

MONOPARENTAL FAMILY AND ITS PSYCHO-SOCIAL-ECONOMICAL IMPLICATIONS

ANDREEA ILIEȘ¹, CRISTINA RAȚIU², VIOLETA FRÂNCU³

^{1 2} Clinical Emergency Hospital of Sibiu; ³ „Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu

Keywords:

monoparental family, inorganizable environment, psycho-social-affective implications

Abstract: Monoparental family is a new type of family yet hardly accepted, but more and more frequent in the nowadays society. Though its psycho-social-economic implications on the family members are not to be neglected. What we are trying to evidenciate is whether the parents nowadays can assume their obligations and the absent parent's obligations in a totally manner and what signification has this socio-emotional-pressure on him, but also on the under age child in cause.

Cuvinte cheie: familie monoparentală, mediu dezorganizat, implicații psiho-social-afective

Rezumat: Familia monoparentală este un nou tip de familie acceptată cu greu, dar din ce în ce mai frecvent de societatea actuală. Totuși, implicațiile ei psiho-social-economice asupra membrilor familiei nu sunt deloc de neglijat. Încerc să evidențiez dacă părintele prezent își poate asuma sarcinile sale și pe ale celui absent în mod integral și ce înseamnă această presiune social-emoțional-economică pentru el, dar și pentru minorul prins în cauză.

INTRODUCERE

In the latter days, societies in general, among which Romania counts too, are often confronting with a new type of family, the monoparental one. The official statistics show that 10% of the Romanian families are monoparental families. This type of family appears more often in the contemporary society as a consequence of the changing of the socio-economic and environment parameters, those changing representing one of the possible causes of destigmatization of those families. (1)

The term of “monoparental family” is preferred instead of “inorganizable family”, “incomplete family”, “asymmetrical family”, “disjuncted family” utilized in Romanian literature, terms that clearly express the idea of deformation in the family's constellation. The family represents the first form of regulation between the child and the social environment. It is well known that the child's personality is formed widely in the family, the environment where the child is born, is developing and is shaping for life. The main family's characteristics important for the socio-individual development of the child are:

1. The family is the first group in which the child is practicing its social behavior and discovers itself.
2. It offers the climate of affective safety necessary in the development of the behavior and personality of the child.
3. It is the first medium of growing and intellectual, emotional, affection, aesthetic and moral development.
4. It represents the primary model of social behavior.
5. It is the basic biological connection of the individual.
6. It is the frame of individuality development and the possibility of individual valorization. (2)

The family should offer the “young offspring” the riches of the identity resources, but not that's the way things happen in the monoparental families.

As general tendencies in Europe, in the family's dynamics may be observed the increasing in the medium age of marriage, in the age they have children, increasing of the

divorcing rate and an increasing of the rate of births outside the legal marriage.

Also, it may be observed a decrease in the natality rate and a decrease in the medium number of children. In this context, in the second half of the last century the number of the monoparental families begun to grow in the background of destruction of the traditional model of family and of apparition of alternative forms of family.

Monoparental family may result from different situations as: the birth of one child from a sexual experience that doesn't materialize in a marriage, the divorce, the decease of one of the partners, the child adoption by a single person. In all those situations difficulties of financial category, dysfunctionalities of biological structure (problems related to sexuality and confinement of origin) and not last affection deficiencies due to the absence of the adult partner, of the conjugal love and of the appearance of blights related to the extended roles incongruous with the resources, inclusive with the innards one. It is accredited even the possibility of a crisis of the family. The experience of being a single parent is not an ordinary one in accordance with community standards.

The adult in a monoparental family feels the need to have relations with another adult and the relations parent – child are asymmetrical from the point of view of the communication, the concerns and aspirations. The single parents are confronting with a series of issues resulted from the conjugation of the professional and parental roles. Finding the functional solutions and keeping the psycho-affective personal and family equilibrium are directly proportional with the level of education. The dominance in the monoparental families realizes from distance through absence: one of the parents doesn't involve and the other is constrained to raise his children without any support.

The monoparental family presents a particular structure resulted from an asymmetry among its members, because of the inevitably hierarchical difference, determined by the supporter and protective statute of the parent and that of

¹Correspondent Author: Andreea Ilieș, 41 Cindrelu street, Cisnădie, Sibiu, Romania; e-mail: ilies_andreea83@yahoo.com; tel +40-0745294301
Article received on 23.02.2010 and accepted for publication on 02.03.2010
ACTA MEDICA TRANSILVANICA June 2010; 2(2)169-170

dependent and in a large measure helpless statute of the child. The vulnerability of the monoparental family is bigger than in the complete families, because there is one more adult member and the family has better premises to respond to all kind of supliances.

The research showed that those children that grow in an inorganizable environment have often issues in their social life, educational life and even their health is troubled (disrupted behavior, great chances to build a similar family to the one in which they have developed, abandonment of their own children, school failure or abandonment, juvenile delinquency). Those are very vulnerable, may be often neglected, they have in most situations a low support in resources and because of that reduced chances for valorization of the opportunities.

An implicit differential treatment of the single parent children affects their chances of social integration. This fact has the mark of gender discrimination. Smaller chances of the children result from their deficitary support. This thing is due to the fact that in many cases the single parent is often a woman that is supposed to hardly handle the professional supliances conjugated with those from the loneliness in the personal life. Often, the young loses his role of protected and becomes partner, confident and even a moral support, being submitted to a maturization that he is not ready for and that may seriously affect his development. In many monoparental families the father's figure is absent and that explains the deviant phenomena the children are drawn to.

The disorganization of the family is appreciated as a cause of growing violence, the family being considered as a space of control of the violence and of masculine aggressiveness. Paternity is associated with authority. This represents the lever that establishes that the life of children is carried on in the parameters the parents consider proper, their options being dominant, beginning with quotidian aspects of every day life organization to profound structures as adopting values, settling behavioral principles, projecting the plan of life. Intensely imposing the parent's decisions especially to a teenager may result in conflicts, altercations. The confrontation axis is between the aspirations of the child and the gradual parental authority erosion.

The authority conflicts of this kind are frequent in the monoparental families, because the father is missing, so is the parent's autonomy and the family has no real solidarity and the frustration state is not well administered as the single parent doesn't manage life issues. A particular situation in the monoparental families is constituted by the precarious economic conditions that affect the chances of a normal development on a long term of the child causing to school renunciation, devalorization of school and its social meaning, reason for the Convention of the Children Rights to accentuate the financial support of those children. In this regard the Romanian state took a series of legislative measures, beginning with the Emergency Ordinance number 105 from 24 October 2003 regarding the complementary familial allocation and the support allocation for the monoparental family that entered into vigor at 1 January 2004 and is given in differential quantum in accordance with the number of children and the realized earnings.

It is desirable that the difficulties the monoparental families meet to be subject of public concern before reaching a crisis in which the discrimination of the single parent emphasizes and the vulnerability of the children implied to favor behaviors that affect directly their psycho-affective and physical integrity. (3)

- DC/articole/2007/3.doc
2. <http://www.didactic.ro/files/15/0referat.divortulparintilorsii mpactulasupracopiilor.doc>
 3. Ștefan C., Familia monoparentală –studii de gen, ed. Polirom 2006.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. <http://www.cjcluj.ro/UserUploadedFiles/File/SITE%200J>