



**"PETRE ANDREI" UNIVERSITY FROM IAȘI
THE FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATION SCIENCE AND SOCIAL WORK**

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Social work in the context of accelerated social changes

Asistența socială în contextul schimbărilor sociale accelerate

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

1st Edition

IAȘI, 2024

**“PETRE ANDREI” UNIVERSITY FROM IAȘI
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Indirect trauma in social work

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Anxietatea în rândul copiilor și adolescenților și un model de intervenții psihologice

Iulia RACU

Igor RACU

Rezumat

În secolul în care trăim sporește necesitatea investigării aprofundate a anxietății. Complexitatea problemelor pe care le generează demersul anxietății sunt diverse și sunt din ce în ce mai evidente atât la nivel global, cât și la nivel național. Anxietatea apare în copilărie și este caracteristică pentru întreaga dezvoltare umană. Anume anxietatea este una din problemele emoționale cu care se confruntă copiii și adolescenții, și constituie o cauză principală a adresării copiilor și familiilor acestora la servicii de asistență mentală.

Conform celor expuse am proiectat și implementat o cercetare de constatare, precum și una formativă, a anxietății în rândul copiilor și adolescenților, precum și a diminuării acesteia la preșcolari. Eșantionul de cercetare a inclus 792 de copii de diferită vârstă de la 4 la 18 ani. Pentru studiul anxietății și a corelatelor acesteia am selectat 13 teste, inventare și chestionare. Ca rezultate am stabilit și prezentat cele mai importante legături și mecanisme explicative a anxietății la copii și adolescenți. De asemenea, bazându-ne pe o viziune holistică a anxietății în contextul noilor realități sociale am descris o metodologie inovativă de reducere a anxietății la preșcolari focusată pe factorii psihosociale și individuali care provoacă anxietatea și includerea adulților importanți din viața preșcolarilor: părinți și educatori în procesul de diminuare a anxietății.

Cuvinte cheie

anxietate, copii, adolescenți, intervenții psihologice

Main Areas of Social Work in Conditions of War in Ukraine

Volodymyr PUNDIEV³⁴

Abstract

One of the main tasks of social work in Ukraine now is to support the integrity of the family in the conditions of war, martial law, and military operations (Sulimenko, 2022). This phenomenon can be defined through the concept of family social resilience and is highlighted through characteristics of opportunities for joint family actions, shared beliefs, shared organizational processes, communication, and shared family problem-solving procedures in response to disruptive events and disasters. The substantiation of the content of "family social resilience" or the social stability of the family determines the priorities of family adult education using the country's social policy implementation, - in particular by institutions of education, in structures of the social work system, and by mass media. At present, due to the real drastic reduction of the family social resilience parameters, the topic of social work and social assistance to Ukrainian families in war conditions is actualized more than ever.

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In the context of the increase in the number of children left without parental care as a result of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, the issue of providing orphans (and children deprived of parental care) with social support and assistance is currently viewed as the paramount task of social work services.

Today the role of state and public organizations in providing social support and assistance to orphans in Ukraine is insufficient: there are major problems related to access to education, medical care, and other social services for orphans, as well as the creation of psychological support structures for such children. The needs and resources of this category, which are actualized in the conditions of war and martial law, are: social (regarding self-determination and self-realization, receiving social benefits, etc.), psychological (normalization of the psycho-emotional state, intellectual development in self-awareness, self-esteem, aesthetic needs of the child, etc.), biological (physiological development, provision of adequate nutrition, etc.). The Government of Ukraine has taken several measures to ensure social support for orphans and children deprived of parental care, including increasing the amount of state aid and opening centers to help children in difficult life circumstances. First of all, today's problem of organizing social work to place children in family forms of education is being resolved. The following forms of education are being developed and improved: adoption, foster care, foster family, and family-type orphanage (Pidval`na, 2023). Although Ukraine is in a state of war, social work is carried out and a large part of the planned social guarantees for children is implemented. However, we must emphasize that it is necessary to carry out systematic work to prevent the causes that lead to the fact that children become orphans. For example, this could be done by working with parents to help them retain custody of their children, or providing new social services to help families deal with difficulties. It is important to emphasize that the problems of family and orphanhood in Ukraine during the war require great attention and effort from all sides. It is necessary to provide orphans with proper conditions for life, education, and development, as well as to help them in their reintegration. Many of these children have experienced physical and psychological trauma and stress that may affect their future lives (Mykoliuk, 2022). It is also necessary to develop special programs of psychological support and rehabilitation for orphans who have survived conditions of military operations.

Of course, an adoption is a form of upbringing for orphans (and children deprived of parental care) that most contribute to the fulfillment of the tasks of family legislation to provide each child with a family upbringing (Sulimenko, 2022). The second priority form of placement of orphans and children deprived of parental care is guardianship, usually by a person who is in a family relationship with a child deprived of parental care and was appointed as a guardian or custodian. The third form of family arrangement for orphans is a foster family. The essence of this form of guardianship is that a person or family, for a certain fee, takes in one to four orphans or children deprived of parental care to raise and live together. The next form of placement of orphans and children deprived of parental rights is a family-type orphanage. All these forms require significant strengthening of government financial support during wartime and subsequent peace decades. More social work employees will be needed as well.

Families whose members are military servicemen also need the attention of social work structures to maintain their normal family social resilience.

The government of Ukraine assures social protection for military personnel and their families by providing various benefits and support. Some of the social assistance measures include: 1) medical care, 2) financial assistance, 3) housing support, and 4) education support. Social and psychological work with military personnel in wartime aims to ensure their psychological well-being and support in emergencies (Viktorova, 2023). This covers a wide range of work that aims to provide their basic psychological needs, to solve possible problems (if a

serviceman suffered psychological trauma, have PTSD, etc.) and to help restore normal life after the war.

Currently, there are many public organizations and volunteer groups that are actively engaged in providing social assistance to military personnel and their families. They provide medical care, financial support, psychological support, and other types of assistance. However, it is worth noting that it is necessary to improve government efficiency and availability of social assistance and work for all military personnel. It is necessary to ensure more transparent and effective mechanisms for the provision of assistance (for example, the use of digital, remote technologies) and access to relevant services, as well as to ensure the constant evaluation and updating of social protection policies to meet the needs of servicemen and their families (Viktorova, 2023). Social work policies and practices must be corrected or newly developed and effectively implemented to provide the necessary assistance to military personnel families in challenging conditions of war.

It must be recognized that social work assistance to military personnel families in wartime conditions faces significant challenges. The most important challenge is the lack of financial resources. War requires large expenditures on the part of the state for military needs, which can lead to restrictions in the financing of social assistance. Another important challenge is the instability and complexity of military operations. Military personnel and their families constantly face risks to their lives, health, and future. This can lead to the deterioration of their physical and psychological condition, which again requires increased social attention, support, and assistance.

Some laws and programs aim to provide social work support to Ukrainian families in other fields as well, such as: possible lack of law protection, insufficient child health care or proper education, issues of abuse, criminal environment influence, etc. However, there are general challenges that need to be taken into account due to insufficient financial resources, the complexity of the military environment, migration, population decline, and gender disproportionality aspects. To overcome these challenges, it is necessary to ensure more efficient and transparent implementation of social work assistance, to develop special new approaches to solve problems related to war conditions, and to ensure more widespread social protection policies.

In general, social assistance to Ukrainian families in wartime is a complex and multifaceted problem that requires a comprehensive approach and constant improvement of social policies and practices. The main areas of social work in conditions of war in Ukraine are: family social resilience improvement, help to orphans and children deprived of parental care, and assistance to military personnel families. Only through the joint efforts of the state, economic, and military organizations as well as the general public can adequate social work support and protection be provided to those who need it in this difficult period of war.

Keywords

social work, conditions of war, family resilience, a child deprived of parental care, military personnel, support programs.