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Primary Prevention of Child Abuse in the Family in the Context of a Preschool Educational Organization

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Abstract

The article presents empirical data obtained in a study into the causes of children abuse in formally well-to-do families, the analysis of which enabled us to identify and describe the conditions for primary children abuse prevention in preschool educational organizations. Conditions for primary prevention are revealed by the author from the point of an event approach and a principle of non-violence used as the leading one in developing programs aimed at providing the child with a certain level of consciousness and self-reliance in activity manifestation.

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Key words: primary child abuse prevention in the family; causes of child abuse; event-based approach; preschool educational organization

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1. Introduction

One of the unquestionable challenges of our time is the growth of violence and child abuse, especially in families.

The relevance of this problem is highlighted by official figures concerning the spread of this phenomenon. Thus, according to Russian statistics, over two million cases of child abuse are registered in Russian families every year.

The Federal state educational standard of preschool education aims not only to provide psychological and pedagogic support for the family and to raise parents' competence in development and education, protection and promotion of children's health, but also to protect children from all forms of physical and mental violence [1]. However, children abuse prevention in preschool educational organizations (PEO) is only proclaimed in statements calling for assistance in solving them.

This article will deal solely with the primary prevention of child abuse in the family designed to prevent the occurrence of risk factors in child abuse, to detect and correct problems in family relationships at an early stage, to ensure conditions for an effective performance of family functions.

The objective is to identify the causes of child abuse in formally well-to-do families and to provide a practical rationale for creating conditions of primary child abuse prevention in the family.

2. Research methods

The study was undertaken on the basis of an autonomous municipal preschool educational organization called "Center for Child Development, Kindergarten № 16" in the town of Ishim, Tyumen region. The study involved 42 two-parent families with one or two children.

The following methods were chosen to solve the research problems: analysis of documents, observation, interviews, questionnaires, and a methodology entitled "Your idea of a perfect parent" (R.V. Ovcharova, Yu.A. Degtyareva).

3. Results and discussion

According to the results of the study, it was established that 24 of the 42 families are formally well-to-do (relatively adapted). They are generally well-off families encountering temporary difficulties. At our first meeting with these families, we determined their status: a complete family well-being. However, a closer study of them (using the above methods) enabled us to reveal deeply hidden problems. These families are occasionally engaged in child abuse (parent's /parents' fast irritability, especially in response to their child's provocative behavior; domination; expectations regarding their child; some emotional distance; excessive demand for their child's success, obedience, discipline; inconsistency in their demands and settings; lack of respect for the child's interests; reluctance to spend their time with the child, etc.). At the same time, most of the parents were convinced that their conduct fell within the norm. According to Alekseeva [2], this is probably due to the fact that there is no clear cut definition of abuse, as society does not have a clear idea of how to delineate the boundaries between what is acceptable and non acceptable in parents' influence on children, there are no criteria for determining its potentially dangerous impact on the child or its harmful effects.

Due to the fact that children may be exposed to abuse not solely in high-risk families, our analysis turned to the subject of the reasons behind child abuse in formally affluent families.

With the help of the author's questionnaire we obtained empirical data on the causes of children abuse in these families.

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