

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN CHILD UPBRINGING

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Abstract: *This article discusses the important role of the family in the upbringing and development of a child. It emphasizes the family as the child’s first social environment, where personality, moral values, social skills, and behavior are formed from birth. Modern challenges, such as technological distractions and busy parental lifestyles, are considered, as they can affect child development. The study highlights the importance of consistent parental guidance, warmth, and attention in raising responsible, well-rounded individuals. Ultimately, family values and traditions are essential for both the child’s personal growth and the development of society.*

Keywords: *family, child upbringing, personality development, parental guidance, moral values, social skills, family traditions, child development*

Аннотация: *В этой статье рассматривается важная роль семьи в воспитании и развитии ребенка. В ней подчеркивается, что семья является первой социальной средой ребенка, где с рождения формируются личность, моральные ценности, социальные навыки и поведение. Рассматриваются современные проблемы, такие как отвлекающие технологические факторы и напряженный образ жизни родителей, поскольку они могут повлиять на развитие ребенка. В исследовании подчеркивается важность постоянного родительского руководства, теплоты и внимания в воспитании ответственных, всесторонне развитых личностей. В конечном счете, семейные ценности и традиции необходимы как для личностного роста ребенка, так и для развития общества.*

Ключевые слова: *семья, воспитание ребенка, развитие личности, родительское руководство, моральные ценности, социальные навыки, семейные традиции, развитие ребенка*

The family is the child’s first social environment and the primary institution of upbringing. Family communication plays a fundamental role in the formation of a child’s personality. Relationships among family members, styles of interaction, and emotional bonds are decisive factors in shaping a child’s future behavior, moral values, and social skills. The foundation of upbringing begins within the family. Leo Tolstoy once stated: “All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” The main characteristics of a happy family are largely similar, which suggests that it is possible to identify effective principles of proper upbringing. In contrast, the unhappiness of families with poor upbringing practices may arise from various circumstances.

Family is the earliest and irreplaceable institution in a child’s upbringing. Historically, even in societies from slavery to feudalism, families fulfilled an educational role. Schools and other formal institutions were rare and mostly accessible only to elites, so the main responsibility for education rested on families. Family education has always evolved with social demands, shaping content, methods, and approaches to upbringing.

Family is the primary unit of society where a new person appears; this small social group serves as a child’s first school of life. Parents are the child’s first teachers and caregivers. Their influence on a developing personality is exceptionally strong. Parental influence is based on selfless love and care for the child, combined with appropriate demands. In response to this love and care, a child develops deep attachment and affection for parents, recognizes their authority, and strives to follow and imitate them in everything [2].

Parents’ role is not limited to providing for children. Family is the first place where moral values, attitudes toward work, aesthetic taste, and social skills develop. From early childhood, children are influenced by parents’ behavior, family interactions, work ethics, and cultural interests. Parents teach reading, appreciation of art and music, and knowledge of history, forming the foundation for school learning and future life. The most important condition for effective family education is parental example. Parents should ensure consistency between words and actions, demonstrate diligence, honesty, and mutual respect. Every child—biological or adopted—should receive equal love and support. By recognizing individual personality traits (such as sanguine or phlegmatic) and applying a personalized approach, parents can foster positive qualities and correct negative ones.

The ancient Roman education theorist Quintilian emphasized the importance of the family while also highlighting the advantages of education and upbringing in schools. Comenius divided the growth of young generations into four stages, each lasting six years (childhood, adolescence, youth, and adulthood), and argued that childhood education—the “mother’s lap” or maternal school—should be present in every family. English philosopher and educator John Locke supported the idea of raising children under the guidance of a tutor within the family, promoting the upbringing of polite and well-mannered individuals. Jean-Jacques Rousseau believed that children should be raised by their own parents; his own child, Émile, was brought up by a guardian after becoming orphaned. Through this, Rousseau aimed to protect Émile from all the influences of the old feudal society and envisioned him as a founder of a new family, the basic unit of a future free society. The French materialist Helvétius argued that if schools were separated from the church and placed under state control, educating and raising children in schools would be appropriate. Other thinkers never considered school education to be in opposition to family upbringing at such a level.

A child begins to be educated by the family from the day of birth. A mother’s care, breastfeeding, adherence to routines, and the way she interacts with the child influence the formation of the child’s first habits. Every member of the family acts as a caregiver. Each person’s behavior attracts the child’s attention and lays the foundation for their personal development.

Every object at home and the household environment present new educational tasks for the family. Most importantly, all family members should set consistent expectations for the

child. If one is strict while another is overly lenient, or if one punishes while another praises, the child will inevitably become capricious, seeking to satisfy their desires in any situation. When expectations are consistent, the child learns to follow rules and grows up obedient and well-adjusted.

One of the main roles of the family in society is to create conditions in which children can learn positive values, relationships, behaviors, and skills throughout their lives. Parents should teach their children to take responsibility for their choices, participate in their own education, and impart essential life lessons. Values formed within the family influence the decisions that family members make both inside and outside the family throughout their lives. Child upbringing depends on the family experience accumulated through the family’s history, traditions, and culture.

We believe that the family is an invaluable provider of highly cultured and accomplished individuals to society. The child has been living in a family environment since birth. Family traditions, values, and customs shape a child's personal qualities. Most importantly, children feel the demands of society through the family's life school. In this place, the leading idea of the pedagogical idea is connected with the deep deepening and strengthening of the correct direction of family education. In essence, the concept of family education means raising children on the basis of national moral standards on the part of the older generation of parents, grandparents.

Parenting is directly related to the relationship between parents. Our people say for a reason: «A bird does what it sees in the nest.» Eastern thinkers believed that parents should be the first to raise children. Therefore, they assign a leading role to family education. The views of Eastern thinkers on upbringing and education, on the role of the family in family upbringing, were formed on the worldview of Islam and its values. The universal ideas in the works of Eastern thinkers are consonant with the ideas of Islamic morality.

Nowadays, a situation has developed in which parents, to some extent, have distanced themselves from the upbringing process. The technological revolution and the acceleration of life have played a significant role in this. Many parents who lead busy lives begin very early to entrust their children to the care of nannies, grandparents, or kindergartens, where a teacher supervises the child. Mobile phones, tablets, computers, and cartoons now occupy a central place in the lives and development of many children, and few people are aware of the impact cartoons can have on them.

As a rule, this leads to the child gradually withdrawing from people and society as a whole, becoming lonely. Virtual reality now replaces communication with parents and relatives. According to researchers, the modern family has undergone certain changes, and, consequently, society as a whole is gradually changing as well. Once again, nothing can replace the family. It is the foundation of life and upbringing for a child. It is essential that parents show warmth and love toward their children.

In conclusion, the family remains the most important institution for the upbringing and development of a child. As the child's first social environment, it shapes their personality, moral values, social skills, and behavior from the very beginning of life. Throughout history, from ancient societies to the present day, the family has played an irreplaceable role in raising

children, while schools and other institutions have supplemented this process. Effective family education is based on constant guidance, love, care, and parental example, fostering well-rounded, responsible, and socially competent individuals. Despite the challenges of modern life, including technological innovations and increasing reliance on external caregivers, nothing can replace the unique influence of the family. Family traditions, values, and cultural heritage continue to play a vital role in shaping children's positive behavior, lifelong learning, and meaningful social relationships. Therefore, it is crucial that parents take an active part in the process, providing warmth, attention, and moral guidance. The strength and stability of the family directly affect not only the child's development but also the evolution of society as a whole.

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