



SOCIAL PEDAGOGY. SOCIAL WORK. СОЦІАЛЬНА ПЕДАГОГІКА. СОЦІАЛЬНА РОБОТА.

UDC 37.013.42:364-57-054.73

DOI 10.35433/pedagogy.1(116).2024.10

SOCIAL ADAPTATION OF FAMILY-TYPE ORPHANAGES FROM THE NUMBER OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS TO NEW LIVING CONDITIONS

I. V. Lityaga*, S. M. Sytniakivska**

This article highlights the relevance of social adaptation of family-type orphanages' residents from the number of internally displaced persons to new living conditions, as this problem is related to the crisis situation caused by the war in Ukraine.

The urgency of relocating family-type orphanages to safer areas of our country and providing them with comprehensive assistance is noted.

The author analyses the regulatory and legislative framework for the definition of internally displaced persons, fosterers, family-type orphanages and their protection in modern conditions.

The article also emphasizes the relevance of social support of family-type orphanages by social workers.

The article analyses the scientific approaches of various researchers, Ukrainian legislation on the concept of internally displaced persons' rights and freedoms, their employment, residence, social protection and support.

The article examines the concept of social adaptation, objective and subjective reasons for successful/ unsuccessful adaptation of internally displaced persons, its indicators and the relevance of the activities of the services for families, children and youth at the place of residence, which should provide social support in accordance with the needs and problems that arise.

The purpose (analysis of the integration of family-type orphanages from the number of internally displaced persons into society, including their social adaptation), principles, subjects and periods of social support for family-type orphanages and the main areas of social work with them are described and analyzed.

The article also draws conclusions and presents prospects for further research in this area of study.

Keywords: family-type orphanage, social adaptation, social worker, social work, social support, social services for families, children and youth.

* Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences (PhD in Pedagogy), Docent
(Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University)
innalet@ukr.net

ORCID: 0000-0001-6210-4145

** Doctor of Sciences (Pedagogy), Professor
(Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University)
hng@ukr.net

ORCID: 0000-0003-1367-0487

СОЦІАЛЬНА АДАПТАЦІЯ ДИТЯЧИХ БУДИНКІВ СІМЕЙНОГО ТИПУ ІЗ ЧИСЛА ВНУТРІШНЬО ПЕРЕМІЩЕНИХ ОСІБ ДО НОВИХ УМОВ ПРОЖИВАННЯ

І. В. Літяга, С. М. Ситняківська

У даній статті висвітлено актуальність соціальної адаптації мешканців дитячих будинків сімейного типу із числа внутрішньо переміщених осіб до нових умов проживання, оскільки ця проблема пов'язана з кризовою ситуацією спричиненою війною в Україні.

Зазначено актуальність переїзду дитячих будинків сімейного типу до більш безпечних територій нашої країни та надання їм комплексної допомоги.

Проаналізовано нормативно-законодавчу базу стосовно визначення внутрішньо переміщених осіб, батьків-вихователів, дитячих будинків сімейного типу та їх захист у сучасних умовах.

Також підкреслена актуальність соціального супроводження дитячих будинків сімейного типу соціальними працівниками. Проаналізовано наукові підходи різних дослідників, українське законодавство щодо поняття прав і свобод внутрішньо переміщених осіб, їх зайнятості, проживання, соціального захисту та супроводження.

У статті розглянуто поняття соціальної адаптації, об'єктивні й суб'єктивні причини успішної / неуспішної адаптації внутрішньо переміщених осіб, її показники та актуальність діяльності служби у справах дітей, центрів соціальних служб для сім'ї, дітей та молоді за місцем проживання, які мають здійснювати їх соціальне супроводження відповідно до потреб і проблем, які виникають.

Прописані та проаналізовані мета (аналіз інтеграції дитячих будинків сімейного типу із числа внутрішньо переміщених осіб у суспільство, зокрема їх соціальної адаптації), принципи, суб'єкти та періоди соціального супроводження дитячих будинків сімейного типу та основні напрями соціальної роботи з ними.

Також зроблені висновки та представлені перспективи подальших розвідок у даному напрямку дослідження.

Ключові слова: дитячий будинок сімейного типу, соціальна адаптація, соціальний працівник, соціальна робота, соціальне супроводження, центр соціальних служб для сім'ї, дітей та молоді.

Introduction of the issue. The relevance of the topic is due to the problem of orphans and children deprived of parental care in Ukraine, which is caused by various factors, especially during the war. Our country is currently going through crisis period because of the war, which is the most destructive circumstance. And children are one of the most vulnerable categories of the population and need special social protection from the state.

Family-type orphanages are one of the most relevant forms of upbringing of such children, which definitely contribute to their social protection. During the war in Ukraine, the majority of family-type orphanages either left the country or moved to safer areas, as due to the military aggression of russia, family-type orphanages either lost their homes or were forced to leave them

because of danger, so they became internally displaced persons. Internally displaced persons require a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach and the involvement of various specialists in working with them.

Accordingly, they should receive maximum assistance abroad and in Ukraine, in particular, in their social adaptation to new living conditions. Therefore, the work of social sphere specialists with family-type orphanages among internally displaced persons is extremely relevant and concerns, first of all, their social support.

Current state of the issue. Regarding the studies and publications that initiated the solution of this problem, we analyzed it from different points of view, namely: the problem of creation, functioning and provision of social services to family-type orphanages is

being studied by Bordiyan Y., Yevko V., Loza I., Makarova O., Pesha I., Fushtei O.; in their works Morozov I., Pavliuk P., Rudneva M., Sokoliuk A., Semkina I., Titar I. focused on support and social adaptation of internally displaced persons.

Aim of research. Thus, the literature we have studied indicates the need to structure research materials, which determined the aim of the study, namely: to analyze the integration of family-type orphanages among internally displaced persons into society, in particular their social adaptation. This aim is realized in the analysis of the concepts of "internally displaced persons", "family-type orphanages", as well as in the analysis of problems and provision of social services to family-type orphanages from the number of internally displaced persons for their social adaptation to new living conditions.

Research methods: theoretical analysis of methodological and pedagogical literature, Internet resources on the issue connected with the topic, forms and methods of its organization; synthesis and generalization.

Results and discussion. The solution to the above problem is not sustainable, as new challenges are constantly emerging for the family-type orphanages that either are or will become internally displaced persons.

An internally displaced person is a citizen of Ukraine, a foreigner or a stateless person who is on the territory of Ukraine on a legal basis and has the right to permanent residence in Ukraine, who was forced to leave or abandon his/her place of residence as a result of or in order to avoid the negative consequences of armed conflict, temporary occupation, widespread violence, human rights violations and natural or man-made emergencies [1].

This law guarantees the observance of the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons as provided by the Constitution of Ukraine and other laws, and also denies forced internal displacement [5]. The procedure for collecting and processing data, drawing

up and issuing a certificate of registration of an internally displaced person and the form of the certificate are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. A unified information database on internally displaced persons is being created in Ukraine for the purpose of their registration [5].

According to the Article 5 of this law, the address of the actual place of residence of an internally displaced person may be the address of the relevant place of compact settlement of internally displaced person (address of a module town, dormitory, health camp, sanatorium, boarding house, hotel, etc) [5]. The state policy should be implemented in the areas of employment, labour migration, labour relations, social protection, and social services for internally displaced persons, volunteering, health and recreation. In particular, this is partially confirmed by the Article 7 "Ensuring the realization of the rights of registered internally displaced persons to employment, pensions, compulsory state social insurance, social services, and education". Also, internally displaced persons have not only their rights (Article 9, paragraph 1), but also obligations (Article 9, paragraph 2) [1].

Analysing Ukrainian legislation on the protection and support of internally displaced persons, and given that Ukraine faces constant new challenges with this problem, it is worth noting that all legal frameworks require constant analysis, improvement and amendments.

This is only a superficial overview of the laws, but it is necessary to take into account the specifics and characteristics of families and their members. Special attention should be paid to such a form of family-based care as family-type orphanages and the problem of their social adaptation to new living conditions.

According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Regulation on Family-type Orphanages", the purpose of creating a family-type orphanage is to provide appropriate conditions for the

upbringing of orphans and children deprived of parental care in a family environment.

A family-type orphanage is a separate family created at the request of a married couple or an individual who is not married, who take at least 5 orphans and children deprived of parental care for upbringing and cohabitation. Foster parents (fosterers) are persons who take orphans and children deprived of parental care for upbringing and cohabitation [3]. Fosterers can be persons who take orphans and children deprived of parental care for upbringing and cohabitation, which will live up to eighteen years of age and optionally up to twenty-three years of age with them. After reaching the age of 18, such persons, if they continue their education in general secondary, vocational (vocational-technical), professional pre-higher and higher educational institutions, may, at their choice, continue to live and be brought up in this family-type orphanage until they graduate from the relevant educational institutions. Persons from among orphans and children deprived of parental care who have been diagnosed with a disability may, at their choice, continue to live and be brought up in a family-type orphanage until they reach the age of 23, regardless of whether they are enrolled in general secondary, vocational (vocational-technical), professional pre-higher or higher educational institutions. The total number of children in a family-type orphanage should not exceed 10 people, including fosterers own children [3].

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 22 March 2022 No. 349 "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Protection of Children's Rights during the State of Emergency or Martial Law" amended the law to provide that during the state of emergency or martial law in Ukraine, children without parental care may be placed in a family-type orphanage on the basis of temporary placement within the

prescribed maximum number of children in a family-type orphanage [2].

The most important condition for successful adaptation is a conscious activity, which includes continuous exchange with other social environments and the community that hosts family-type orphanages. Family-type orphanages as a separate social institution of family law in Ukraine should be guided by certain principles and functionality in their activities, which will contribute to the full development of children in care and meet the needs of the family. One of the main tasks of the family-type orphanage is not to isolate children in care, but fully integrate them into society.

Until 2014, family-type orphanages operated throughout Ukraine. But then some of them, especially those in the eastern regions, were forced to relocate. This situation has been exacerbated since 2022, leading to the relocation of family-type orphanages abroad or seeking refuge in safer regions of Ukraine. This migration has caused problems for their social adaptation, especially for children, to new living conditions.

Social adaptation is a process of active adaptation of an individual to a changed environment through various measures. The main indicators of social adaptation are: adequate perception of the surrounding reality and one's own body; adequate system of relations and communication with others, ability to work, study, organise leisure and recreation; variability (adaptability) of behaviour in accordance with the role expectations of others [5].

There are both objective and subjective reasons for the successful or unsuccessful adaptation of internally displaced persons. The objective reasons include the general socio-economic situation in the country, while the subjective reasons include personality traits (aggression, fear, anxiety), conflict situations with the host community, etc. Internally displaced persons face particularly acute problems of socio-cultural adaptation, i.e. the processes by

which a displaced person and the new cultural environment become more suitable for them [5]. How successful social adaptation will be depends on characteristics of internally displaced persons and the extent to which the new social environment is ready to accept, understand and support them. As already mentioned, it is particularly difficult for family-type orphanages to change their place of residence.

Children's services of executive bodies of city councils at the place of residence of the family monitor the conditions of detention, upbringing and education of children by visiting them. The frequency of visits is established by a separate schedule. The service for children at the place of residence of the family draws up a report on the state of upbringing, maintenance and development of children in the family-type orphanage on the basis of information provided by the centre of social services, other institutions or facilities providing social services or by a social worker providing social support to the family, the administration of the preschool educational institution or general secondary, vocational (vocational-technical), professional pre-higher, higher educational institution where the child is studying, a doctor and by the local precinct officer with a compiled report, which is approved by the head of the children's service [3].

Social support of family-type orphanage involves taking measures aimed at promoting the creation of appropriate conditions for the functioning of the family-type orphanage by foster parents, including the provision of social services (if necessary). Social support of the family-type orphanage is carried out on an ongoing basis.

To provide social support, the family-type orphanage is assigned a social worker who has undergone special training under the programme approved by the order of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine [3].

It should be mentioned that members of the family-type orphanage feel anxiety when they move to a new place of

residence. They are not always able to receive housing assistance, which depends on local authorities. Therefore, they are forced to rent accommodation while waiting for housing from the state. All this also complicates the process of social adaptation.

Social support of family-type orphanages from among internally displaced persons is carried out on a regular basis by services for children and social services, which involves taking measures to promote the creation of appropriate conditions for the functioning of family-type orphanage, including the provision of necessary social services. As a rule, this includes fixing the family's location and issues related to documents, as well as assistance in obtaining humanitarian aid [4].

The financial situation of internally displaced children does not meet all their basic needs, but only the most urgent ones: food, clothing, school supplies, medicines, etc. They also have needs for medical care, namely, signing a declaration with family doctors. In the new place of residence, almost all children attend preschool or secondary schools, which also cause problems with their social adaptation in the new environment. They often face the problem of bullying and the problem with the language barrier, if they cannot communicate Ukrainian, they also have a limited social circle. Also, internally displaced children lose leisure activities because they do not have the opportunity to attend sports clubs, creative clubs, etc. that they had in their homeland. This is especially true for children who do not live in cities but in small villages. That is, there are many problems and they concern almost all aspects of family-type orphanages' life.

Social services have had a heavy workload since the beginning of the war. This includes work with internally displaced persons. The main subjects of social support are centres of social services for families, children and youth and a social worker responsible for social support of a particular family-type

orphanage. Volunteers, NGOs and charitable foundations can also be involved in working with them.

The principles of family-type orphanage social support are as follows:

- guaranteed protection of children's rights and priority of their interests;
- individual approach to each child and family;
- a holistic approach to upbringing and child care, which should take into account the developmental characteristics of each child;
- the possibility of returning to the biological family or adoption;
- accessibility of social services, comprehensiveness, systemicity and free assistance;
- establishment of custody as a form of leaving the family-type orphanage, interaction of social workers with foster parents, etc.

The main goal of family-type orphanage' social support is to protect and ensure the rights and interests of children, optimal conditions for their life and development, taking into account the individual needs of each child by providing social services to family-type orphanages. The main task is the social adaptation of family-type orphanages to new living conditions. At the same time, they should receive appropriate social services, including psychological, legal support, pedagogical, informational, and medical services.

The social support plan for the social adaptation of a family-type orphanage includes a range of services that should be implemented by providing conditions for increasing the family's educational potential and creating conditions for the maintenance, upbringing and development of the child. A support plan is drawn up for each child individually, according to their needs. The planning process is also carried out together with the foster parents. The frequency of visits to the family-type orphanage in the course of social support is determined and planned individually, depending on the stage of adaptation of the child in the family.

At the beginning, it is necessary to analyse the situation and search for possible ways to solve the problems that arise. The main stage involves the implementation of a plan which in turn involves the performance of certain actions, methods and measures through social support for each member of a family-type orphanage. The social worker, while providing support of the family, also assumes the duties of a consultant, mediator, educator and mentor.

Social support activities in family-type orphanages as a set of measures is aimed at all objects that have any interaction with family residents: foster children, foster parents, biological parents of foster children, executive authorities, local administration and guardianship authorities, foster parents' own children, relatives, friends, peers, colleagues, members of territorial, confessional or other communities and other small social groups, other specialists who accompany the family-type orphanage (teacher, psychologist, lawyer, doctor, volunteer, law enforcement representative, etc.).

The main purpose of family-type orphanage social support to adapt its members to new living conditions we see in provision of quality social services, social security and protection of the rights and interests of all residents of the family-type orphanage; creation of favourable conditions in the family for full-fledged upbringing, education and development; realisation of children's rights; checking proper living conditions.

As for the direct areas of work with children from family-type orphanages from members of internally displaced persons on their social adaptation to new living conditions, it is necessary: to provide advice on the application of current legislation in the field of child protection; assist in the child's adaptation to new living conditions of the family, in solving problematic situations that arise in the family with school, kindergarten and other institutions; inform parents and children about the availability of children's educational

institutions, clubs, sports schools, cultural events; help children overcome emotional and behavioural difficulties, etc.

Each region of Ukraine that hosts internally displaced persons develops and uses its own areas of activity and measures of the targeted programme of activities to support them. The forms of work can be both group and individual. These can be mutual support groups that are relevant in the given conditions for members of family-type orphanages from the number of internally displaced persons, when, for example, fosterers meet once a week (discuss problems, positive and negative aspects of their residence, provision of social services, problems with the environment, receive recommendations, share their own experience) and children, who are offered various forms of interaction to improve their social adaptation and integration into the new environment.

O. Fushtey described four periods of social support for family-type orphanages. It can serve as an algorithm of family-type orphanages' social support among internally displaced persons into society, in particular their social adaptation. The first period is about establishing positive interaction and emotional background between family members in general, which involves designing individual adaptation, monitoring compliance with the rights and obligations of the family-type orphanage residents, promoting successful interaction at all levels and further organisation of family leisure, informing the family about social services and activities [6].

During the second period, the established conditions are checked and problems are prevented. At this stage, the social support specialist is obliged to: take measures to prevent manifestations of maladjustment; identify the causes and motives of family problems; promote the self-realisation of foster parents and prevent their burnout; prevent negative phenomena and interpersonal family conflicts; inspect the living, educational

and training conditions of all members of the family; and promote the identification and development of the abilities and interests of foster children [6].

The third period involves solving existing problems in the family-type orphanage, namely: assistance in resolving interpersonal conflicts and other negative phenomena; conducting and analysing appropriate methods, applying appropriate forms and methods of individual work with foster children and foster parents, and taking preventive measures for a healthy lifestyle [6].

The fourth stage involves monitoring and further assistance to family-type orphanages in accordance with their specific characteristics. At this stage, the social support specialist is obliged to: provide career guidance and possible employment of foster children; organise further development of foster children; prepare foster parents to accept new children under new programmes; motivate foster parents and foster children; establish interaction between parents and foster children who no longer live in the family-type children's home [6].

It is also necessary to take into account the pedagogical competence of foster parents, which integrates their value and motivational orientation to educational activities and their personal qualities, professional knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for the successful upbringing of family-type orphanages' residents.

Conclusions and research perspectives. Thus, given the relevance of specified problem, it is necessary to emphasise the importance of social adaptation of family-type orphanages from the members of internally displaced persons to new living conditions, and their support by centres of social services for families, children and youth and other organisations. Prospects for further research in this area include improving the forms and methods of work on the social adaptation of family-type orphanages to new living conditions.

REFERENCES (TRANSLATED & TRANSLITERATED)

1. Zakon Ukrainy Pro zabezpechennia prav i svobod vnutrishno peremishchenykh osib [The Law of Ukraine On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons], (2015). *Vidomosti Verkhovnoi Rady (VVR) – Information of the Verkhovna Rada (IVR)*, № 1, st. 1. Retrieved from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1706-18#Text> [in Ukrainian].
2. *Pro vnesennia zmin do deiakykh postanov Kabinetu Ministriv Ukrainy shchodo zakhystu prav ditei na period nadzvychainoho abo voiennoho stanu [On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the Protection of Children's Rights during the State of Emergency or Martial Law]* (postanova Kabinetu Ministriv Ukrainy vid 22 bereznia 2022 r. № 349). Retrieved from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/349-2022-%D0%BF#Text> [in Ukrainian].
3. *Pro zatverdzhennia Polozhennia pro dytiachyi budynok simeinoho typu [On approval of the Regulations on family-type orphanages]*: postanova vid 26 kvitnia 2002 r. N 564. Retrieved from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/564-2002-%D0%BF#Text> [in Ukrainian].
4. *SOS Dytiachi mistechka v Ukraini [SOS Children's Villages in Ukraine]*. (Kharkivskii instytut sotsialnykh doslidzhen). Retrieved from: <https://sos-ukraine.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/rezultaty-doslidzhennya-dity-i-vijna-veresen-lystopad-2022r.pdf> [in Ukrainian].
5. Litiaha, I.V. (2019). Sotsialna robota shchodo sotsialnoi adaptatsii ta sotsializatsii vnutrishno peremishchenykh osib v Ukraini [Social work on social adaptation and socialisation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine]. *Viiskovo-politychna stabilnist derzhavy v aspekti intelektualizatsii ekonomiky – Military-political stabilizer of the state in the aspect of intellectualization of the economy: monohrafiia*. Pid redaktsiieiu d.e.n., prof. A.Yu. Yakymchuk. Rivne: NUVHP, 163-186 [in Ukrainian].
6. Fushtei, O. (2021). Sotsialnyi suprovid dytiachykh budynkiv simeinoho typu [Social support for family-type orphanages]. *Naukovyi visnyk uzhhorodskoho universytetu. Serii: "Pedagogika. Sotsialna robota" – Scientific Bulletin of Uzhhorod University. Series: "Pedagogy. Social work"*, t. 47, № 2, 223-227 [in Ukrainian].

Received: February 02, 2024

Accepted: February 28, 2024