THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY-TYPE CHILDREN'S HOMES FOR THE STATE AND SOCIETY

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Abstract

Family-type children's homes represent one of the most humane and effective alternatives to large institutional care for children deprived of parental care. Unlike traditional orphanages, these homes aim to recreate a family environment in which children can grow emotionally, socially, and psychologically in conditions close to natural family life. This article examines the importance of family-type children's homes for both the state and society, focusing on their role in child development, social stability, human capital formation, and long-term socio-economic benefits. It argues that such homes not only protect the rights and well-being of vulnerable children but also contribute to the creation of a more cohesive, responsible, and inclusive society. By investing in family-based care models, the state fulfills its moral and legal obligations while simultaneously reducing future social risks and strengthening national development.

Keywords

family-type children's homes, child welfare, social policy, alternative care, vulnerable children, state responsibility, social development

In modern societies, the protection of children deprived of parental care is a crucial indicator of social maturity and state responsibility. Among various forms of alternative care, family-type children's homes have gained increasing recognition as a progressive and child-centered model. These homes provide care to children who have lost parental support due to death, deprivation of parental rights, migration, poverty, or other social problems. Unlike large-scale residential institutions, family-type children's homes are based on the principle of raising children in a family environment, usually under the care of foster parents who assume long-term responsibility for their upbringing. For both the state and society, the importance of this model extends far beyond child protection, influencing social stability, moral values, and future development.

From the perspective of the state, family-type children's homes play a vital role in fulfilling legal and ethical obligations toward children. International conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasize that every child has the right to grow up in a family environment that ensures love, care, and understanding. Family-based care aligns more closely with these principles than institutional care, which often lacks individual attention and emotional warmth. By

supporting family-type children's homes, the state demonstrates its commitment to child-centered social policy and human rights standards. This commitment strengthens the legitimacy of state institutions and enhances public trust in social welfare systems.

Another important aspect is the impact of family-type children's homes on the psychological and emotional development of children. Numerous studies have shown that children raised in large institutions are more likely to experience emotional deprivation, attachment disorders, and difficulties in social interaction. In contrast, a family environment allows children to form stable emotional bonds with caregivers, develop trust, and build a sense of security. These emotional foundations are essential for healthy personality development and social adaptation. When children receive adequate emotional support, they are more likely to succeed academically, maintain healthy relationships, and become productive members of society. Thus, the benefits of family-type children's homes extend beyond individual well-being to the broader social fabric.

For society as a whole, family-type children's homes contribute to social cohesion and the reduction of marginalization. Children who grow up in impersonal institutions often face stigma, discrimination, and difficulties integrating into society after leaving care. Family-based upbringing, on the other hand, prepares children for independent life by teaching them everyday skills, social norms, and moral values within a real-life context. This reduces the risk of social exclusion, unemployment, and involvement in criminal activities in adulthood. By helping vulnerable children become socially integrated individuals, family-type children's homes play a preventive role in addressing long-term social problems.

Economically, family-type children's homes are also beneficial for the state. While initial investments are required to train foster parents and provide financial support, the long-term costs are often lower than maintaining large residential institutions. Institutional care demands extensive infrastructure, administrative staff, and operational expenses. Moreover, the social costs associated with poor outcomes for institutionalized children—such as unemployment, healthcare needs, and social assistance in adulthood—can be substantial. By contrast, children raised in family environments tend to achieve better life outcomes, reducing future dependence on state support. From this perspective, family-type children's homes represent not only a humane solution but also a cost-effective social investment.

Family-type children's homes also play a significant role in strengthening moral and ethical values within society. They promote compassion, responsibility, and solidarity by encouraging citizens to participate directly in child welfare. Foster parents who open their homes to vulnerable children serve as powerful examples of civic responsibility and altruism. Their role helps cultivate a culture of care and mutual support, reinforcing the idea that child protection is not solely the responsibility of the

state but a shared social duty. This partnership between the state and society is essential for building resilient communities.

In addition, family-type children's homes contribute to the development of human capital, which is a key factor in national progress. Children who receive proper care, education, and emotional support are more likely to develop their talents and skills. They can grow into qualified professionals, responsible parents, and active citizens. By investing in the well-being of vulnerable children today, the state invests in its future workforce and leadership. Neglecting these children, on the other hand, risks losing valuable human potential and deepening social inequalities.

The role of family-type children's homes is particularly important in transitional and developing societies, where social challenges such as poverty, labor migration, and family breakdown are more prevalent. In such contexts, traditional institutional care often fails to address the complex needs of children. Family-based care offers a flexible and culturally adaptable solution that can respond more effectively to individual circumstances. By supporting these homes through legislation, financial assistance, and professional training, the state can create a sustainable system of child protection that reflects national values and social realities.

Despite their advantages, family-type children's homes also require careful regulation and support. The state must ensure proper selection, training, and monitoring of foster parents to protect children from potential abuse or neglect. Professional psychological and social support services are essential to help both children and caregivers cope with challenges. When these safeguards are in place, family-type children's homes can function as a reliable and effective component of the child welfare system. Their success depends on coordinated efforts between government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities.

In conclusion, family-type children's homes hold significant importance for both the state and society. They provide vulnerable children with the opportunity to grow up in a caring and supportive environment, promote social integration, reduce long-term social and economic costs, and strengthen moral values. For the state, they represent a strategic investment in human capital and social stability, while for society, they embody compassion, responsibility, and collective solidarity. As modern social policy increasingly emphasizes child-centered and family-based approaches, the expansion and support of family-type children's homes should be regarded as a priority for sustainable national development and social well-being.

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