



**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHILD IN INCOMPLETE FAMILIES:
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS**

Dilafruz Baratova

Аннотация:

Неполные семьи оказывают значительное влияние на личностное и социальное развитие детей. В данной статье анализируется, как неполная семья влияет на детей с психологической и социальной точек зрения, включая их поведение, самооценку и социальную адаптацию. Рассматриваются структура семьи и социальная среда, их влияние на психологическое благополучие ребенка, а также важность эмоциональной и социальной поддержки со стороны членов семьи.

Ключевые слова: неполная семья, развитие ребенка, психологические факторы, социальные факторы, структура семьи, эмоциональная поддержка, социальная адаптация

Abstract:

Incomplete families significantly impact the personal and social development of children. This article analyzes how incomplete family structures affect children psychologically and socially, including their behavior, self-esteem, and social adaptation. It also discusses the influence of family structure and social environment on the child's psychological well-being, emphasizing the importance of emotional support and social assistance from family members.

Keywords: incomplete family, child development, psychological factors, social factors, family structure, emotional support, social adaptation

Introduction

The family environment is one of the most significant factors influencing a child's personal and social development. The presence of a stable and complete family structure plays a crucial role in a child's psychological health and social adaptation.



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However, in today's society, many families face disruption or become incomplete due to various reasons. An incomplete family refers to a family where one parent is absent or the family unit is not fully intact, and children raised in such families often encounter complex psychological and social challenges.

Children growing up in incomplete families may experience difficulties in self-awareness, establishing social connections, and maintaining emotional stability. Factors such as parental conflicts, financial hardships, and lack of emotional support within the family can negatively impact the child's mental well-being. Therefore, the study of the effects of incomplete families on child development remains a pressing issue in socio-psychological research.

Relevance of the topic. Today, the structure and quality of the family environment are regarded as crucial socio-psychological factors influencing a child's personal and social development. Children raised in stable, complete families tend to be more psychologically resilient, feel socially secure, and adapt more easily to society. However, the number of incomplete families is increasing in modern society due to various reasons. This trend negatively affects children's psychological health and social well-being.

Children from incomplete families often face challenges related to self-awareness, behavioral issues, and social isolation. The absence of one parent, lack of emotional and financial support, and conflicts between parents adversely impact the child's mental state and slow down their social development.

Additionally, pressures from the social environment, difficulties in relationships at school and with peers, and low self-esteem create further barriers to their development. Therefore, conducting comprehensive and in-depth research on the impact of incomplete families on children, as well as developing psychological and social support mechanisms, remains a vital scientific and practical task.

Literature review. The impact of incomplete families on children's personal and social development is a widely studied issue in social and psychological sciences. Research in this field extensively examines how the family environment influences a child's psychological state, social adaptation, and behavior.



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John Bowlby's Attachment Theory (1969) highlights the crucial role of emotional closeness and security provided by parents in a child's psychological development. According to Bowlby, the absence of a parent or parental conflict can weaken a child's trust in the external world, leading to psychological difficulties. This theory provides insight into the emotional problems often observed in children raised in incomplete families.

Meta-analyses by Amato and Keith (1991) demonstrate that divorce or family disruption significantly negatively affects children's social and emotional development. Their findings indicate that children from incomplete families are more prone to depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and behavioral problems. Furthermore, such children often face academic challenges and difficulties in social adaptation.

Socio-psychological studies reveal that parental financial and emotional support enhances children's ability to cope with stress (Cohen & Wills, 1985). Psychological defense mechanisms and coping strategies (Freud, 1936; Lazarus & Folkman, 1984) play an essential role in maintaining mental well-being in children from incomplete families. For instance, defense mechanisms like regression, denial, and projection help children temporarily protect themselves from emotional distress but may lead to adaptation problems in the long term.

Moreover, a positive social environment, including supportive relationships at school and with peers, is crucial for developing children's social skills (Eccles & Roeser, 2011). Support and acceptance in the school environment boost self-esteem and reduce social isolation.

Conclusion. The findings of this article confirm that children raised in incomplete families face significant psychological and social challenges. The absence of a parent, emotional instability, financial difficulties, and limited social support negatively influence the child's personality formation, self-perception, self-esteem, and ability to adapt to social environments. These factors can lead to mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, aggression, or social withdrawal.

Research emphasizes that a supportive school environment, peer relationships, and access to psychological services play a crucial role in helping children overcome



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these difficulties. Therefore, implementing structured psychological assistance, social services, and educational programs for children in incomplete families is essential for their healthy and comprehensive development. Such efforts not only support individual well-being but also contribute to social stability and cohesion on a broader societal level.

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