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The family in contemporary society

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Abstract

In front of you is a work that talks about the definition of parenting and social and educational norms in the introductory part. We also look at the social phenomenon and characteristics of the modern family. In the following work, we also talk about the functional and dysfunctional family and about the styles and challenges of modern parenting.

Keywords: Family, Modern society, Parenting, Parenting styles.

1. Introduction

The family as the basic cell of society can be complete, incomplete or foster, and as such it is the natural builder and foundation of society. Today's parents are imposed new social and educational roles. For example, the modern woman is more and more emancipated, which brought her the role of working mother. For this reason, she has to put in twice as much effort in order to fulfill both the role of a mother and the role of a business woman.

The question is whether such a thing is justified and possible in modern society, in conditions of social turmoil, but also of increasing material and moral crisis?! In such conditions, parents can no longer rely on the wider educational environment.

The role of parents is to, to the maximum extent possible, familiarize themselves with the environment in which today's, modern, child develops and grows. It is necessary for him to know the positive and negative sides of the environment, as well as the influences to which the child is exposed, and to act accordingly, but also to adapt his own behavior to the aforementioned factors.

During the period of the formation of the child's personality, it is the parent who should choose the influences to which he exposes his child. During this period, it is necessary to constantly talk about situations and things in order not to form wrong attitudes and beliefs and, as a result, to accept negative behavior as normal.

A modern parent should be a positive example for his child and at the same time control the contents of the environment to which the children are exposed and talk to them about it.

It is necessary to provide the child with proper and healthy nutrition, as well as daily physical activities. In order to ensure a successful life in the family, but also in life, it is mandatory to inculcate work habits through education. It is necessary to remain consistent and authentic in your requests, actions and behavior towards the child. The basis of good authority lies in sticking to one's words or request, while at the same time looking at the child's real possibilities.

2. Modern family

When it comes to the family as a social phenomenon, the authors tend to discuss determining its main characteristics. Anthropologists highlight at least three basic features of the family as a social community. It most often begins with marriage, and consists of a husband, wife and their born or adopted children. Family members are united in the community by legal ties, then economic, religious and other types of rights and obligations, then sexual rights and prohibitions, as well as emotions such as love, belonging, respect, anxiety and others (Ljubetić, 2007).

The modern family is going through visible changes in the life of society, as well as of the individual. The mentioned changes are conditioned by wider social changes, such as those in the value system, then by a higher level of education of the parents and a higher level of individuality of the child. Traditionally, the family was considered a permanent unit, consisting of a married couple and children. However, this belief has been abandoned today because changes such as divorce, single-parent families, changed roles of mother and father, have shown that the family is not a static unit that will last forever in a certain unchanging form.

The diversity of family structures does not mean that they all meet children's needs with equal quality and provide conditions for optimal child development and upbringing. The fact is that parenting (motherhood and fatherhood) is very different and that parents are needed for the overall and healthy development of a child, but research has shown that adaptation to one specific norm is not crucial for the child's well-being.

So Rotenberg (2001, according to Ljubetić, 2007) states that they were implemented research has shown that, for example, relationships between homosexual partners are just as much as suitable for raising children as heterosexual marriages.

Apart from the "new" types of families, the modern ones are characterized by educated, economic ones independent and equal partners in which today's women enjoy equal status, freedom, rights, but also obligations like men. However, women still struggle with the redistribution of jobs within the family and with the so-called redefinition of family roles. With this redefinition, men would move away from the traditional role of family breadwinner and take on the new role of a modern man whose right and obligation would be to participate in household chores, as well as in the upbringing and care of their own children (Ljubetić, 2007).

2.1. Functional and dysfunctional families

Family functioning refers to the family's ability to successfully satisfy physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each individual member. Functional families are those in which parents strongly influence family life and invest a lot of effort and time in forming healthy, functional families. In functional families, boundaries and

rules are clearly defined and appropriate, the child's individuality is respected and his needs are fully understood. Such flexible families provide children with love, safety, protection and encourage the child to develop his abilities and independence. Communication in flexible families is effective and free expressing emotions and negotiating. Therefore, children who grow up in such families (who provide the child with a healthy family atmosphere) to be better prepared for starting their own future families.

Unlike functional families, dysfunctional ones are the ones that fail because they are unable to effectively face life's problems. In dysfunctional families, parental love is absent, there are no clear and strict rules, the dynamics of family relationships are disrupted, filled with frequent mutual conflicts. Children grow up in families like this feels confused and lonely so is more prone to emotional problems or problems in behavior (Jurčević-Lozančić, 2005). Children grow up without adequate family supervision, often faced with various forms of violence in the family itself, and marital relations are strained and without trust. The mentioned bad relationships within the family, the anger and frustrations that accumulate within them, destroy the entire community.

In order to prevent the emergence of dysfunctional relationships within the family, parents must better prepared to deal with stress, they must be ready to communicate and cooperate with your children and have confidence in them. Warm relations within the family, self-confidence and free interactions are a sure way to a strong family community that will be able to prevent and bravely face any crisis situation (Stevanović, 2000).

2.2. The modern family today

Modern society, both in the world and in our country, presents a new challenge for families. The family in our country is also slowly transforming from a structural point of view (growth in the number of families with one parent, increasing age at marriage, reduced number of children born) so it is possible expect that with the change in domestic economic and social conditions, family structure to change even more.

Today, in our region there is a trend of decreasing numbers of children born, the number of married couples with children is decreasing, and the number of married couples without children is increasing. It is assumed that the lower birth rate is due to the difficult economic situation, financial crisis and high unemployment rates, so many of today's families are on the edge poverty. In addition to the mentioned problems, the family is exposed to further changes I transformations, since the number of families with one parent is increasing, the number has increased divorces, and there are tendencies of homosexual communities to adopt children. The traditional family experiences positive and negative transformations, and one of the more negative factors is the increase in violence in the family, which threatens its stable functioning, its structure, relationships and value system. By improving the climate within our society, by encouraging family policy measures, today's family should achieve stability. Family upbringing is the first and most important thing in a child's life. He is the foundation of everyone else child's educational influence. In this, every family has an invaluable role and obligation responsibility. The dominant feature of modern education in the family should be imbued with aimed at building a free, independent and creatively oriented young personality (Stevanović, 2000).

Modern multicultural societies place the family as a responsibility, the obligation to educate young people in the spirit of coexistence of different cultures, traditions and freedom of expression in the conditions of the evolution of the family. New technologies, mobility, communication are breaking the unity of tradition, culture, upbringing and education. Therefore, the family also experienced numerous transformations. Being a parent and having parents is an emotional experience. This is evidenced by numerous scenes in the family, in

institutions, on the street, statements at parent meetings, texts on forums for parents, practice of child psychologists in counseling centers, kindergartens, schools. This is evidenced by the children themselves - with their reactions, emotional injuries, memories of pleasant or unpleasant situations that they are often convinced that they caused themselves. Parents, not the child, are responsible for how they feel in their parental role and for what they feel and do with regard to individual child's behaviors. Responsible parenting it implies both the personal responsibility of the parents and the responsibility for the relationship they have with their own with children (Milanović, 2014).

Becoming a parent also means accepting a new life role that brings with it different ones requirements. Children need the guidance of their parents, which Juul (2008, p. 133) vividly illustrated saying: "Children need their parents to function as a beacon that in proper at intervals it sends clear signals from which they can learn to navigate through life." Especially in preschool age, children do not know what they need, they only know what they want. If parents start to be guided by the children's wishes, the children do not get what they need. Parents can help children and support them in becoming as authentic as possible, that is, in gaining a healthy sense of self-worth. They will achieve the most if they are interested in who their child is from day to day, if they help him to express himself authentically and if the parents themselves are as authentic as possible in contact with the children. What does it really mean to be authentic? Authenticity actually means "originality" - the ability to authentically express ourselves, to be able to express ourselves with exactly those words and feelings that we perceive as true. In search of authenticity, parents are invited to constantly search and explore their own boundaries because they change under the influence of time and relationships. Due to various social changes, gender roles have become more flexible, which has put emphasis on a new dimension of social responsibility - the distribution of responsibility for daily chores in the family and for taking care of children. Likewise, a new focus on of the individual, she emphasized personal responsibility - the responsibility that each of us has for our own life, feelings, for what we do and for the choices we make.

2.3. Parenting styles

Parenting in itself is very complex, and it is determined by numerous factors - both individual and broader. It is characterized by the fact that it is focused on the education of a new person, on his growth and development, as well as training for independent functioning and coping with numerous life situations.

Every parental choice shapes the environment in which the child lives and develops, which can have different consequences and lead to different results, in the short and long term.

Parenting with excessive involvement, the so-called helicopter parenting, results from expressed care and love on the part of the parents, however, it can lead to certain negative consequences. Although the strong involvement and care of the parents leads to satisfaction and psychological well-being in the child, it often actually causes certain difficulties in the field of mental health.

It is completely understandable that every parent cares about their child and wants to see how it is independent, capable of making decisions and successfully solving problems, but helicopter parents make it difficult for children to develop such abilities. Their actions are often inappropriate for the child's developmental age, especially in early adulthood.

If someone recognizes themselves in the role of a helicopter parent, it is good for them to think about what kind of adult they want to build and whether they are on the right track in that idea?! Sometimes it is not

necessary to watch over the child like a helicopter. It is necessary to allow him to take his responsibility, to make mistakes, to learn and to develop. It is important to adapt one's own parenting style to the child and his personality, to be flexible and not to strive for extremes, because the optimal parenting style is precisely the one that maintains a balance between care and control.

In the literature, four parenting styles stand out, that is, patterns of parental behavior that appear in different situations. These four styles are determined by two dimensions - care and control. Parental love refers to their involvement in the child's life, care, acceptance and sensitivity to the child's needs. Parents who are warm are focused on the child, pay a lot of attention to him, respect his feelings and openly communicate with him, trying to see the situation from the child's perspective. On the other hand, parents who are low on the level of caring, are emotionally cold and neglect their child. Parental control refers to the expectations, requirements and rules that parents put before their children and the behaviors and procedures they apply to regulate the child's behavior. Parents who have more controlling behaviors set high expectations for their children and try to ensure that they follow certain rules. On the other hand, parents with a low level of control do not set expectations for their children, they are indulgent and give them a lot of freedom. By combining the previously mentioned dimensions (warmth and control), we distinguish four basic parenting styles, namely: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and disengaged.

Authoritative parenting style - This parenting style includes a combination of a high level of love and a high level of control. These are warm, caring and sensitive parents who, in addition, maintain a certain level of control, i.e. insist on mature behavior, set high standards and clear expectations, but also give reasons for their expectations and enable the child a suitable level of responsibility and independence.

Authoritarian parenting style - Parents who apply this parenting style have a low level of emotional warmth and a high level of control. These are cold parents who often criticize their children, use coercion and strict discipline, so they mostly make decisions instead of the children.

Permissive parenting style - The following parenting style is a combination of a high level of warmth and a low level of control. These are warm parents who are passive and allow their children too much. Permissive parents often do not control their children's behavior, make too few demands and give them too much freedom.

Disengaged parenting style - Disengaged parenting style is a combination of low level of emotion and low level of control. These are emotionally distant parents who are not involved in their children's lives, nor do they communicate with them or set expectations and demands for them. Such parents do not have time and energy for their children, so they neglect them.

What is "helicopter parenting"? - Helicopter parenting has certain similarities with authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles. Helicopter parents are characterized by a high level of acceptance, care and involvement in their children's lives, especially in order to help them reach certain goals and achievements in life. They, like authoritative parents, provide large amounts of support to their children with open and assertive communication. Nevertheless, motivated for the well-being and success of their children, they often know how to behave intrusively, especially when it comes to the field of education and future competitiveness on the market. In addition, they are highly controlling, but in terms of control, they are more similar to authoritarian than authoritative parents who are more flexible in the way they regulate the child's behavior. Authoritarian and helicopter parents are actively involved in helping their children succeed in life, but they do

so in a way that they highly control their children's behavior and do not provide them with autonomy. Helicopter parents are overly protective and "hang" around their child, protect him from failure and discomfort, want to make his growing up easier and prevent problems and frustrations from arising, and what they do is that they are excessively involved in his life, vigilantly monitor what is happening and make decisions for the child. Of course, in different situations and developmental stages of growing up, it is normal for parents to help the child overcome certain tasks, but not in such a way that they take these tasks upon themselves and control every aspect of the child's life. Helicopter parents are often concerned about their children in a relatively safe environment and do not show flexibility in controlling their child's behavior during growth and maturation, that is, they do not change their parenting style as their children develop. It often happens that they do not allow the child to use public transport independently, they solve every homework with their child or instead of him. Instead of him, they solve problems at school, are involved in his social life, watch his every step, etc. This limitation of independence is a problem in any developmental period of a child, but it becomes especially problematic in early adulthood, when children leave their home and are expected to continue functioning independently in society. For example, when a child goes to study in another city, and the parents need to know where he is and who he is with at all times and to be actively involved in his educational and private life. Helicopter parents have a hard time accepting the fact that their children have become adults and that the time has come to reduce control and involvement in their lives.

Consequences of "helicopter parenting" - During the upbringing of children, parents use different approaches that later shape the child's functioning patterns, that is, their psychological, emotional and social development. Children raised by parents who are extremely emotionally involved can have greater life satisfaction and psychological well-being (Segrin et al., 2013). On the other hand, helicopter parenting can have different consequences on the mental health of children, and in the literature, connections with higher levels of narcissistic personality traits and anxiety, less developed coping skills, lower levels of self-efficacy and poorer communication skills in adolescents and young adults are most often highlighted (Segrin et al., 2013; Srivastav and Lal Mathur, 2020). Helicopter parents try to satisfy every child's need, protect him from unpleasant experiences, help him deal with different situations and solve problems for him that may lead to

3. Conclusion

Children who have not achieved good integration within the primary family have a harder time maintaining relationships with their peers, and are at a greater risk of manifesting their potentially antisocial behavior. For this reason, the subject of the research can be defined as determining the social competence of preschool children by examining the connection between antisocial behavior and acceptance in the peer group. The set research goal is achieved through four tasks. This is primarily to look at the social status of an individual child in the family and determine whether there is a difference in social competence and antisocial behavior according to the gender of the child. Then to determine whether there is a connection between the social competence of preschool children and the degree of acceptance, and then to determine whether there is a correlation between the antisocial behavior of preschool children and the degree of acceptance, and finally to determine whether there is a relationship between social status, social competence and antisocial behavior in relation to gender and time spent in preschool.

It is based on the assumption that children of preschool age differ from each other when it comes to the families they come from, acceptance, social competence and antisocial behavior according to the criteria of gender and time spent in preschool. In other words, the assumption is that there are differences between girls and boys with regard to the above-mentioned parameters such as acceptance in the peer group, level of social

competence and antisocial behavior (H1), as well as that there is a connection between the social competence of preschool children and the degree of their acceptance in the group (H2).

Another relevant factor is the connection between the antisocial behavior of preschool children and the degree of acceptance (H3), as well as the connection between social status, social competence and antisocial behavior in relation to the time spent in the institution for both girls and boys (H4).

According to Dr. Ranko Rajović, who dedicated his professional career to the study of child development, today's parents make serious mistakes. He singles out overprotection as the biggest. One must know the border between protection and overprotection. He points out that it is most important for parents to enable their children to develop normally, and that they must suppress the anxiety that leads to excessive protection of the heirs.

According to Dr. Rajović, the goal of education must be the development of functional knowledge and creativity, which is not the case with the way of learning and education in the former Yugoslavia.

He points out that there are many children with developmental disabilities in our area (state of the region). The teachers don't know what's going on. From speech disorders, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia. The children are just sinking, and we are watching them. Parents are the ones who have to do something first, and then it's the turn of educational institutions and the state, Dr. Rajović concluded.

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