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Current Problems and Perspectives in Family Upbringing

Abstract

In today's world, families face a range of challenges—demographic, economic, and social—that hinder the effective implementation of family upbringing. Among these, pedagogical issues remain particularly urgent. Every parent adopts certain educational goals, but these goals are often vague or misdirected, negatively impacting children's development. This article examines key pedagogical challenges within the family structure, emphasizing the need for parents to be equipped with pedagogical knowledge and a clear upbringing strategy. Topics include the evolution of the modern family, the role of love and emotional bonding in child development, the significance of parental authority, and the effective use of children's leisure time. The article also explores the influence of national values and traditions on parent-child relationships and underlines the importance of preserving cultural identity within family education. By addressing these aspects, the article contributes to understanding the current state and future directions of family upbringing.

Keywords: Family, Leisure Time, Pedagogy, Parental Authority, Parental Love

Aile Eğitiminin Güncel Sorunları ve Gelecek Perspektifleri

Öz

Günümüzde aileler, çocuk yetiştirme süreçlerinde demografik, ekonomik ve sosyal pek çok zorlukla karşı karşıya kalmakta; bu durum, aile eğitiminin etkin biçimde yürütülmesini engellemektedir. Bu zorluklar arasında pedagojik sorunlar, özellikle dikkat çeken ve çözüm gerektiren alanlardan biridir. Her ebeveyn, çocuğunun eğitimi için belirli hedefler benimsemektedir; ancak bu hedefler çoğu zaman belirsiz veya yanlış yönlendirilmiş olabilmektedir. Bu durum, çocukların gelişimini olumsuz etkilemektedir. Bu makalede, modern aile yapısı içinde öne çıkan pedagojik sorunlar ele alınmakta; ebeveynlerin pedagojik bilgiyle donatılmasının ve bilinçli bir eğitim stratejisi benimsemelerinin önemi vurgulanmaktadır. Ailede sevgi ve duygusal bağın çocuk gelişimindeki rolü, ebeveyn otoritesinin önemi, çocukların serbest zamanlarının etkin değerlendirilmesi ile milli değerlerin ve geleneklerin ebeveyn-çocuk ilişkisine etkisi gibi konular da incelenmektedir. Makale, bu yönleriyle aile eğitiminin mevcut durumu ve geleceğine ilişkin kapsamlı bir bakış sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Aile, Serbest Zaman, Pedagoji, Ebeveyn Otoritesi, Ebeveyn Sevgisi

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Introduction

The Azerbaijani people have historically possessed rich family traditions rooted in high values, and preserving these traditions today and passing them on to future generations, as well as determining their pedagogical foundations, should be one of the main tasks of current scientific research and practical activity. It is clear that modernization, as a requirement of the present conditions, exposes national values not only to positive influences but also to certain negative impacts. After gaining independence, our country has witnessed a transformation in national consciousness and patriotic feelings, differing significantly from Soviet-style patriotism; attachment to the native language and religion has further developed. The institution of the family, which reflects the moral qualities and lofty values of the Azerbaijani people—such as purity, loyalty, trust, honor, and dignity—has also evolved and become enriched with new, positive features and qualities. The mutual love, respect, confidence, and trust within the Azerbaijani family were formed and strengthened through centuries and have been passed down to our time, growing richer over generations.

Pedagogical Problems of Family Upbringing

One of the characteristic features of family demographic development in the 20th century, from the perspective of upbringing, is related to the process of the nuclearization of the family. A nuclear family refers to the root or core of the family and is considered the fundamental unit of family structure. Family is understood in two ways: In the narrow sense – this includes the father, mother, and children, living together as a single generation. In the broad sense – this includes extended members such as grandparents, uncles, and aunts, involving three or more generations living together. One of the major pedagogical issues in family upbringing is the division of roles and responsibilities. Historically, parents successfully passed down family traditions and values, but in recent times, these relationships have weakened. With technological progress and the rise of individualism, behavioral norms and moral values are increasingly shaped by media and the internet.

The family is an intimate institution where emotional bonds between members are essential. The love between spouses serves as the foundation of these bonds. A child's healthy development depends significantly on being born from this emotional connection (Chalabiyev, 2015). In Azerbaijani families, this love is especially emphasized. Parents often show

unconditional affection, sometimes to a degree that hinders effective upbringing. Children who are overindulged may develop a belief in their own exceptionality, leading to manipulative behavior and dependency. If illness is feared or occurs, some children learn to use this as leverage for gaining attention or privileges. This emotional manipulation may evolve into a behavioral pattern that affects the child's social interactions and independence.

Parental love changes over time. Initially, it ensures protection; later, it supports the child's psychological development. Scholars emphasize that this love is fundamental for both moral and physical well-being. However, when driven by egoistic motives, this love can become controlling and distorted (Seyidov, 1987). From the age of three, children become sensitive to their parents' emotions. Parents must recognize and nurture their child's emotional world to help shape their moral character. The love shown to a child becomes the basis for their capacity to love others. Another pedagogical issue is managing children's free time outside parental supervision. This is referred to in pedagogy as leisure or free time. Properly organizing this time is essential for the child's development and is a shared responsibility between schools, social institutions, and the family. Leisure time holds social importance. It helps rejuvenate mental and physical strength, supports structured family life, and contributes to the development of a child's personality and identity. Every nation has its own values that shape the educational process. Cultural norms determine what is acceptable and what is not. There is no single correct model of parenting that guarantees positive outcomes.

For example, in Japan, preschool education uses soft methods that become stricter in school years. In contrast, European systems apply more rigid rules in early childhood, which are later relaxed (Khalilov, Adilzade, Rzayev, Guliyev, & Yusifova, 2024). In pedagogy, the concept of "requirement" extends beyond verbal commands; it also includes organizing a healthy lifestyle. Daily routines are a key mechanism for fostering discipline and supporting the nervous system, especially in preschoolers.

Pedagogical requirements include behavioral norms and strategies for applying them. For instance: "After playing, put away your toys," or "Ask for permission before passing someone" (Jabbarova, 2023). Such expectations should align with the child's developmental level and support progress toward new skills. Another essential pedagogical principle is optimism. Parents should encourage and support their children, maintaining trust and mutual understanding within

the family. A humanistic approach fosters happiness and emotional security. Beyond external rules and discipline, children must develop internal motivation. The family remains the primary institution of upbringing, shaping personality traits from birth into adulthood.

Parental authority also plays a crucial role. Which parent holds more authority impacts how children understand social roles and authority figures. In modern families, both partners share equal rights and responsibilities, requiring adaptation to new expectations (Jabbarova, 2023). The growing economic independence of women can shift authority dynamics in the household. In some cases, this leads to familial conflict or disintegration (Kodzhaspirova, 2003). Traditionally, the Azerbaijani family valued the father's role as central. This patriarchal model provided social stability, cultural continuity, and moral guidance. Despite the pressures of modern economic conditions, traditional values continue to sustain the family model. However, globalization has brought change to family roles, planning, and parenting approaches. Preserving core values tied to national identity remains critical.

The modern family is the foundation of social development. Human capital depends on healthy and harmonious family relations. The evolving role of the father reflects wider societal change. Today, gender stereotypes are fading, and shared parenting is increasingly embraced (Gavrov, 2010). The family functions as both a legal and emotional institution. It is the core of society. If this foundation is weakened, it leads to broader social crises. Although family problems are timeless, they must be understood and addressed within the context of changing times. The family continues to serve as the first and most important social unit. It plays a central role in reproduction, education, cultural transmission, and integration into society. In modern liberal states, families are regulated by legal and political norms but remain deeply influenced by social dynamics. Family life encompasses both material and emotional dimensions. Across generations, families raise individuals who shape and reflect their cultural and personal identities. The transition from traditional to modern society brings fundamental shifts in values, perceptions, and priorities. In Western and many developing societies, modernization brought a demographic shift. Women began to gain autonomy in education, employment, and family roles. The 21st century has seen further transformation of family structures due to industrialization, urbanization, and changing values. The traditional patriarchal model has diminished, especially in urban

settings where children have less outdoor interaction and more exposure to technology and individualism.

Conclusion

Thus, it can be concluded that modern society, shaped by continuous modernization processes, increasingly influences the structure and dynamics of family relationships. Within this framework, the concept of the "modern family" has become relevant. The emergence of this family model can be attributed to various factors such as economic development, technological advancement, and expanded access to education. As observed in other countries, Azerbaijan is also witnessing the formation of elite family structures. Women, through personal career achievements, are playing a more visible role in the political and social spheres of society. In modern contexts, traditional masculine characteristics—such as aggressiveness and assertive dominance—have significantly diminished in relevance and expression. The transformation of values and functions within modern families often leads to disruptions in the relationships among family members. These disruptions are especially evident in intimate relationships within monogamous and traditionally patriarchal families. Family conflicts, risks, and disputes have become defining features of the modernization period and are now seen as part of a new "genetic code" of human relationships. Nevertheless, this crisis in family values and structure is not irreversible. With conscious effort, support, and the reinforcement of national and cultural values, it is possible to overcome and dismantle this syndrome of disconnection and restore the family as a resilient social institution.

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