

**THE ORIGIN OF SOCIO-PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT  
OF MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD IN UKRAINE (1905–1918)**

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## ЗАРОДЖЕННЯ СОЦІАЛЬНО-ПЕДАГОГІЧНОЇ ПІДТРИМКИ МАТЕРИНСТВА Й ДИТИНСТВА В УКРАЇНІ (1905–1918 рр.)

*У статті окреслено витоки історії соціально-педагогічної підтримки материнства й дитинства в Україні у контексті зародження процесів підтримки та взаємодопомоги у східнослов'янських племен, які перебували на такій стадії свого розвитку, що відповідає первісному суспільству.*

*Здійснений історико-педагогічний аналіз розвитку соціально-педагогічної підтримки материнства й дитинства у 1905–1918 рр. обґрунтовано як період зародження соціально-педагогічної підтримки материнства й дитинства на державному рівні, що визначалося: прийняттям першої програми охорони державою материнства й дитинства; ухваленням Закону «Про соціальне страхування у разі хвороби» (1912 р.); відкриттям закладів «Крапля молока» та їхніх структурних підрозділів (Консультаційна Рада, Рада Соціальної Допомоги, Дім Самотньої Матері), які сприяли розвитку соціально-педагогічної підтримки материнства й дитинства у сфері охорони здоров'я; активною діяльністю Товариства захисту материнства й дитинства, що просувало ідеї: переваг грудного вигодовування, визнання материнства роботою, яка має оплачуватися на державному рівні, популяризації патронажу; відкриттям відділу ОХМД у складі новоутвореного НКСЗ.*

*Установлено, що в досліджуваний період фактично було започатковано державні ініціативи у сфері охорони материнства й дитинства, а також механізми їхньої реалізації.*

**Ключові слова:** соціально-педагогічна підтримка; материнство; дитинство Україна.

## THE ORIGIN OF SOCIO-PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT OF MOTHERHOOD AND CHILDHOOD IN UKRAINE (1905–1918)

*The article outlines the origins of the history of socio-pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood in Ukraine in the context of the rise of support and mutual assistance processes in Eastern Slavic tribes back at the stage of their development corresponding to a primitive society.*

*The historical and pedagogical analysis of the development of social and pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood in 1905–1918 is substantiated as the period of rise of social and pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood at the governmental level, which was determined by: the adoption of the first programs of state protection of motherhood and childhood; the adoption of the Law on Social Security in Case of Illness (1912); the opening of Milk Drop Offices and their structural units (Advisory Board, Social Assistance Council, Single Mother's Home), which contributed to the development of social and pedagogical support for maternity and childhood in the sphere of health care; active activities of the Society for the Protection of Maternity and Childhood, which promoted the ideas of: the benefits of breastfeeding, the recognition of motherhood as a job that should*

*be paid by the government, the promotion of patronage; the opening of the child care medical department within the newly formed People's Commissariate for Health Care.*

*It has been established that in the period under review, the governmental initiatives in the field of maternity and childhood protection were initiated, as well as mechanisms for their implementation.*

**Key words:** *social and pedagogical support; motherhood; childhood; Ukraine.*

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## **Introduction**

In the context of structural adjustment, the renewal of the state and society, accompanied by crisis phenomena, deformations of public consciousness, and a new socio-economic reality, the problem of social support for the institution of motherhood and childhood arises. With the outbreak of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, the situation in Ukraine was marked by significant political, economic, and social changes that are striking in their scale, drama, and depth of controversy. The crisis situation in the country, the formation of market relations is accompanied by transformation processes in the system of education, culture, healthcare, social welfare. J. Spratt (2016), T. Biblarz and G. Gottainer (2000), V. Stynska (2017) note, that the search for constructive mechanisms of socio-pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood becomes possible by implementing the socio-pedagogical genesis of its development with the aim of taking into account and maximizing the use of historical experience in modern conditions.

## **The analysis of recent research and publications**

It is necessary to note the presence of a number of scientific studies on the socio-pedagogical support of the family and aspects related to it. In particular, T. Alieksieienko (2017) proposed social and pedagogical support for family education for various target groups of children and students in the educational system in the work «Socio-pedagogical support for children and students». Therefore, the genesis of socio-pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood was not presented. Technologies of social and pedagogical support for families in difficult life circumstances are presented in the dissertation research by M. Solianyuk (Solianyuk, 2015), namely: social support; case management; consulting; crisis intervention, needs assessment and the like. Social and pedagogical support for parents of young children with special needs was studied by I. Makarenko (2009). The researcher presented the individual program for helping parents «Happy Family» and the technology for providing social

and pedagogical support, which is based on the interaction of the family and social institutions represented by a social educator.

The socio-pedagogical support of young families in Northern Ireland was highlighted by L. Bunina (2005). The author analyzed the programs of social and pedagogical support, the main approaches to the formation of skills of responsible parenting in the activities of social support services for families in Northern Ireland. The foster family in Great Britain as a socio-pedagogical environment for supporting the child's personality, and the practical training of adoptive parents to work with children are justified by A. Romanovska (2002).

The work of V. Stynska is a thorough study on the identified issues, which comprehensively presents the problem of socio-pedagogical support for motherhood in Ukraine in the XIX-th and early XX-th centuries; considers the socio-pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood as a component of the social policy of Ukraine, which is represented by health preserving, pedagogical, demographic and religious directions; outlines the formation of social and pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood in Ukraine in the context of the family policy of foreign countries (Stynska, 2018). There are also studies of foreign authors on the outlined direction of the problem. In particular, the goal of H. Sabitova's (2008) research was to process the theoretical and methodological foundations of socio-pedagogical support for families with children and identify priority areas for its development. The author has developed a theoretical concept of socio-pedagogical support for families with children, which reflects a new quality of interaction between the family, society, and the state in solving complex issues of education, development, and socialization of children.

**The purpose of the article** is to find out the sources of socio-pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood in Ukraine in the period of its emerging (1905–1918).

**The first sources of socio-pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood.** An analysis of the source base showed that the origins of the history of socio-pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood in Ukraine should be considered in the context of the emergence of support and mutual assistance processes in East Slavic tribes that were at a stage of their development that corresponded to the original society. The forms of social work were:

1) communities in the ancient Slavs were local governments, the competence of which included issues of assistance to those in need;

2) church fraternities, which took an active part in solving many social problems of the then Ukrainian society: they helped the poor, widows, orphans, patients, built churches, printing houses, hospitals, protected historical and cultural monuments, etc.;

3) princely charity (giving alms, food at the princely court, distribution of products for the poor) in Kievan Rus;

4) transition to the state system of protection of the needy (XVII–XVIII centuries), restriction of the activity of monasteries as institutions of social care (Ty-moshko, 2011);

5) the creation of the first public organizations, the purpose of which is to provide charity and pedagogical assistance to those in need, to activate church and private charity (1864–1873);

6) structuring of optimal forms of organization of socio-pedagogical support for children in need of protection (1874–1904) (Karpenko & Yanchenko, 2006).

**Socio-pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood at the beginning of XX century.** The beginning of the XX-th century in Ukraine was characterized by a low technical and cultural level of development, high statistics of morbidity and mortality, medieval epidemics and famines, and a constant decrease in indicators of physical development. The average child mortality rate was 20 % and remained unchanged for 20 years (from 1886 to 1906).

In fact, the situation in the field of maternal and child health was rather different. Due to Ye. Bielitska (1936): «... these were separate scattered few establishments – consultations, nurseries, canteens for pregnant women, maternity hospitals, etc., which tried to reduce child mortality and create the illusion of healing for a working woman and her child; these were minor recreational activities for charitable pennies and the promotion of «free hygiene», which was based on fear of epidemics and attempts to hide the roots of the incidence of children and women; they were separate legislative acts in the field of labour protection for children and women, powerless to really protect a woman and a child from cruel exploitation».

As the analysis of the source base shows, public health measures were completely stateless, were so small and so random that they were not even a part of the organizational measures of public health and were not taken into account by official statistics. Zemstvo medicine did not create any system in the field of support for motherhood and childhood either. The organizational forms of zemstvo work with childhood care were zemstvo shelters, in which mortality ranged from 40 to 85 percent. Since 1896, Zemstvos organized rural daytime nurseries, which were actually food posts (where an average of 5–7 kopecks were spent on a child's food), sometimes with an overnight stay, without any educational work, without medical workers. The priest's wife or teacher took care of the children, who taught them obedience, gratitude, and taught to pray. Insurance organizations helped to organize these nurseries. There was no planning in the deployment of this network; everything depended on the initiative of local Zemstvos; nurseries were opened, they functioned 1–2 summer seasons and were closed again. The first day nurseries were opened in Poltava (1897), Katerynoslav (1899), and Kharkiv provinces (1900). In 1903 the number of nurseries was 404 (Bielitska, 1936). Therefore, despite the small number of nurseries, their role in public education was significant, because they helped mothers to combine professional work with motherhood.

The idea of promoting breastfeeding was based on scientific research on the presence of a special substance in a woman's milk, which in composition resembles a

vaccine that had been accumulating over the years in the blood of a mother and her ancestors and was inherited. That is the one which contributes to fighting various diseases, is responsible for endurance and survival. In the blood of animals, there are substances that are active in the fight against diseases of animals, not people. Therefore, artificial feeding should be used only in exceptional cases. As Ya. Shostak (1916) noted: «Science has established that a child needs milk of his mother above all, that is, feeding should be natural, not artificial; and only if it is impossible to breastfeed, in the absence of breastfeeding by another woman, we can put up with artificial one».

An important role in protecting health was played by the consultations of «Milk Drops», which aimed at combating the mortality of children under one year of age. Therefore, it is worth noting that the tasks of the new institution were not limited to exclusively passive distribution of milk, but had an educational character – doctors gave advice to mothers on the methods of feeding and caring for children. The first such an institution was opened in Odesa by the professor Hershenson (1901), the second one – in Kyiv by the professor Sklovskiy (1906), the third one – in Kharkiv by the professor Troitskiy (1907). Consequently, these institutions were also not without problems: they did not work every day; san-educational work was carried out formally, patronage was reduced to individual advice (Bielitska, 1936). However, it was precisely «Milk Drops» that began the development of a network of consultations for mother and child (Maternal and Child Health). «The Mother and Child Protection Society» (1916) made a significant contribution to caring for mothers and children, the main purpose of which was to organize lectures, courses, distribute brochures, organize exhibitions with the goal of: disseminating information and knowledge about development and proper care for the child; promoting the idea of the benefits of breastfeeding over artificial feeding (Shostak, 1916); dissemination of the idea of recognition of motherhood as work, which should be paid at the state level; popularization of the idea of patronage (Michnik, 1916).

It is in the tasks of the Society that the idea of a close relationship between mother and child, the dependence of health on maternal health can be traced. Ya. Shostak noted on this occasion: «Everything that improves the state of the mother responds beneficially to the development of her child; and everything we do for him will facilitate the existence of his mother» (Shostak, 1916). S. Michnik (1916) adhered to the same opinion, who stated: «The mother and the child are one inseparable single whole, because during the first year of life the child should be given all the energy and time». So, taking into account the considerations of scientists of the XX-th century in our further study we will consider the categories «motherhood and childhood» in the relationship of the state, society, social institutions, family, what actualizes the feasibility of social and educational support in the context of health protection.

For the first time in the indicated period, the idea was voiced of recognizing motherhood as work, which should be paid at the state level. For the reasons of S. Michnik (1916): «The work of the mother in feeding and caring for the baby should receive proper sanction and evaluation from the state and society. This work of the

mother must be appreciated so that the woman is not forced to give her strength to another matter, neglecting her most important and irreplaceable duties». Our scientific search showed that it was practically proposed to introduce state maternity insurance. Note the following: in the first half of the twentieth century, an attempt to implement the outlined idea was planned in the form of a mutual insurance fund for mothers, which should be based on the principle of mutual assistance. It was assumed that the mother could use the fund's money for various needs – improving the health of children and mothers, studying at the mother's school, as help with childbirth, rehabilitation in the postpartum period, etc. (Gindes, 1917). Despite the fact that this idea was not realized in Ukraine in such a context, later on in the history we meet mutual aid funds and others, the basis of which was mutual support and assistance (Chepil, 2017). Practical activity is focused primarily on financial support and assistance for various life cases, inability to work, and in the event of death – the cost of burial, supporting orphans and the like. The idea of patronage was actualized during the study period, the purpose of which was seen in teaching the mother to care for the child from the first days of his life, observing the child in a home environment, widely promoting knowledge of child care and breastfeeding, etc. It was carried out by patronage sisters with special training in general hygiene and in hygiene and child care. The statistical data testify to the demand for the work outlined (Michnik, 1916): 2500 mothers with babies used the services of patronage sisters in 1916.

Obstetric care was also at a low level in the indicated period. In 1911, only 5.2 % of pregnant women received medical care during childbirth («Zhenshchiny v SSSR», 1982). In 1913 in Ukraine in the zemstvo counties there were only 511 midwives and 698 birth attendants. On average, there was one midwife or birth attendant per 18.000 people. In non-zemstvo provinces, the state of maternal and child health was more critical. According to Ya. Solskyi, N. Hoyda and T. Tatarчук (2008), «... even the most progressive form of health care organization available under tsarism – the Zemstvo medical organization, which was inspired by advanced doctors, over the 50 years of its existence could not do anything significant regarding the organization of obstetric and gynecological services». The same minor achievements were in the field of legislation on the protection of female and child labour. Under the pressure of society, in 1882 the government was forced to enact a law restricting the exploitation of labour by minors, but in practice it began to be applied only in 1884. In 1886 laws were issued banning night work for women, on labour protection, factory inspection, and fines; in 1897 – the law on the reduction of the working day to 11.5 hours (Bielitska, 1936). However, in fact, the legislation was not fully implemented, which led to numerous strikes of women who sought: prohibitions of female labour in hazardous industries and at night, organization of nurseries in factories, breaks for feeding children, pre- and postpartum leave. The first attempts of the state program to protect motherhood and childhood were introduced in 1905, in particular: maternity insurance; organization of nurseries for children; four-week antenatal and six-week postnatal leave for women with salary; providing mothers with a half-hour break for feeding the baby.

In 1912, the Law on Social Insurance for the Sickness was adopted, which also included maternity insurance: assistance was issued for two weeks before childbirth and four after childbirth in the amount of a half or the whole wage. The main objective of maternity insurance, according to archival sources, was «... to provide mother with social assistance during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period on the ability to combine her professional activities with motherhood and keep her a lively, healthy, viable child by improving sanitary conditions in the first months of life» («Kopii protokolov komissii», n.d.). According to this insurance, motherhood was subject to social assistance, which was provided by social insurance bodies, and medical care, which was organized by the bodies of maternity and childhood protection (consultations for pregnant women, labour assistance, consultations for babies, patronage, dairy kitchens, nurseries) («Kopii protokolov komissii», n.d.). Consequently, salaries were not always paid in full; assistance was received only by mothers who were employed. At the same time, in spite of this, it is necessary to assert that this law is decisive in the context of the problem being investigated in the indicated period, since it evaluated the sources of social and pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood at the state level.

Our scientific search allowed us to state that before the February Revolution of 1917, there was actually no social and pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood, since there were practically no special institutions for motherhood and childhood, and insignificant, fragmented measures in the area of protecting mothers and children «... were drowned in the sea of enormous morbidity and mortality of children and women» (Bielitska, 1936). That is why the urgent vital need of the population for social assistance to mother and child led to the search for new organizational forms of social and pedagogical support.

**Practical measures for the implementation of socio-pedagogical support for motherhood and childhood in 1917–1918.** Our scientific search showed that in March 1917 the first open conference of female workers was held, which outlined specific requirements for the protection of motherhood and childhood, but none of these requirements were implemented. The provisional Government, formed by agreement between the Provisional Committee of the State Duma of the Russian Empire and the Petrograd Soviet of Workers 'and Soldiers' Deputies, which acted on the territory of Ukraine, continued the war. A large number of women during this period worked without any labour protection, the state of families, their working and living conditions deteriorated significantly; changing legislation in the field of maternal and child health was not the time.

In August 1917, the All-Russian Conference on Child Custody was held, in which there worked four sections of the Department of Motherhood and Childhood Protection (hereinafter referred to as the DMCP) – pre-school education, custody of defective children, custody of the children of offenders. The work of the meeting provided for fixing at the legislative level the relevant social conditions without violating the exploitative basis; entrusting the protection of motherhood and childhood to local and public-private organizations, developing consultations as the main



links in the protection of motherhood and childhood (Bielitska, 1936). However, all the decisions of this meeting remained only on paper. A characteristic feature of these decrees is an attempt to legislatively create appropriate social conditions; the transfer of maternal and child health issue into the activities of local and private-local organizations; development of consultations as the main link in the protection of motherhood and childhood. One of the first documents of the Soviet government, adopted after decrees on peace, land and bread, was issued in 1917. That was the Decree on the organization of the Department of DMCP as part of the newly created National Social Security Fund (hereinafter – CNSS). On the local level, provincial departments of the DMCP were formed, which organized the work of consultations, formed demonstration institutions, implemented orders, local directives, provided legal protection for mothers and children, conducted sanitary education, arranged exhibitions, created films of that content, etc. According to A. Lukyanova «... care for childhood is inextricable with care for motherhood, which is for the first time legalized by the state as a social function of women» (Lukianova, 1981).

In accordance with the decree of the CNSS of December 28, 1917, a special collegium began to work out issues and conduct urgent measures to protect motherhood as a social function of women and protect children as a direct responsibility of the state. In such circumstances, the CNSS became the central governing body for all organizations and institutions, the competence of which included social security issues.

In accordance with the decree of December 31, 1917, the CNSS set four tasks for the DMCP system: the first – providing civil equality to a woman, overcoming violence, improving the working conditions for a woman, recognizing motherhood as a social function, creating new family relationships; the second is the fight against child mortality; the third is the social education of childhood and the creation of conditions for its recovery; the fourth is providing the material and technical base (Tymoshenko, 2011). The real practical measures for the implementation of the first task of the DMCP in the field of civil equality for women were: legal emancipation, gender equality, eliminating the difference between children born in marriage and illegitimate; introduction of social insurance of motherhood and the protection of female labour, overcoming violence, recognition of motherhood as a social function, the formation of new family relationships. The second task of the CNSS – the fight against child mortality – was carried out first at the level of childcare facilities, primarily consultations with the CNSS, which took healthy children up to one year old, taught mothers about hygiene of food and care and gave out children's rations and other material assistance (Bielitska, 1936). The third task stipulated that the DMCP should carry out the cultural and educational work by the doctors according to the developed program, which includes questions of the activity of the DMCP, hygiene of the care and feeding of infants, the fight against tuberculosis, anti-abortion campaigns, etc. («Postanovleniia, tsirkuliari, instruktsii», n.d.). During this period the main institutions of the department were consultations, which were considered the center of preventive ideas and carried out a large educational and outreach work (lectures, talks, exhibitions, libraries, etc.). At the same time, we note that the insti-

tutions of the Department of Motherhood and Childhood Protection developed in the post-revolutionary period, which was characterized not only by the socio-economic crisis in the state, but also by a large number of street children, and this appealed to the reform of all areas of state social policy.

In 1918, a series of decrees were issued in the Ukrainian SSR «On civil marriage and on maintaining books of acts of civil status» and «On divorce», which were the basis for the first family code of the Ukrainian SSR. These first legislative acts solved in a new way the main issues of legal regulation of the family and marriage in accordance with the protection of the interests of women and children (the issue of actual marriage, the establishment of paternity and child support; adoption of children, which was important in the fight against homelessness, the issue of the obligation of «parental connections, in case of negligent fulfillment of which the state had the right to take a child away; protection of the interests of the child, recognition of motherhood as a woman's social function, inextricably linked with the process of female labour, which facilitated the possibility of divorce, living in a civil marriage, etc.») (Pihach, 1994).

A relevant role was played by labour legislation, according to which a woman, receiving equal wages with a man, using annual leave, shortened working hours and other achievements in labour protection and safety precautions, had additional benefits. In particular there were a dismissal from work within 8 weeks before and 8 weeks after giving birth while receiving full wages, free medical care, provision of at least half an hour every 3 hours during 9 months for feeding a child, social guarantees for a pregnant woman about dismissal from work, departure on a business trip, night or overtime, etc. («Tcirkuliary Narkomzdrava», n.d.).

A large number of orphans and street children made it necessary to solve the outlined problem at the state level with the help of the construction of closed institutions: infant homes, orphanages, and mother and child homes. In a statistical context, in the future this work showed rapid development, great organizational work in the field of construction of the Department of Motherhood and Childhood Protection.

### **Conclusions**

Thus, in the indicated period, the socio-economic situation in Ukraine was determined by the consequences of the prolonged World War I, revolutions, the intervention of aggressive neighbouring states and the civil war, which led to large population losses, the spread of epidemics, an extremely unsatisfactory demographic situation, a decrease in the birth rate, and a high mortality rate, especially children's and the collapse of healthcare infrastructure. Consequently, in these difficult conditions, the absence of the categories «protection of motherhood and childhood», «social and pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood» along with the presence of the above-mentioned problems in society was observed during the study period in Ukraine. So, the first sources of socio-pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood in 1905–1918 in Ukraine became the basis of state initiatives in the field of socio-pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood. The study does not exhaust all aspects of the problem under consideration. We consider the study of the issue of

socio-pedagogical support of motherhood and childhood in the second half of the XIX-th and early XX-th centuries as a promising one.

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