



The Relevance of Dignified Treatment of Children

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Relevance. One of the primary causes of poor academic performance and disruptions in a child's growth and development is the psychological atmosphere in the family and the quality of childcare. Addressing this problem requires direct participation from family members and professionals working with children. The harmonious development and upbringing of children depends on parents being informed and educated about proper child-rearing practices, respect for the child's personality, increased professional responsibility among specialists working with children, and observance of children's rights—all of which contribute to reducing or preventing negative consequences.

This research aims to develop programs for preventing neglectful attitudes toward children. Neglect is defined as the absence of proper care for a child, or "behavior that has led or may lead to delayed child development." We established the following goals and objectives:

- Assess the prevalence and causes of neglectful attitudes toward children in urban and agricultural regions of the country
- Conduct an in-depth analysis of neglectful attitudes toward children across different regions of the country
- Implement UNICEF and ISPCAN strategies for preventing child neglect

Materials and Research Methods. The first stage involved survey activities including questionnaires for parents and children aged 6 to 16 years. A total of 1,490 children and 2,900 parents were surveyed.

Children's Questionnaire: Developed with psychologists' participation and designed for children who can read and understand questions, it included items about age, gender, nationality, family composition, the child's health status, past accidents, conflicts, attitudes of adults, neglectful treatment, and problems in family and school.

Parents' Questionnaire: Included questions about family composition, income level, nationality, number of children, childcare arrangements, children's household responsibilities, children's health, chronic diseases, disabilities, behavioral problems, conflicts, and parent-child relationships in the form of a psychological test.

Analysis of survey results was conducted according to parameters: socio-demographic status, psychological medical express diagnostics, parents' evaluation of teachers and doctors, and children's assessment of adults' attitudes toward children.

The survey in urban and agricultural regions of the country covered 1,490 children aged 6 to 16 years. The survey was conducted by experienced medical workers during children's visits to medical



institutions and during medical patronage. Children answered in their native language. When a child refused to answer a question, the response option "did not answer" was recorded.

For subsequent analysis, the child's gender was also taken into account.

The psychological express diagnostics contained both direct and indirect questions. To the direct question: "Evaluate the attitude of adults in your family toward you," 28% of the total number of children noted a friendly attitude, 14% noted a supportive attitude, 19% noted an attentive attitude, and 15% of children noted indifference. One-third of children (32%) acknowledged that parents provide help in difficult situations.

The next question was "How often do you have conflicts with your parents?" Overall, as the research results showed, frequent conflicts between parents occur quite rarely—from 4% to 9% in various regions. Rare cases of conflicts with parents were noted by 27% to 60% of children in agricultural regions. From 13% to 33% of children in these regions noted that these conflicts occur sometimes. Rare cases of conflicts between children and parents, in our view, can be explained by the ethnic characteristics of these regions and the dominant influence of adults on children ("respect for elders").

In general, in these regions, the majority of parents (74%) try to verbally explain to their child why they are being punished. Only in one agricultural region do parents attempt to explain punishment in just 29% of cases. At the same time, they apply harsh methods of influence on the child—locking in a dark room (11% of cases), depriving of gifts (9% of cases), or putting in a corner (30%).

From the presented analysis, it is evident that a significant portion of the surveyed children understand that their parents hurt them in the process of upbringing. Only 23% of children note indifferent attitudes from parents.

The attitudes of pedagogical workers toward children were determined by the following questions:

- "Evaluate the teacher's attitude toward children at school"
- "How often do teachers at your school get irritated with students?"
- "Have there been cases of teachers being punished for neglectful or disrespectful attitudes toward students?"
- "Are there rules (charter or code) in your educational institutions (school, boarding school, orphanage) and medical facilities (clinic, hospital) that you visit, providing for the responsibility of teachers and doctors for undignified treatment of children?"

Children note teacher irritation in 23% of cases. To the question about evaluating teachers' attitudes toward children, most children note attentive (34%) and friendly (33%) attitudes. However, what is concerning is the undignified (9%) and inattentive (10%) attitudes of teachers toward children as noted by the children. To the question about whether there were cases of teachers being warned for inattentive attitudes toward children, 10% of children responded positively.

Attention is drawn to the analysis of children's answers to the question of whether there are rules in educational institutions providing for the responsibility of teachers for undignified treatment of children. Across all regions, 60% of children do not know if such documents exist in their educational institution. The negative responses of children indicate that information about the existence of such documents (rules) is not communicated to children, or the rules are entirely absent.

The parent survey aimed to identify the influence of parents' social status (education, social position, material prosperity) and their family status (number of children in the family, family composition) on factors associated with undignified treatment of children.

The analysis was conducted in two directions:

- Socio-demographic analysis by region (agricultural and urban)



➤ Medical-psychological express diagnostics

The socio-demographic analysis by region aimed to identify mental differences in the views of the population in individual regions on the problems of undignified treatment of children.

The psychological express analysis aimed to identify psychological characteristics of parents' attitudes toward children depending on their education, social status, and material prosperity in the family.

The number of children in families varies significantly across regions. While families with one or two children predominate in urbanized regions, in agricultural regions families typically have three or four children.

In analyzing this question, the aim was to determine the influence of family composition. Three main family groups were identified:

- Nuclear family: a family consisting only of parents and children
- Multi-generational family: a family in which, besides parents, grandparents also live together
- Families with other relatives: a family in which, besides parents, their closest relatives live

As the analysis showed, family composition is extremely heterogeneous across regions. While multi-generational families and families with other relatives predominate in urbanized regions, nuclear families mainly predominate in agricultural regions.

Given the large difference in prices for essential items across different regions, surveyed parents were asked to subjectively assess the material prosperity of their family. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Financial well-being of the surveyed families.

The level of wealth	Agricultural regions % (average value)	Urbanized Regions % (average value)
On the verge of survival	1,05	4,6%
Below average	7,9	12,3%
Average	51,45	55,2%
Good	32,95	24,8%
excellent	6,75	3,1%

Table.2. Distribution of the social status of fathers among the surveyed families by region

Social status	Agricultural regions % (average value)	Urbanized Regions % (average value)
Without a permanent job	9,35	5,5%
Military personnel	1,7	3,1%
Small entrepreneur	7,95	7,8%
The employee is right.organs	2,3	5,1%
A worker (a Dehkan)	50,5	25,2%
The employee	19,2	26,9%
Student or student	0,35	0,6%
Private business	6,75	12,4%
Other	3,25	13,3%

Most of the respondents consider their financial well-being to be average and good. At the same time, fewer families are assessed as having a satisfactory level of income, and only one in twenty families considers their income to be at a low level. Social employment of the population is also extremely



heterogeneous by region. In urbanized regions, there are a large number of employees and fewer workers (dehkan) compared to agrarian regions.

The level of education of parents is extremely unevenly distributed across the surveyed regions. The significant number of people with higher education in urbanized regions stands in stark contrast to the high percentage of parents with incomplete secondary education in agrarian regions. In the questionnaire offered to parents, there was a medical and psychological test that allows to identify the psychological characteristics of parents' attitude towards children. Such features manifest themselves in the constructive or destructive attitude of parents towards the child. Constructiveness is understood as the attitude of a parent towards his child, which ensures the mental development of the child, the formation of a psychosomatic healthy personality. The destructive attitude of parents towards children is understood as an attitude that contributes to deformations and disorders in the development of a child's personality, covering various aspects, namely: neuropsychiatric status, features of interpersonal interaction, cognitive sphere. as well as disorders in the development of the cognitive sphere.

One of the main questions in the questionnaire that determined parents' attitude towards children was "Do you think that punishments for misconduct discipline children?" The response options determined how parents felt about their children's upbringing (Table 3).

Table 3

Response options	Agricultural regions % (average value)	Urbanized Regions % (average value)
Yes	13,395	8,3%
Sometimes punishment is necessary	10,35	28,4%
Only in exceptional cases	12,15	25,8%
No	63,1	37,5%
Did not respond	0,85	0,0%

The results of the responses vary greatly by region. While in urbanized regions parents generally take the right approach to raising their children, a low percentage (8.3%) consider punishment possible and most apply it only when it is really necessary and in exceptional cases, the picture in the regions is completely different. 15.05% in the agrarian regions consider punishment necessary for the proper upbringing of a child. A very large percentage of respondents in the regions who answered "No" to the question most likely indicates the insincerity of parents in answering or their inability to use methods of punishment in raising children. This "blurring" of the response rate indicates that most parents do not have a clear idea of how to treat their child psychologically in the event (or situation) of misconduct or misconduct. Thus, the above-mentioned parental responses in certain cases contribute to conflict situations in the relationship between parents and children and lead to disruptions in the growth and development of children. In addition, the predominant type of relationship between parents and children is the dominant position of parents, manifested in excessive control. An unfavorable result of such an attitude is psychosomatic changes, such as excitability, touchiness, aggressiveness. Irritability, conflict, isolation, aggressiveness.

The analysis showed that the formation of inattentive and unworthy attitude towards children is influenced by many factors, among them an important place is occupied by medical and psychological factors that must be taken into account when developing preventive and corrective measures both in the upbringing of children and in protecting their health.

Conclusions: The problem of inattentive and undignified treatment of children exists and needs to be addressed. There is a low level of awareness about the ways, methods, and forms of professional work with children and parents on issues of child neglect. It is inaccessible to the public, against the background of a low level of interest in existing regulatory documents on the neglect of children. The



need to create a wide network of special services where parents and children could seek medical and psychological help in case of child abuse. The existing services deal mainly with the punishment, but not with the correction of such cases. To provide assistance in case of neglect, it is necessary to develop "tools" (methodological material, instructions, etc.) that could be used when working with parents and children. Low awareness and ignorance of children about the situation of child rights protection, which requires the development of public institutions such as the Children's Parliament, which is actively supported by the Children's Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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