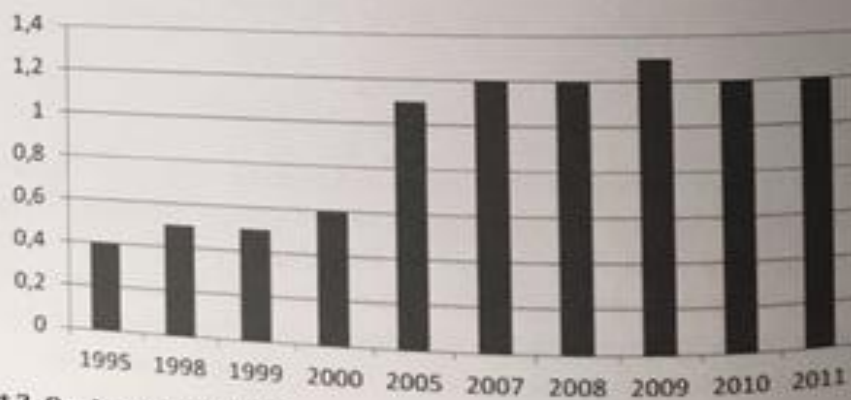


Chart 2. Orphans and children deprived of paternal care among the general amount of the children according to years

In general there are nearly 8 million of children in Ukraine; 95 thousand of them are in boarding schools. Every year in Ukraine appear 8 thousand of new orphans and children without paternal care.

Moreover, according to specialists, nearly 100 thousand of children in Ukraine live in the street (Голова..., 2013). There are no official statistics on this question. However, due to unofficial data, the amount of such children is between one and two million. Hence, operating with the unofficial data concerning the children deprived of paternal care, we understand that this number is higher, since it does not account street-children.

The experts affirm that from the year 1991 there is so-called 'the third wave' of homeless children in Ukraine. The number of street-children is now the same as it was after the Civil or Second World War. In that time there were only orphans, but nowadays most of homeless children have their parents (Чуй?... 2012). Nearly 70% of the street-children have alive parents or tutors, however they do not take care of such children properly.

Nowadays the category 'street-children' is not a synonym for the expression 'children who need a social care'. It is a separate group of young people who look for their own, mostly illegal, ways of solving problems. So, we do not speak here about the social disadaptation, but about the asocial adaptation. In modern conditions some of the youth, who became adults beforehand, belong to the street-children. They take responsibility of their own, destructive development, creating conditions for the enjoyment of their needs out of homes (Olszewska-Baka, 2000).

While enumerating the reasons of escaping 'to the streets', children exceptionally mention family component: 38% of them are driven out of their homes; 15% escape; 13% find themselves in the street because of the financial inability of a family to support them; 6% suffer from physical violence; 55% have mothers addicted to alcohol; 8% have mothers addicted to drugs (Чуй?... 2012).

According to medical indices, the phenomenon which spreads on more than 1% of people is treated as epidemic, so it may be said that our society is going through a difficult social epidemic.

Analysing this phenomenon, it is necessary to draw attention to its territorial and regional evolution. Thus, as it was established the most socially vulnerable are South and West regions of our country. It is shown in diagram 3 (Міністерство соціалітики..., 2013).

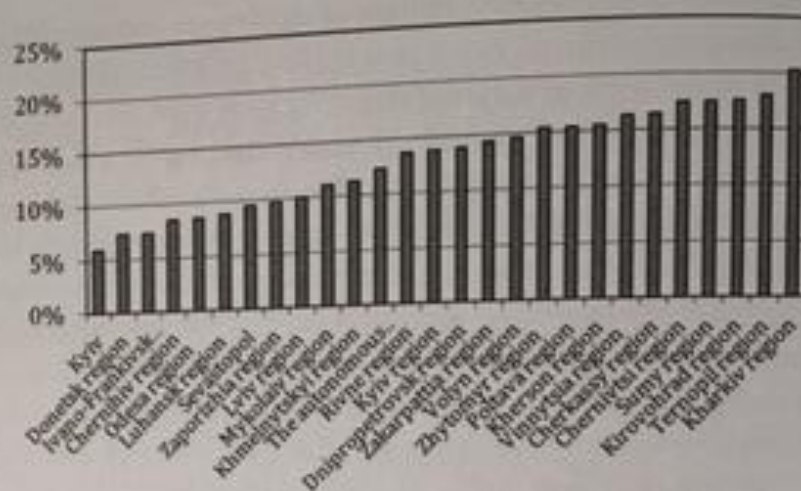


Chart 3. Orphans and children deprived of paternal care from the general amount of children in the regions of Ukraine

One of the ways to overcome orphanhood is child's adaptation, the acceptance of them in a family with the legal establishment of family's connections. The dynamics of this phenomenon are also a certain index of the development of humanity, charity, and civilization in a society. The growth of the amount of adopted children has a positive meaning from the point of supplying the perspectives for their development, upbringing and socialization. On the other hand, the increase of the interested in adopting is a negative phenomenon from the point of the reasons of childlessness, particularly due to the impossibility of having own children because of the problems connected with health. Most of the potential parents-adopters are motivated by a desire to create a full family, not by taking a child to the family, where their own children are.

A tendency to adopt children by foreigners is quite typical for many countries of the world. This practice is regulated by certain legal documents. Thus, Ukraine needs to ratify the Hague Convention about the international adoption. It will create a possibility to form a background for the protection of children, especially in the process of their adoption and it will continue to monitor the conditions of their lives after the process has been completed. Because it is quite typical in our practice that child's fate is unknown after adoption but a certain consular service has to systematically control the conditions of living and upbringing of those children. The necessity to improve this process is very important especially now when the trade of children as well as children prostitution and other social phenomena are often present. Moreover, this can be proved by the number of children adopted by foreigners. For instance, 1202 children were taken abroad in 2010, 970 - in 2011;

806 – in 2012. At the same time, 2247 children were adopted by the Ukrainians in 2010, 2114 – in 2011, 2016 – in 2012 (Мокан, 2013).

The most effective forms of psychological, pedagogical and social guardianship of orphans are the family forms of upbringing (care, solicitude, families which adopt children and the houses of a family type). According to estimations (done on June 1, 2013) there are 75010 orphans and children deprived of paternal care in the family forms (particularly 4932 children are brought up in 740 children's houses of a family type; 6819 children – in 3856 families which adopted children), it is 80.7% from the general amount of orphans and children deprived of paternal care. It is on 4.3% more than it was in the previous year (*Сімейні форми виховання*, 2013).

According to special investigations, the number of orphans is increasing because of children:

- who were born out of marriage;
- who were born by mothers under age;
- who suffer from family violence;
- whose parents are addicted to drugs or alcohol;
- whose parents were brought up in the boarding schools;
- whose parents have problems with the law;
- whose families live below the poverty line;
- who suffer from the epidemic of HIV/AIDS;
- with disability or born as invalids;
- whose parents are labour migrants.

Let us look in details at the conditions and factors, which cause the increase of the number of social orphans in Ukraine.

Children born out of wedlock. Beginning from 2006 every fifth child is born out of wedlock in Ukraine. In 2011 there were 110 thousand of such children. This high number may be explained to a certain extent. A great part of children are born not without a father, but in families where parents are in a civil marriage.

The expert on the questions of family politics and family relations, the president of All-Ukrainian charitable fund 'Family' Andrian Bukovynskyj pointed that 95% of couples, who live in a civil marriage, divorce in some period of time (*В Україні*, 2013).

The problems of marriage-family relations will also increase the risk of becoming an orphan. The divorce of parents is one of the most fatal factors. For instance, 278 thousand of marriages were registered in 2012, but the percentage of divorced ones was 61% (*В Україні*, 2013). The attention should also be paid to a certain territorial regularity concerning the number of divorces. The lowest number of divorces is in the west regions of Ukraine, but the highest – in south

and east regions. The average percentage of divorces in Ukraine is 57%, in west regions – it is 30%, in east regions – it is almost 70% (Коваленко, 2013).

In the families which went through or are going through a divorce a destructive psycho-emotional environment is being formed. It causes that a child acquires some deviant forms of behaviour, and often even entering in the environment of street-children or subcultural groups or even social isolation.

Children born by the mothers under age. The birth of a child by a mother under age is seldom a planned event. In most cases pregnancy is casual and a child is undesirable. That is why the children of mothers under age belong to the risk group. They may find themselves without paternal care.

According to the data of State Statistics Service of Ukraine in 2011, mothers under age (less than 18 years of age) gave birth to 8022 children. Taking into consideration the fact that 498 thousand 975 children were registered (according to the estimation made on January 1, 2012), the conclusion is made that every 60th child was born by the mother under age.

Children who suffer from the family violence quite often enrich the rows of social orphans, particularly street-children. The street becomes safer environment for them than their own families.

According to the official data, the violence in families is quite a wide-spread phenomenon in Ukraine. From children's testimonies, we know that at first they are faced with violence in their own families, especially from their parents, elder brothers and sisters, thus the people who in fact were supposed to protect and support them (Трубавіна, 2003). The last investigations showed that in Ukraine almost 60% of children at the age between 2 to 14 suffer from psychological or physical violence (Панчишин, 2013).

It is also worth mentioning that violence against children is a phenomenon which is wide-spread in educational institutions, moreover it can be performed not only by adults but also by children of the same age.

At the end of the year 2500 Ukrainian children who suffered from violence were under social control. Mostly they are from unlucky families or disciples of boarding schools (Терещук, 2011).

Drug or alcohol addiction. The parents who are addicted to drugs or alcohol are unable to create a comfortable environment for upbringing. Children in such families systematically go through psycho-emotional stress, suffer from physical and psychological violence. The children's needs of safety are quite often not satisfied and the conditions for healthy physical development are absent. The negative social heredity influences the development and upbringing of a child very powerfully. It forms negative models of behaviour and decreases the level of

demands. The acquirement of features of social orphanhood in such conditions is happening peculiarly quickly and in the most destructive displays.

The problem of addiction from psycho-active substances is spreading not only in the environment of adults, but also among the youth and children. According to the data of the Ministry of Healthcare of Ukraine, in the last 10 years the amount of drug addicts among pupils is increasing about 6-8 times. As a result, the connection is seen between the growth of drugs consumption and the deviant behavior of the youth and children (*Соціальна робота, 2004*).

The children of labour migrants. The children whose both parents or just one of them went out of the country to earn money also belong to the social orphans.

According to the data from 3.5 to 7 million of Ukrainians work abroad.

According to the statistical data, only 6% of them do not have children. Most of migrants have two or three children. The arithmetical calculations give the results of labour migration: if 7 million of people leave Ukraine, nearly 7.5-9 million of children under age live without full value care (Гордієнко, 2008).

Emotional and intellectual deficit appear in such families. Children do not have close and systematic contacts with their parents. As it is known, the last factor is one of the criteria of determining the level of social orphanhood. Educational functions of such family are not properly realized and as a result a lot of problems appear in the process of upbringing. Children do not have examples which they can follow; marriage-family relationships are absent; the hierarchy of values is being bended; material priorities start to dominate.

Children whose parents have problems with the law

It was determined by the investigations of Ukrainian experts that 90-97% of transgressors of the law under age in Ukraine are from unlucky families (Про становище сімей в Україні, 1999). Moreover, if the parents are imprisoned, they lose parental laws or do not follow them for some time. Obviously, a child in such family goes through a stressful situation, they are deprived of proper care and educational environment does not correspond to all necessary demands.

According to the data of State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine, 153 thousand 800 people of our country are in solitary confinement cells and in institutions of discharge of punishment

<http://www.radioera.com.ua/eranews/?idArticle=41390>.

Their children are left without one of the parents in a more successful case. Nowadays, there are more than 10 000 of women in prisons, among them 7000 who have children. For children born by the women who are in solitary confinement

cells, two houses of children were opened. There were 90 children from 1 to 3 years old in such houses in 2007 and 120 children in 2012. The children, who are older than 3 years, are given under the care of relatives or in boarding schools, i.e. they are being deprived of paternal care (Комарова, 2012).

Children whose families live below the poverty line. The problem of poverty (due to its material dimension) causes also the development of problems in the spiritual sphere of a modern person and their families. In the State report about the situation of families in Ukraine (according to the conclusion of 2003) are given the results of investigations of the main problems and the most important obstacles to the full value of upbringing children in a family:

- material problems of a family (82%);
- lack of time (48%);
- unpreparedness of parents in pedagogic questions (29%);
- parents' incomprehension of the importance of children's upbringing in a family (22%) (Психологічна допомога сім'ї, 2005).

The state does not properly supply the families having many children with a financial help. Hence, the increase in number of children raises the risk of a material crisis and chances to find themselves below the poverty line. Moreover, great material problems may promote parents absence, addictions, neglect of paternal duties and not providing the necessary conditions for the upbringing and development of a child. However, it is obvious that the last tendency will not be confirmed.

To some extent the growth of social orphanhood is caused by spreading of the epidemic of HIV/AIDS as well as by acquiring of invalidity by parents or by children. According to the data of the Institution of social investigation, up to 30% of children from asylums had mentally ill mothers (Комарова, 2012).

Illness or limited possibilities cause the following negligence: realization of educational tasks, lack of the sense of being protected; limit the possibilities of full value and harmonious development of a person. Moreover, a person, who due to their physical or psychic restrictions is in social isolation, who is restricted to the environment of a boarding school, may remain behind in development, feel emotional, social, cognitive deprivation.

Children whose parents were brought up in boarding schools, also quite often find themselves in such institutions. Because of the absence of a state support (social living, privileged crediting, helping to find a job) boarding school-leavers get in the situation where they are deprived of any chances to create the proper conditions for the family living. On the other hand, the upbringing in the conditions of environment of boarding schools does not consolidate any family values. It

deprives them the possibility to acquire the experience of family relationships and a certain environment. Taking into consideration the difficultness of the mentioned problems the risk of divorces and the rejection of children will be quite high.

It is obvious that a family is the most optimal form for upbringing a child, however modern crisis destroys its educational environment, moreover it transforms its positive influences into destructive ones, often it damages a child's psyche. That is why developing compensatory family forms is crucial at the moment as well as paying attention to educating people about their positive influence.

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