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## FORMATION OF ALTERNATIVE FAMILY INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE

*The main purpose of this article is to examine the formation of alternative family institutions for children deprived of parental care, to strengthen their social protection mechanisms, and to create conditions for socialization within a family-like environment. The study focuses on the social significance of orphanages, foster care, and adoption services, as well as the activities of governmental and non-governmental organizations in this area. The relevance of the research is explained by the fact that ensuring the welfare and rights of children has become one of the key priorities of contemporary social policy.*

**Methodology.** *The study employs systematic and comparative analysis methods, reviewing both international and national experiences in child protection. Based on the analysis of legal and normative documents, social policy strategies, and existing institutional structures, the dynamics of the development of alternative family institutions in Azerbaijan have been identified. Statistical and conceptual data presented in academic literature and official sources were analyzed to systematize the main factors influencing children's social adaptation.*

**Scientific novelty.** *The scientific novelty of the research lies in the fact that alternative family institutions—such as foster care, guardianship, and adoption mechanisms—are evaluated within the framework of an integrated social welfare system. For the first time, the author has examined the implementation experience of these institutions in Azerbaijan comprehensively from a social service perspective, identifying strategic directions for modernizing orphanages and fostering the upbringing of children in family-type environments. The article also emphasizes the role of public solidarity, religious organizations, and charitable institutions in ensuring the social security of orphans and children deprived of parental care. The author presents scientifically grounded recommendations such as the establishment of SOS Children's Villages in the liberated territories, the strengthening of professional training, and the expansion of public awareness through media initiatives.*

**Keywords:** family; alternative family institutions; social protection; foster family; child rights.

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## ФОРМУВАННЯ АЛЬТЕРНАТИВНИХ СІМЕЙНИХ ІНСТИТУТІВ ДЛЯ ДІТЕЙ, ПОЗБАВЛЕНИХ БАТЬКІВСЬКОЇ ОПІКИ

*Головною метою цієї статті є вивчення формування альтернативних сімейних інститутів для дітей, позбавлених батьківської опіки, зміцнення механізмів їх соціального захисту та створення умов для соціалізації в середовищі, подібному до сімейного. Дослідження зосереджене на соціальній значущості дитячих будинків, прийомних сімей та служб усиновлення, а також діяльності урядових та неурядових організацій у цій сфері. Актуальність дослідження пояснюється тим, що забезпечення добробуту та прав дітей стало одним із ключових пріоритетів сучасної соціальної політики.*

**Методологія:** *У дослідженні використовуються методи систематичного та порівняльного аналізу, що охоплюють як міжнародний, так і національний досвід у сфері захисту дітей. На основі аналізу правових та нормативних документів, стратегій соціальної політики та існуючих інституційних структур визначено динаміку розвитку альтернативних сімейних інститутів в Азербайджані. Було проаналізовано статистичні та концептуальні дані, представлені в академічній літературі та офіційних джерелах, для систематизації основних факторів, що впливають на соціальну адаптацію дітей.*

**Наукова новизна:** *Наукова новизна дослідження полягає в тому, що альтернативні сімейні інститути, такі як прийомні сім'ї, опіка та механізми усиновлення, оцінюються в рамках інтегрованої системи соціального забезпечення. Автор вперше комплексно дослідив досвід впровадження цих установ в Азербайджані з точки зору соціального обслуговування, визначивши стратегічні напрямки модернізації дитячих будинків та сприяння вихованню дітей у сімейному середовищі. У статті також підкреслюється роль громадської солідарності, релігійних організацій та благодійних установ у забезпеченні соціального захисту дітей-сиріт та дітей, позбавлених батьківської опіки. Автор пропонує науково обгрунтовані рекомендації, такі як створення SOS-дитячих сіл на звільнених територіях, посилення професійної підготовки та розширення громадської обізнаності через медіа-ініціативи.*

**Ключові слова:** сім'я; альтернативні сімейні установи; соціальний захист; прийомна сім'я; права дитини.

**I**ntroduction. In the modern era, institutions for the protection of children have been established to safeguard their rights, ensure their welfare, and support their upbringing in a safe environment. These institutions often intervene in situations where children face risks of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or separation from their families. Some of the fundamental components of contemporary child protection agencies include:

1. Orphanages and Childcare Homes: These are institutions that provide shelter and care for children who must be separated from their families. However, in recent years, maintaining children within their biological families or finding alternative care options has become more common practice.

2. Foster Care Services: This system temporarily places children—who have been separated from their biological families—into the care of foster families, allowing them to grow and develop within a family environment.

Foster care provides significant advantages for all parties involved: the child, the biological family, the foster family, and the social service institution. The greatest benefit of foster care for children is that it offers them the warmth and security of a family environment. For children who cannot receive adequate care from their birth families, who are orphans, abandoned, or simply in need of family-type care, foster care provides numerous developmental and emotional benefits (Cahit, 1976, pp. 47–49).

The benefits of foster care for a child's biological family manifest in several important ways. When a child is removed from the family for specific reasons, social workers aim to identify and apply the most suitable form of care for that child, while simultaneously addressing and resolving the underlying problems within the family. The objective in such cases is to eliminate difficulties as quickly as possible, maintain the child's connection with their family, and create the conditions necessary for family reunification. As a result, the child's biological family not only receives assistance in resolving its issues but also becomes a partner in ensuring the child's care and protection.

There are several common motivations for individuals to become foster parents. The primary ones include the desire to help children, to meet the growing social demand for foster families, to contribute to the household economy, to overcome loneliness, to expand the family, to compensate for child loss or infertility, or for religious and moral reasons (Martin & Fabes, 2001, p. 2).

From the institutional perspective, foster care offers advantages such as providing a more cost-effective social service compared to institutional care and ensuring a more suitable environment for the child's growth. However, it should not be forgotten that the main objective of social service institutions is to determine the most appropriate environment for a

child's upbringing and to ensure that the child grows up in such a setting.

3. Child Support Centers: These are centers that provide services to children who have been subjected to violence or who must be separated from their families. Such centers are managed by multidisciplinary teams of professionals who provide psychological support, medical assistance, education, and other essential needs.

4. Child Protection Laws and Regulations: Various legal frameworks and institutions have been established to safeguard and ensure children's rights. These laws protect children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation while holding offenders accountable through legal sanctions.

5. Education and Awareness Programs: Various educational and awareness programs are organized to increase understanding of children's rights, protection, and safety. These programs help children to know and defend their rights and security while informing parents and communities about child protection issues (Alternative Care, n.d.).

#### Child Protection Institutions

In the 20th century, more humane and child-friendly care models, such as foster family services, were developed. Furthermore, the second half of the 20th century and the 21st century witnessed the adoption of important international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which marked a significant step toward protecting children's rights and ensuring their welfare. This process has contributed to the greater effectiveness and universality of child protection institutions worldwide.

In the 21st century, international standards concerning children's rights and welfare have been established, and child protection institutions have become more widespread. Although keeping children within their families and supporting family-based upbringing remains a key priority, safe and supportive alternative care options are also available. As awareness and sensitivity regarding children's rights increase, various national and international legal regulations are being implemented to strengthen child protection and welfare systems.

Developing and implementing social policies on child protection requires adherence to specific guiding principles. According to Şentuna (2019, p. 104), child-related policies are based on four fundamental principles:

1. Adoption of a welfare approach centered on the best interests of the child;

2. Implementation of community-based policies aimed at reducing inequalities;

3. Attention to all children living in underdeveloped regions;

4. Development of coherent and unified policies to ensure the welfare of every child. These four principles

constitute the foundation of child policy aimed at supporting children's healthy growth, development, and participation in society. The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is one of the most significant international documents ensuring the provision and development of decent living conditions for children deprived of parental care.

In the modern world, the history of child protection policy has been shaped through the evolution of various international conventions, laws, and policies dedicated to safeguarding children's rights and well-being.

Social Structures for the Care of Orphans in Azerbaijan

The origins of the orphanage as an institution date back to ancient times. However, the main stage in the development of orphanages can be traced to the late 19th century, when, within the framework of state policy, large-scale campaigns were launched to combat child neglect and poverty. During this period, orphanages were established not only to provide shelter but also to deliver education, healthcare, and other essential social services.

Historically, Azerbaijan has also maintained various social structures and institutions dedicated to the care of orphans. These institutions have a rich history extending to the late 19th century and originated from efforts to improve the welfare of children in need of care and protection. In the 21st century, both governmental and non-governmental organizations, charitable foundations, societies, orphanages, and schools have been established in the country to protect the rights of orphans and improve their living conditions. At present, several institutions in Azerbaijan play an important role in ensuring the protection of orphans—not only providing them with education but also guaranteeing their welfare and social adaptation (Mərdanov, 2009, pp. 11–12).

Orphanages are state institutions created to provide care for orphans. Children who are separated from their parents and placed in orphanages have emotional, moral, and social needs, and the failure to meet these needs may expose them to serious risks. In this regard, orphans and children deprived of parental care are classified as members of vulnerable groups within society. Parental death or abandonment, separation from siblings, family violence, or emotional instability can cause numerous difficulties for a child. The absence of biological parents or a consistent caregiver adversely affects a child's socialization process, particularly for those of preschool age. The environment in which a child is raised significantly influences their moral behavior and social relationships.

Therefore, it is crucial to reform and modernize the orphanage system to ensure that children receive care under improved conditions. When reunification with the biological family is not possible, alternative family care options such as kinship care, guardianship, or

adoption tend to produce better outcomes for the child's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. The government seeks to enhance adoption policies and the social environment of children by ensuring permanent guardianship arrangements. Foster care services, in particular, create opportunities for orphans to grow within a family environment, promoting moral development and appropriate social behavior.

The Role of the Media and Legal Frameworks

One of the key instruments influencing improvements in the lives of orphans and children deprived of parental care is the mass media. Television, newspapers, and social media play an important role in shaping public opinion by disseminating information about fostering, adoption, and charitable activities related to these children. The media also serves as a platform for promoting social values and ideas, contributing over time to the formation of social norms and attitudes in this domain.

At the same time, governments and legal systems help implement social norms and improve policies and initiatives concerning the rights of orphans and children deprived of parental care. They also foster social values that shape societal attitudes toward vulnerable children. Legislative bodies define the legal frameworks regulating the care of children placed in orphanages and boarding schools, including preschool-aged children, as well as the rules governing interactions and potential disputes between caregivers and institutions. In this way, the law protects the rights of both parties and helps establish a sense of order and stability in their mutual relations.

Experience shows that traditional orphanages do not always have a positive impact on the socialization of orphans and children deprived of parental care across all age groups. Therefore, there is a pressing need for the comprehensive modernization of these institutions. In particular:

- the application of innovative conceptual approaches to the educational system in institutions for orphans and children deprived of parental care;
- the development of foundational principles for the formation of social experience among children in orphanages;
- the elaboration of operational principles for a socially adaptive educational system within orphanages are of critical importance.

**Result.** The implementation of measures aimed at promoting the socialization of preschool-aged children living in orphanages necessitates the creation and development of alternative care institutions and family-based care models. The significance of establishing and improving such institutions is linked to the following factors:

1. Improving Living Conditions: Enhancing the living standards of orphans and children deprived of

parental care in orphanages and boarding institutions, ensuring the provision of adequate equipment, resources, and nutrition, constitutes one of the essential components of the socialization process.

2. **Qualified Personnel:** Careful selection of personnel and the involvement of professional and ethical social workers, psychologists, and educators in the educational and training process can positively influence children's preparation for independent life. As a highly sensitive group, orphans and children deprived of parental care can achieve successful socialization primarily through interaction with competent specialists.

3. **Public Awareness and Charity:** Expanding public awareness campaigns and charitable activities aimed at improving the living conditions of orphans and children deprived of parental care, with the active participation and promotion by mass media, remains a crucial aspect of effective social support.

4. **Monitoring of Foster and Adoptive Care:** The guardianship or adoption (especially by foreign families) of orphans and children deprived of parental care must be subject to strict oversight. The psychological and social conditions of such children should be carefully assessed, and they must remain under the regular observation of social workers and social police to ensure their safety and protection.

5. **Moral and Ethical Development:** Alongside educational and training efforts, special attention should be paid to the moral and ethical upbringing of children in orphanages. The primary objective should be to raise them as educated, moral, and socially responsible citizens who will contribute positively to society.

6. **Enhancing Social Security:** Various measures should be implemented to ensure the social security of orphans and children deprived of parental care. The activities of institutions that promote their health, education, and employment opportunities must be strengthened and expanded.

7. **Promoting Social Solidarity:** Strengthening social solidarity and cooperation within society is essential for the protection and social security of preschool-aged orphans and children deprived of parental care. Families, neighbors, local communities, philanthropists, and charitable organizations should be encouraged to provide material and moral support to vulnerable social groups, including these children. Public awareness campaigns should also promote collective responsibility and empathy.

8. **Religious Charity Institutions:** Religious charitable organizations possess significant potential to assist the impoverished, including orphans and children deprived of parental care. Religious beliefs can serve as a motivating force for social assistance. In Islam, the principles of charity and cooperation promote helping the poor and orphans as both a moral duty and a social responsibility. Therefore, special educational insti-

tutions for orphans could also be established under the auspices of religious organizations.

9. **Professional Training:** The preparation of specialists in the field of social assistance and services for orphans and children deprived of parental care, and their direct involvement in orphanages, can significantly enhance the successful socialization of these children, particularly those of preschool age. Furthermore, the state's social security institutions should be improved to provide more effective support to orphans and other vulnerable groups.

10. **Post-Conflict Social Reintegration:** During the First Karabakh War, the number of orphans and children deprived of parental care increased as a result of the forced migration of refugees and internally displaced persons. The placement of these children in orphanages and foster families presented several challenges. Following Azerbaijan's victory in the Second Karabakh War, the process of returning IDPs to their native lands began, though accompanied by certain difficulties. The establishment of SOS Children's Villages in the liberated territories could expand opportunities for accommodating orphans in these regions. Relocating existing orphanages and boarding schools from Baku to the liberated areas could also facilitate their successful long-term resettlement.

11. **State Policy Development:** The state must continue to improve programs concerning the social protection of orphans and children deprived of parental care and implement projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life of this vulnerable population group.

**Conclusion.** The protection and social integration of children deprived of parental care constitute one of the most important directions of modern social policy. Research indicates that the environment in which children are raised has a direct impact on their future social behavior, emotional stability, and personality development. In this regard, the development of alternative family institutions – such as foster care, guardianship, and adoption systems – and their integration into the social service framework should be considered a key priority of the state's child welfare policy.

As discussed in the article, the comprehensive modernization of orphanages and boarding institutions, the strengthening of professional training for specialists working in these facilities, and the enhancement of the role of social workers are of particular importance. At the same time, the active participation of religious and charitable organizations, local communities, and civil society in the social protection of orphans and children deprived of parental care is essential. Public awareness campaigns through the media and the promotion of social solidarity serve as vital mechanisms for achieving these goals.

The initiative to establish SOS Children's Villages in the territories liberated from occupation can create real opportunities for children to socialize in a family-

## ФОРМУВАННЯ МОТИВУ ТА МОТИВАЦІЇ У СТАРШИХ ДОШКІЛЬНИКІВ ЯК ПЕРЕДУМОВИ РОЗВИТКУ ЕМПАТІЇ ЗАСОБАМИ ТЕАТРАЛІЗОВАНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ

like environment. Such projects are not only a form of social care but also an embodiment of national solidarity and humanitarian values.

Ultimately, the development of alternative family institutions for children deprived of parental care is a crucial indicator of social justice, human rights protection, and the preservation of moral values within society. In this context, the joint efforts of state, public, and religious institutions, along with the professional intervention of social workers, will ensure the healthy social adaptation of these children and contribute to their transformation into active and responsible members of society in the future.

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## ФОРМУВАННЯ МОТИВУ ТА МОТИВАЦІЇ У СТАРШИХ ДОШКІЛЬНИКІВ ЯК ПЕРЕДУМОВИ РОЗВИТКУ ЕМПАТІЇ ЗАСОБАМИ ТЕАТРАЛІЗОВАНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ

У статті здійснено теоретичний аналіз понять "мотив", "мотивація", "емпатія", "театралізована діяльність"; розкрито особливості становлення мотиваційної сфери у старшому дошкільному віці; визначено структурні компоненти мотиву. Виокремлено основні види мотивів, що сприяють становленню емпатії у дітей 5–6 років; розроблено схему структури мотивації і таблицю базових мотивів формування емпатії у старших дошкільників; обґрунтовано специфіку розвитку у них мотивації до емпатійної поведінки засобами театралізованої діяльності.

**Ключові слова:** мотив; мотивація; емпатія; театралізована діяльність; засоби театралізованої діяльності; soft skills; дошкільна освіта; старший дошкільний вік.

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## FORMATION OF MOTIVE AND MOTIVATION IN OLDER PRESCHOOLERS AS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMPATHY THROUGH THEATRICAL ACTIVITIES

The article addresses the relevant issue of forming motive and motivation in older preschool children as an important prerequisite for the development of empathy through theatrical activities. The significance of motive as an internal driving factor