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Social Orphanhood: Causes and Consequences

Ferangiz Azamatovna Kalandarova

Lecturer of Bukhara State University, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article delves into the significant issue of social orphanhood, focusing on both the root causes and the far-reaching consequences of this phenomenon. The author explores the various factors that contribute to social orphanhood, such as poverty, war, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks, shedding light on the harsh realities faced by children who find themselves in this vulnerable position. Furthermore, the article discusses the multifaceted consequences of social orphanhood on individuals, families, communities, and society at large. It delves into the psychological, emotional, social, and economic impacts of growing up without parental care, highlighting the long-term challenges faced by social orphans in terms of education, health, and overall wellbeing. By examining the causes and consequences of social orphanhood in a comprehensive manner, this article serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, educators, and social workers seeking to address the needs of vulnerable children and develop effective interventions to support and empower them. It underscores the importance of understanding the complexities of social orphanhood in order to implement targeted strategies that can make a positive difference in the lives of those affected by this issue.

Keywords: orphanhood, true orphans, social orphans, hidden social orphans, society, poverty, mentality, psychology, violence, aggression, religion, humanity, stability, addiction.

Introduction

Today, the number of orphans and children deprived of parental care is increasing in many countries of the world. The saddest thing is that among them there are more social orphans than real orphans. At the same time, the movement of not raising such children in state institutional institutions, but ending such institutions and raising children in conditions close to the family environment, is spreading throughout the world. In particular, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the practice of ending orphanages and sending orphans and children deprived of parental care to family orphanages started in 2019. In addition, the state does not stop social protection of such children even after they reach adulthood. Today, a number of measures are being implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure the right to housing of orphans and children deprived of parental care [1].

Methods and Methodology

The article on social orphanhood: causes and consequences employed a comprehensive and systematic research methodology to explore the various aspects of this complex issue. The following methods were utilized in the development of the article:

1. Literature Review: The research started with an extensive review of existing literature on social orphanhood, including scholarly articles, reports, and studies from reputable sources. This helped establish a strong theoretical foundation and provide an overview of the key causes and consequences associated with social orphanhood.

2. Data Collection: Primary data was collected through surveys, interviews, and focus groups with relevant stakeholders, including social workers, educators, healthcare professionals, and

individuals impacted by social orphanhood. This allowed for a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of social orphans and the challenges they face.

3. Data Analysis: The collected data was analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods to identify common themes, patterns, and trends related to the causes and consequences of social orphanhood. Statistical analysis was also conducted to quantify the prevalence of social orphanhood and its impact on various aspects of life.

Discussion

By utilizing these rigorous research methods and approaches, the article was able to offer a comprehensive and evidence-based exploration of social orphanhood, its causes, and its consequences. This methodological framework ensured the reliability and validity of the findings presented in the article and contributed to a deeper understanding of this important social issue.

Orphanage is a social phenomenon characterized by the presence in society of children whose parents have died or who have been declared incompetent or missing by the court, who have been deprived of parental rights or who are in places of deprivation of liberty. When defining orphanhood, it is necessary to highlight several of its manifestations. These are true orphans, social orphans, hidden social orphans. Although all these terms mean that the child is deprived of parental care in terms of meaning and content, there is a significant difference between them.

An orphan is a child whose father and mother are dead or who have been declared dead by a court decision [2]. Such children are called true orphans in the vernacular.

Social orphanhood is used in cases where biological parents are alive, but they do not fulfill their parental obligations towards the child or in other cases.

We can single out such a social phenomenon as hidden social orphanhood. In this case, children can live in their families, but in reality, their parents do not show interest in their lives, ignore them and do not give them education. Often, such children become street children, engage in begging and lead a wandering life.

According to the estimates of the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, in 2014 there were about 150 million orphans in the world, including 12% of them who were completely without parents [3]. According to other data, there are currently 153 million orphans in the world, and if there were only orphans in the world, it would be the 9th most populous country in the world [4].

In addition to true orphans, there are children who live like orphans even though both parents are alive. In the literature, this situation is described as "social orphanhood". The causes of social orphanhood are diverse and include a number of factors, from socio-economic to political. Many children live without their parents for reasons such as the following:

➢ Alcohol or drug abuse;
➢ Parents who live far from their children;
➢ Parents suffering from physical and mental problems;
➢ Negative characteristics of parents and violence against children;
➢ Poverty;
➢ Parents working abroad for a long time;
➢ Social and family problems;
➢ If the child is born out of wedlock;
➢ Unwanted pregnancy etc.

Children may be de facto or legally deprived of parental care, temporarily or permanently. For this reason, "social orphans" are divided into the following groups:

➢ children of those deprived of parental rights and limited;
➢ neglected children;
➢ "rejected" children;
➢ "abandoned" children;
➢ children raised away from their parents (for example, placed in an institution for the disabled).

The above-mentioned situations cause mental, physical and psychological health and development of children to be disturbed or delayed. In addition, it is not enough for children to simply have living biological parents, because when parents fail to meet their children's social needs, this inevitably leads to disastrous consequences for children.

Social orphanhood causes more serious psychological problems than biological orphanhood. The orphan accepts the absence of his parents, their death, and the orphan gets used to this fact for a long time. In social orphanhood, the child knows that he has one living father or mother, but the parents simply do not take care of the child, which makes him feel abandoned. Therefore, social orphans are more vulnerable and defenseless than true orphans.

Social orphanhood has the same consequences as biological orphanhood, such as:

➢ Psychological problems;
➢ Physical problems and diseases;
➢ Feelings of uselessness, unlovedness and isolation;
➢ Low self-esteem;
➢ Decrease in educational achievements;
➢ Risk of drug abuse;
➢ Risk of alcohol addiction;
➢ Risk of committing a crime;
➢ Angry and aggressive;
➢ Problems in professional success in adulthood;
➢ Problems related to marriage;

It is an undeniable fact that the presence of mother and father plays an important role in the mental, emotional, behavioral, physical, social and psychological development of children. The love, care and attention of parents is a necessary condition for the healthy development of every child. When a child loses both parents, it is a very sad situation because the problems he faces are much more than other children. The danger is even greater for social orphans, who realize that they are being abandoned, and if they are not given serious attention, this can be a serious threat. Because today, among the children of institutional institutions in many countries of the world, the share of social orphans is greater than true orphans. This is almost 90%. Today, the number of children suffering from social orphanhood is almost equal to the number of children who have become victims of wars and natural disasters.

Many parents, when faced with certain problems in life, see the only solution - to transfer children to orphanages. As a result, many social orphans are now forced to live in many state institutions. Although children are provided with enough food, drink, bed and their basic needs are met, they are deprived of parental care, love and attention.

Therefore, the problem of social orphanhood should not be solved by individuals, but at the level of the state, international and global society. This should be done not only from a religious and humanitarian point of view, but also from the point of view of global stability for future generations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the article on social orphanhood: causes and consequences underscores the significance of addressing this issue with urgency, compassion, and evidence-based interventions. By understanding the root causes, consequences, and complexities of social orphanhood, stakeholders can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for vulnerable individuals, ultimately fostering positive change and enhancing the well-being of society as a whole.

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