

# **REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

### **REGARDING CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE IN MODERN AZERBAIJAN SOCIETY MAIN DIRECTIONS OF SOCIAL POLICY**

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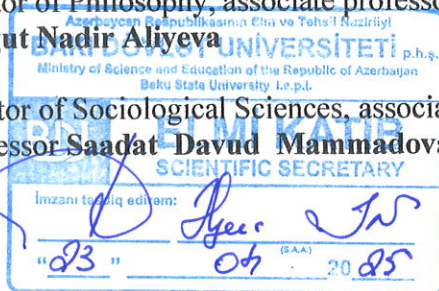
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## INTRODUCTION

**The relevance and level of development of the dissertation topic.** The Republic of Azerbaijan wants every citizen and the people of Azerbaijan as a whole to live in peace, secure financial security and social welfare, and to make this desire a reality, adequate programs have been adopted, decisions, decrees and orders have been issued, and laws have been signed.

Giving special attention and care to vulnerable groups of the population (children, elderly, disabled, indigent, etc.) and implementing their social protection is a very important component of social policy and one of the directions of development. Protection of children, their healthy growth and their formation as mature members of society requires multifaceted activities, because it is about the socialization of the future citizen and personality in general. Children's lack of physical and mental development, dependence on their parents, elderly members of the family, other members of society, inability to function at a sufficient level, lack of working age, more sensitive attitude to negative influences, etc. allows to characterize them as a special population category in parity oriented social policy.

The problem of children deprived of parental care has always been relevant - in transitional and critical periods, when society is faced with war, conflict, natural cataclysms, because the most vulnerable sections of society, including children, suffer more from all of these.

At present, the emergence of new trends in the process of social stratification of society, the change of the previously existing status of individual categories of the population, and the strengthening of the protection of vulnerable groups are of special significance and relevance in our country. However, we must admit that the number of critical and crisis points in the activity of the family institution as a whole, the worsening of the problem of failed families, the lack of active and effective work with minor children, the lack of protection and care for those who are brought up outside the family - in places such as

orphanages and boarding schools has led to an increase in the number of deprived children.

The relevance of the study of the child protection system can also be explained by the relatively large number of orphaned and deprived children in our country. So, according to statistical indicators, in 2023, 1,363 children from this category (in 2022, this number was 737)<sup>1</sup> were being educated in boarding schools in Azerbaijan. Two-thirds of these children are deprived of parental care while their parents are alive.

As in the whole world, in Azerbaijan it is considered that orphanages are a closed educational system; where children are deprived of parental care, these institutions are unfavorable for the development of children at a fully adequate level, and in some cases, they are even unsuitable for their personality formation. For social assistance to these children, it is extremely important to combine and closely integrate the work of social workers, psychologists, sociologists, educators and everyone who performs the relevant work.

The existence of children deprived of parental care is primarily a manifestation of the inability of the family institution and society to influence the formation of a child as a personality, individual development in social, spiritual, intellectual and physical aspects at a sufficient level.

Although the state has a leading role among the actors of politics in relation to children, the role of local governing bodies, supranational institutions (international children's organizations), social movements and associations is also important. They complement each other in their activities and take joint steps towards the improvement of work in this field.

Although the state institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan do a lot of work to provide the necessary care, nothing can replace home warmth and parental caress. Today, the main goal is to ensure that children remain with their biological parents as much as possible. However, if this is not possible, foster care and adoption are considered optimal alternatives. In some cases, children suffer from severe mental

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<sup>1</sup> Electronic portal of the State Statistics Committee. <https://www.stat.gov.az>

and physical disabilities and need special services. In this case, creating homes that provide a family-oriented environment and include a small number of children is the most appropriate option.

It is not only the parents who do not fulfill their duties and functions in relation to children from this category, but in a number of cases, for various reasons, the society also does not pay enough attention to children from this category. From this point of view, different points are observed in different countries of the world. In the conditions of independence, the social policy developed and implemented in relation to vulnerable groups, including children deprived of parental care, is gradually increasing its contributions. Now the world experience is studied better than in the previous period, the available opportunities are taken more seriously, the search for optimal ways is intensified.

Armenia's occupation of a number of territories belonging to Azerbaijan, committing terrible atrocities in those territories, the inactivity of the OSCE Minsk Group, the non-fulfillment of the known 4 UN resolutions, and the transformation of the occupied zone into a real ruin in a period of about 30 years, etc. - all this led to an increase in tension in relation to vulnerable groups, including children deprived of parental care. The 44-day Patriotic War of Azerbaijan (September 27 - November 9, 2020) resulted in the liberation of the occupied territories, the restoration of our sovereign rights, and new opportunities were opened for the development of our country. At present, active construction works are being carried out in the direction of the comprehensive realization of these opportunities, fundamental social programs are being developed and implemented. However, there are still some problems in this area. Therefore, the work carried out in the direction of fostering children who are orphaned and deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan should be studied and the main ways that help development in this field should be determined.

The "Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for children for 2020-2030" signed by President Ilham Aliyev is a clear example of state care for children. This document demonstrates a humane, reasonable and scientific attitude towards children, and reflects important points

regarding the basis of our country's opportunities in terms of future prospects in the new conditions, and provides a wide opportunity for objective suggestions.

The problem of ensuring social protection of children who have lost their parents and are deprived of parental care requires regular research and analysis due to its essence; the clearer the situation is, the deeper it is worked out, the more fundamental and effective the steps to be taken and the things to be done will be.

Thus, the emerging new socio-political, military, economic, geostrategic realities increase the opportunities to plan and implement the social policy related to children deprived of parental care in the modern Azerbaijani society for a longer period of time and in a more objective way, and it is from this point of view that our research problem is particularly relevant. does.

Various scientists (e.g., Plato, Aristotle) have addressed the issue of population welfare since ancient times. They accepted the idea that the duty of the state is to take care of its people. For example, Aristotle tried to find an answer to the concept of "good life" and came to the conclusion that a person can be happy only by using all his skills and abilities. New era philosophers T. Hobbs, I. Kant, G. Hegel and others. discussed the issues of social justice and the duties of the state to its citizens. Werner Zombart, a German sociologist who lived at the end of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, talked about the important importance of social policy for society<sup>2</sup>.

Otfried Heffe, a prominent German philosopher of the 20th century, considered the establishment of a legal and just state in society as the basis for peaceful coexistence of people<sup>3</sup>. Amartya Sen, one of

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<sup>2</sup> Sombart, W . Ideals of social policy: Collection of scientific works / V.Sombart ; per. with him. P. F. Teplova, E. M. Zinovieva. – Moscow; Berlin: Direct-Media, - 2016. - 307 p.

<sup>3</sup> Heffe, O. Politics. Law. Justice. Fundamentals of the critical philosophy of law and state / Translated from German by Vl.S. Malakhov with the participation of E.V. Malakhova. - M .: Publishing house "Gnosis", Editorial and publishing group "Logos", 1994. - 328 p..

the prominent philosophers of the modern era, considers the freedom of a person to live normally in society as absolute freedom. Len Doyal and Ayan Gough (1991) showed that it is not enough to be physically healthy to live well, as human beings we must also have choices about our lives<sup>4</sup>.

A state whose population shares modern humanist values can be considered social. Building a fair society reflects the following priorities: - development of a targeted system of social protection; integration of disabled people into society; prevention and reduction of child poverty; improvement of the pension system; access to quality education and health care.<sup>5</sup>

In scientific literature, social policy regarding children deprived of parental care is explained from several paradigms. Western sociologists I. Goffman, C. Ennew<sup>6</sup>, etc. can be attributed to the theory of social control developed by Thus, social control over children manifests itself in the creation of special institutions ("total institutions" (Goffman)) designed for their living and education<sup>7</sup>. Another approach to social policy regarding children deprived of parental care can be explained in the broader context of family policy - from the position of the theory of familism. In this approach, the place and role of the family in the social security system of the population is analyzed (S. Loytner<sup>8</sup>, C. Bowlby)<sup>9</sup>. Finally, according to the third approach, the state's policy on children

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<sup>4</sup> Hasanov, R. Social policy /R. Hasanov. – Baku: EUROPE, - 2016. - 310 p.

<sup>5</sup> Shafiyev, U. Social work and social policy in Azerbaijan / U. Shafiyev. - Baku: Science and Education, - 2018. – 690p.

<sup>6</sup> Ennew J. Prisoners of Childhood // In: Studies in Modern Childhood. Society, Agency, Culture. Ed.by Jens Qwortrup. - Palgrave Macmillan, -2005, -p. 128–146.

<sup>7</sup> Goffman E. Asylums. Essays on the social situation of mental patients and other inmates. - New York: The Anchor Books Edition, - 1961.

<sup>8</sup> Leitner S. Varieties of Familialism: Developing Care Policies in Conservative Welfare States // End of Welfare as We Know It? Continuity and Change in Western Welfare State Settings and Practices / Sandermann Ph. Settings and Practices Opladen: -Verlag Barbara Budrich, -2006, - p. 37–51.

<sup>9</sup> John Bowlby. Теория привязанности // <http://ruka-na-pulse.ru/advice/articles/detail.php?ID=909>

deprived of parental care is analyzed as a separate direction of social policy, where we refer to L. Fox et al. we can relate.

Apart from these, Russian researchers V.P.Avdeyeva and M.M.Rusakova<sup>10</sup> studied the theoretical foundations of the state's social policy regarding children deprived of parental care. The problem of foster family, foster family, parentless children was studied by Karusheva A.V. and Tremaskina E.V.<sup>11</sup>, O.V.Beschytotnova<sup>12</sup> and A.I. Likhanov<sup>13</sup>, and the issue of social protection of children by N.V. Malyarova and M.I. Nesmeyanova<sup>14</sup>, respectively.

Studies on various aspects of the child problem were also conducted by a number of Azerbaijani authors. Thus, Y.N. Aliyeva<sup>15</sup> studied the issues of children's personality formation, S.M.Majidova<sup>16</sup> studied the sociological and psychological condition of street children,

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<sup>10</sup> Avdeeva V.P., Rusakova M.M. Family and society. Theoretical foundations and results of social policy research in relation to orphans and children left without parental care in post-Soviet countries // <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/teoreticheskie-osnovaniya-i-rezultaty-issledovaniya-sotsialnoy-politiki-v-otnoshenii-detey-sirot-i-detey-ostavshih-sya-bez-popecheniya>

<sup>11</sup> Karusheva A.V., Tremaskina E.V. Children at risk as a special social group. - Young scientist.- 2016. No. 3, - pp. 1002-1004.<https://moluch.ru/authors/46214/>

<sup>12</sup> Besschetnova, O.V. Foster family: socio-demographic analysis / O.V.Besschetnova. - Saratov: Nauchnaya kniga, - 2008. -288 p. Besschetnova, O.V. Foster family as a way of arranging children left without parental care in the United States of America // - Bulletin of TPGU, - 2009, No. 5, -pp. 40-44.

<sup>13</sup> Likhanov, A.I. Children without parents / A.I. Likhanov. - Moscow: Prosveshchenie, - 2010. - 324 p.

<sup>14</sup> Malyarova, N.V., Social protection of childhood: conceptual approach. Sociological research / N.V. Malyarova, M.I. Nesmeyanova // 1998. No. 4, p. 79-83.

<sup>15</sup> Aliyeva Y. Features of the study of street children in modern society // Samara: Samara Scientific Bulletin, - 2013, No. 2 (3), - s.7-9; Aliyeva Y. On some problems of the study of street children in Azerbaijani society. - Togliatti: Vector of Science of Togliatti State University, -2012, No. 4 (11), -p.20-22.; Ya.N.Aliyeva, S.N.Aliyeva, E.Agalar. Sociological, socio-psychological and legal aspects of the study of juvenile delinquency (based on the research materials on Azerbaijan / // Scientific journal "VIRTUS", - Montreal: 2017 (No. 14), - p.35-45.

<sup>16</sup> Medzhidova, S.M. Street children: sociological and psychological portrait / S.M. Medzhidova, - Baku: Ziya-Nurlan, -2003, -180 p.



S.A.Allahyarova, E.A.Piriyeva<sup>17</sup> and H.M.Ahmadova studied the issues of the manifestation of antisocial behavior among teenagers.

Despite all the advantages of the mentioned studies, it remains an important issue to investigate the sociological aspects of social policy regarding children deprived of parental care in modern Azerbaijan. This important problem has not been sufficiently investigated in the scientific literature.

**Object and subject of research.** The object of the research work is the problem of children deprived of parental care, and the subject is the sociological examination of the main directions of social policy related to that population group in modern Azerbaijani society.

**Objectives and tasks of the research.** The main goal of the dissertation work is the sociological study of the main directions of the social policy regarding children deprived of parental care in our society and the study of their reflection in the conditions of Azerbaijan.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks have been set:

- Studying the child protection mechanism in Azerbaijan as a whole system and defining the main directions in the social policy of the state of Azerbaijan regarding children deprived of parental care;
- researching legislative acts that include children's rights; study of guardianship, guardianship and adoption procedures;
- analysis of the real situation of transfer of children from state institutions to families (de-institutionalization) and alternative care program;
- study of the activities of NGOs in the protection of orphaned children and the implementation of various projects;
- studying the formation of children deprived of parental care as active members of society in the context of empirical sociological research.

**Methods of research.** The study of social policy regarding children deprived of parental care in modern Azerbaijan is based on

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<sup>17</sup> Allahyarova S.A., Piriyeva E.A. Factors of deviant behavior of adolescents // Deviant human behavior in the modern world: problems and solutions. Materials of the II International correspondence scientific and practical conference, -Vladimir:- May 12, 2011, -pp.60-63.

structural functionalism, which is one of the main methodological approaches in sociology. The leading principles of the research are systematicity, interaction between events, search for contradictions and consistency in development, generalization method. In writing the dissertation, various international documents and materials related to children, laws and programs adopted in this field in our country, researches conducted by foreign and local scientists were used as a theoretical and methodological basis. In the formation of the theoretical-methodological ground, serious attention was paid to the provisions reflected in the reports, speeches and interviews of our national leader Heydar Aliyev and the head of state Ilham Aliyev. The author made extensive use of the questionnaire survey, expert analysis and statistical analysis methods, as well as survey materials conducted by other subjects (in the form of interviews and questionnaires). The source science basis of the research is classical and modern sociological, psychological, economic, philosophical, pedagogical literature on the social policy of children deprived of parental care.

**The main provisions of the defense.** The main provisions defended in the dissertation are the following:

1. Children deprived of parental care are one of the most vulnerable groups of our society. Their financial support, health protection, education, upbringing, in short, their formation and functioning as decent, active citizens is one of the priority directions of the children's policy developed and implemented by the state.

2. Social policy related to children deprived of parental care can be analyzed as theories of social control and familism, as well as a separate direction of social policy.

3. Examining the general characteristics of vulnerable groups of the population in our country shows that in a number of cases the factors that increase the intensification and deepening of sensitivity complicate the real situation to a great extent. Nevertheless, from the point of view of social protection of children deprived of parental care, giving them to adoption, guardianship, guardian, or other family can be presented as better means, and if these are not possible, it is appropriate to take

advantage of the procedure of placing children in appropriate institutions.

4. Both the number of children deprived of parental care, and the fact that it is not traditional in the country to take a child for upbringing, etc. issues, we believe, will determine the existence of children's boarding facilities for many years to come.

5. Each form of education and protection has its advantages and reality of existence. However, the most important aspect here is the existence of strict state control over those forms of upbringing and protection and the legal precise and perfect regulation of the activities in this field, as well as the state, the child deprived of parental care and the institution (foster family, guardian, guardian, etc.).

6. In Western and Eastern Europe, various religious institutions and organizations have a great role in the issue of adaptation of children who have lost their parents in new families. Church-based centers that help families pay special attention to parents who want to adopt a child in the future. From this point of view, the close participation of religious institutions and organizations in this work can be considered acceptable in our country.

7. Rehabilitation centers should be established as alternative services for children exposed to street life. Centers should be places where children feel comfortable, at peace, where they can talk to each other and to the staff, not places where hierarchy and authority dominate.

8. The victory of the Azerbaijani people in the 44-day Patriotic War and the realities created by it create a good basis for improving and optimizing social policy in relation to vulnerable groups of the population, including children deprived of parental care. As this ground is strengthened, its stimulating role will increase and become more meaningful.

**Scientific novelty of the research** is determined in relation to the relevance of the problem and the set goals and objectives. The scientific novelty of the dissertation has found its expression concretely in the following:

- the issues of children deprived of parental care living in children's institutions or being transferred from these institutions to families, education, as well as their integration into society after completing their life in the institution were investigated, conclusions were drawn, and practical recommendations were put forward;
- the activities of relevant state institutions, children's institutions, as well as NGOs operating in the republic were evaluated based on various studies and the research methods we used, the social, economic, legal, etc. of the problem. the importance of taking into account its organizational and methodological aspects as well as its aspects and the necessity of fundamental reforms in this direction are substantiated;
- the study of the current situation in children's institutions with reference to extensive factual analyses, the adequacy of this part of the child education system to modern requirements, first of all to the ideals of humanism, was examined in relation to our national and moral values;
- the results of a number of projects for children deprived of parental care (day care centers, family-type small group homes, SOS-children's villages, etc.), as well as the results of empirical sociological research conducted by various organizations and ourselves in the republic, are summarized, and specific proposals are put forward.

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** The materials and provisions of the research are general sociology, social work, psychology, social philosophy, pedagogy, etc., especially in humanities faculties of higher schools. in the teaching of lecture courses, the compilation of educational programs, the development of methodical materials, the writing of textbooks and teaching materials, the preparation of specialty courses and abstracts; it can be used as reliable scientific literature in scientific work by undergraduates, masters, doctoral students and scientific workers conducting research on this topic.

The dissertation is also used as a source of information in the study of social and economic changes in the world and in the country, in the work of state and government structures, in the preparation of legislative acts on socio-economic development, labor market,

employment, and relevant educational reforms, in the activities of NGOs and in the mass media. It can be done.

**Approbation and application.** The structure and scope of the dissertation work is consistent with the goals and objectives of the research. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, nine sub-chapters, a conclusion, a list of used literature and an appendix. The content and main provisions of the research were reflected in the form of articles in local and foreign journals in accordance with the norms and requirements of the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as in the materials of national and international scientific conferences.

**Name of the organization where the dissertation work was carried out:** The dissertation work was carried out at the Department of Sociology of Baku State University.

**The total volume of the dissertation with a sign, indicating the volume of the structural units of the dissertation separately:** The total volume of the dissertation – 205770 marks without spaces, 234114 marks with spaces, Introduction - pp. 3-11, 19796 (22466), Chapter I - pp. 12-56, 79882 (90803), Chapter II – pp. 57-85, 53950 (61332), Chapter III – pp. 86-121, 47858 (54639), Conclusion - pp. 122-124, 4284 (4877), Appendix – 137-142 , 4719 (5227).

## MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "**Introduction**" part of the dissertation, the relevance and degree of development of the topic, the goals and tasks, object and subject of the research, scientific innovation, theoretical-methodological bases and empirical basis, scientific-theoretical and practical importance were studied.

The first chapter entitled "**Children deprived of parental care as an object of social policy**" consists of two paragraphs and is theoretical in nature. The author examines the theoretical and methodological aspects of the sociological study of the problem. In this section, the applicant clarifies the essence, content and specific features

of the concept of social policy, reviews in detail the main approaches in the scientific literature on children deprived of parental care, and examines the international experience in the field of social policy related to children deprived of parental care.

In the first paragraph called **"Essence and content of social policy"**, the author makes this statement: the important role of active social policy in the stable, sustainable development of society and the fuller realization of its potential is generally recognized. It is not accidental that social policy issues are often addressed during the analysis of various problems. Prevention of social polarization, development of groups and associations that make up the society, socialization of people, protection of all elements and strata of the social structure from destructive processes, basic and regular social security, etc. is among such issues.<sup>18</sup>

One aspect should not be forgotten: the scientific justification of emerging social programs, taking into account the economic, ecological and demographic factors of society's development, requires strengthening the development of all scientific disciplines of statistics and social sciences related to the social sphere.<sup>19</sup>

Political science, sociology and their integrative disciplines (for example, political sociology) play a special role here.

The essence of social policy is not clearly defined. Some researchers focus on its broad and narrow meanings. As a whole, social policy-scale technology is understood as an instrument for solving social problems of the state and society, and it is noted that it is a system of measures aimed at implementing social programs, improving the income and living standards of the population, ensuring employment, as well as supporting areas of the social sphere and preventing conflicts. includes.

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<sup>18</sup> Akhinov, G.A. Social policy. Theory and practice /G.A.Akhinov, S.V.Kalashnikov, - Moscow: ZAO Izdatelstvo Ekonomika, - 2008, - 312 p.

<sup>19</sup> Mammadova, S. Social state in Azerbaijan: development, perspectives / S. Mammadova, -Baku: EUROPA, - 2017, - 232 p.

In a broad sense, social policy is a system of measures. Its *"main purpose is to regulate the system of mutual relations and mutual influence between social groups and social layers of the society, which includes the human being in general, his well-being, social protection, social development, life support, and social security."* In the narrow sense of the word, social policy is *a set of concrete measures aimed at ensuring the life of the population. Depending on who implements these measures and the identity of their initiator (subject), they distinguish between state, regional, corporate and other types of social policy*<sup>20</sup>.

The second paragraph entitled **"Children deprived of parental care as a vulnerable group of the population"** shows that currently the Republic of Azerbaijan is successfully advancing in the direction of building a democratic, legal, secular society and, despite the existing difficulties, is gradually increasing its achievements. One of the main attributes of this society is the provision of supremacy of human rights and freedoms and the creation of comprehensive conditions by the state for their realization. It is not by chance that our country chooses and implements optimal forms of cooperation that will help the future development of society. Protection of rights and freedoms begins with society recognizing, protecting and respecting the rights and freedoms of children<sup>21</sup>.

For various reasons, children belonging to the risk group are negatively affected by society and criminal elements that cause maladjustment of adolescents. These children are distinguished by their sensitivity to environmental influences. Due to the lack of personal resources, they are exposed to negative influences from outside and depend on the environment that surrounds them. The analysis and investigation of the feelings and attitudes of the people surrounding them also gives reason to say this. Their self-esteem is very low. These

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<sup>20</sup> Hasanov, R. Social policy / R.Hasanov, -Baku, "EUROPE" publishing house, - 2016, - pp. 11-12.

<sup>21</sup> Aliyev M.N. Social service as an institution of social security law / Textbook / - Baku: Teknur, -2008, -pp. 49-50.

children are better adapted to their "own" environment than the average population. Although they seem arrogant, they are quite sensitive, they quickly "break" from the slightest pressure from the other side. They can be called a "coma (ball) of problems" in the struggle for life, even without realizing the problems. Because they are deprived of the attention and care of adults, they often become aggressive. Failure to meet their needs for emotional warmth and attachment has a negative effect on the social and psychological condition of these children. Their behavior and speech are completely stereotyped<sup>22</sup>.

In the third paragraph, which is called **"International experience in the field of social policy regarding children deprived of parental care"**, the social policy related to the problem is examined at the level of international experience. It is shown that the review of international experience in solving the problems of children deprived of parental care is of particular importance. First of all, a number of global experiences have been collected in these countries in this direction. Secondly, its application in our country would have eased the solution of the problems of this population. Of course, any experience should be applied creatively and according to the circumstances, not mechanically.

It is noted that the development of the education system of children deprived of parental care in Western Europe and the United States was somewhat different. The history of public education in the USA and Western European countries can be divided into four stages.

Stage I is characterized by placement of socially protected children in orphanages, charitable institutions, in short, institutions with more favorable conditions for their normal development.

The II stage is characterized by abandoning the existing large educational institutions and creating family-type educational homes called "cottages".

At the beginning of the 20th century - in the years after World War II, the professional family institute began to develop in the III stage. Here,

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<sup>22</sup> Karusheva A.V., Children at risk as a special social group / A.V. Karusheva, E.V. Tremaskina, // Young scientist. - 2016. No. 3, - pp. 1002-1004.



children live only in adopted families and bear the responsibility of their parents during the period of guardianship.

The IV stage covers the period from the 60s-70s of the 20th century until today, during which the deinstitutionalization of children who have lost their parents becomes one of the leading tendencies of the social policy of Western European countries and America. Meanwhile, most of the orphanages and shelters have almost stopped their activities. Children who remain in active orphanages are those who cannot be kept in families due to their medical conditions. The vast majority of children deprived of parental care are brought up in adoptive families, as well as in professional families<sup>23</sup>.

The final summary of the main conclusions reached in the first chapter of the dissertation is as follows: one of the very important directions of the social policy course is the provision of social protection of low-income people, groups in need of special care. The study of the problems of children deprived of parental care has been conducted for many years primarily by international and non-governmental organizations, as well as by state committees and departments. Research shows that working with children deprived of parental care is a creative process. This requires deepening scientific research covering all aspects of the life and activities of those children, taking into account the characteristics determined by reality. The essence of the social policy regarding children deprived of parental care is to help them adapt to market economy conditions as vulnerable social groups and to keep their social protection in constant focus.

The second chapter is called "**State policy regarding children deprived of parental care in the Republic of Azerbaijan**". In this chapter, first of all, the formation of social policy regarding children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan is considered. Then, the author examines the legal basis of the social policy for children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan, the problems and prospects of adopting a

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<sup>23</sup> Smirnova E. Problems of social orphanhood in Russia and abroad: historical background. 2010. URL: [http://nashi-deti.detskii-dom-9.ru/view\\_articles.php?id=10](http://nashi-deti.detskii-dom-9.ru/view_articles.php?id=10)

child in Azerbaijan. In the last paragraph, the problem of providing employment and housing to persons deprived of parental care who leave children's institutions is studied.

In the first paragraph called **"Formation of social policy for children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan"**, the factors affecting the formation of social policy for children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan are examined. It is shown that the correct and effective implementation of the Children's policy is one of the important strategic tasks of every state. In addition, our state is also trying to fulfill this duty properly and is making serious efforts. After gaining independence, a number of important legal acts have been adopted in the direction of the implementation of the state children's policy in our republic. The future of our state, which has achieved legal, secular state building, directly depends on the children of today<sup>24</sup>.

In the second paragraph called **"Legal bases of social policy regarding children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan"**, it is noted that after gaining independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan joined a number of international conventions related to children and signed important documents in this field. The main provisions that fully reflect the necessary contours of the state children's policy are examined. It is shown that the protection of children's rights dictates the imposition of serious duties on parents. Without these tasks, the effective implementation of the state children's policy and the formation of children as a comprehensive and complete personality would not be possible.

The third paragraph called **"Adoption of a child in Azerbaijan: problems and prospects"** shows that the adoption institution is one of the main areas that must be paid attention to in the protection of children's rights. This institute imposes various rights and duties on both adopters, adopters, educational institutions, and state institutions, and tries to optimize its efforts in order to prove that it is an important institution for children, prioritizing the interests of children. Adoption

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<sup>24</sup> Rajabli, H. Social protection system of the Republic of Azerbaijan / H. Rajabli, - Textbook for higher education institutions. - Baku: "MBM", - 2012, - 408 p.

was not at all simple, i.e. the adoption of a child with the consent of the parents or with the consent of relevant institutions, it was the implementation of the rights of the child, the creation of conditions for their proper upbringing, the formation of a highly moral, comprehensive personality, the necessary financial and household conditions of the child. shows that it is one of the main directions of the state policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan aimed at ensuring that children grow up, receive education based on progressive requirements, and become worthy citizens<sup>25</sup>.

The fourth paragraph, entitled **"Problem of providing employment and accommodation to persons deprived of parental care who leave children's institutions"** shows that ensuring employment and organizing labor activities of children and young people who are in boarding schools or who have left boarding schools and are deprived of parental care is one of the most urgent problems of today. . In order to ensure the employment of persons belonging to this category and organize labor activities, a number of guarantees and concessions are provided in the legislation. Such guarantees and concessions are provided for in Article 8 of the Law "On Social Protection of Children Who Have Lost Parents and Deprived of Parental Care", the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Employment" and a number of state programs approved by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Cabinet of Ministers<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> Hasanov, R. Social policy / R. Hasanov, -Baku, "EUROPA" publishing house, - 2016, - 310 p.; Najafova, N.Kh. Adoption as one of the main directions of social policy of Azerbaijan. // At the conference "Personality, Society and State in the XXI Century: Global Challenges and Development Perspectives" dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the national leader Heydar Aliyev International Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference on Sciences, / IISCSS 2023 –Baku, - 2023, - pp.186-187.; Najafova, N.X. // Adoption as a direction of Azerbaijan's social policy regarding children // Global processes and new formats of multilateral cooperation in science and education. Collection of Scientific Works, Kazan, 2024, pp. 103-107.

<sup>26</sup> Rajabli, H. Social protection system of the Republic of Azerbaijan / H. Rajabli, - Textbook for higher education institutions. -Baku: "MBM", - 2012, - 408 p.

The general summary of the main conclusions reached in the second chapter of the dissertation is that the main directions of the child protection system in Azerbaijan are the comprehensive provision of their rights, the implementation of relevant state programs and development concepts, the creation of equal education, health and social opportunities, and upbringing in the necessary financial and domestic conditions. , improvement of national legislation in this field, etc. contane. Ensuring the employment of children and young people who are in boarding schools or who have left boarding schools and are deprived of parental care, as well as organizing their work and providing them with living space, is one of the issues in the focus of the state's attention.

In the third and last chapter, called **"Civil society care for children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan, their place and role in society"**, the main focus is on two issues: a) study of the activities of public associations related to children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan; b) examining the formation of children deprived of parental care as active members of society in the context of empirical sociological research.

In the first paragraph, called **"Activity of public associations related to children deprived of parental care in Azerbaijan"**, the activity of public associations related to children deprived of parental care in our country is reviewed and statistical data on their activity is analyzed. It is shown that state institutions in our country do a lot to provide the necessary care, but nothing can replace the warmth of home and caress of caring parents. Today, the main goal is to ensure that children remain with their biological parents as much as possible. If this is not possible, foster care and adoption are considered optimal alternatives. However, in some cases, children suffer from severe mental problems and physical disabilities, requiring many special services. In this case, creating homes that provide a family-oriented environment and include a small number of children is the most appropriate option.

The last paragraph of the dissertation is called **"Formation of children deprived of parental care as active members of society in**

**the context of empirical sociological research."** We have conducted a survey regarding the problem. The purpose of our research conducted in the spring of 2020 was to determine the reasons why children end up in children's institutions. Questionnaire survey and sampling methods were used in our research. The survey was conducted in two dimensions. Questionnaires used as instruments in the study were compiled in the form of standardized questionnaires and covered important aspects of the subject under study. The main aspects of the survey include the reasons why children end up in orphanages and attitudes towards parents who refuse their children; the role of orphanages in the formation of orphans as a personality; the need for state assistance to graduates of orphanages; psychological conditions of children deprived of parental care; future lives of graduates of orphanages; the general opinion formed about them in the society and sociodemographic indicators are included. Through these indicators, the real situation of children deprived of parental care and the attitude towards them in the society were studied. The obtained data were interpreted and allowed to analyze many complex issues related to children deprived of parental care.

Also, within the framework of the current research, an expert survey was conducted by us in January 2022 to study the main directions of social policy regarding children deprived of parental care in modern Azerbaijani society. 18 specialists working in this field participated in the survey. Among them are a number of high school teachers of the Republic who teach social work and sociology subjects; were specialists of a number of state specialized institutions dealing with children's problems and representatives of public associations on children's problems. Based on the results of our research, a number of proposals have been put forward to improve the situation of children deprived of parental care in society.

1. Children's homes and boarding facilities are not suitable places for children without parental care to live. As in many advanced and developed countries, in the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is advisable to place children deprived of parental care in foster families as soon as possible. If they have biological families, then it is appropriate to

place them in their own families. If the family's living conditions are not suitable for the child's stay, it is necessary to benefit from an alternative care program.

2. We believe that it is important to sufficiently increase state support for this category of families whose parents' social welfare is low and it is difficult to take care of the child.
3. Children deprived of parental care live a hard, difficult and painful life after leaving the orphanage. In our opinion, in the current situation, the state should provide the graduates of orphanages with work and living conditions so that they become useful people for society.
4. Long-term psycho-social rehabilitation measures should be taken seriously with children deprived of parental care. Here, the main burden falls on the relevant state bodies, NGOs and legal, psychological and social work centers.
5. The state should do everything possible for children staying in children's institutions to receive a high level of education, including NGOs, various centers, the public, etc. should attract.

In our opinion, the implementation of these proposals would have greatly eliminated the negative attitude towards children deprived of parental care in the society.

The general summary of the main conclusions reached in the last, third chapter of the dissertation is that in providing care for children deprived of parental care, state and local administrative bodies, children's institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations (whether international or local), which are the main elements of civil society, public the activity of associations is also important.<sup>27</sup>

Conclusions from the conclusion of the study are as follows:

1. In various societies, there is a need for a social policy that is aimed at both specific individuals and various social groups, objectively

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<sup>27</sup> Najafova, N. Formation of children deprived of parental care as active members of society in the context of sociological research // – Baku: ANAS. Scientific works. International scientific-theoretical journal, - 2019. No. 1, - p. 103-110.

examines and evaluates the real situation, and is developed on scientific grounds. The purpose of social policy is the progress of classes, social groups, social strata (strata), national or other ethnic associations, language groups, confessional groups, as well as human development that make up this or that society.

2. Giving special attention and care to vulnerable groups of the population (children, elderly, disabled, indigent, etc.) and implementing their social protection is a very important component of social policy and a direction of development. Protection of children, healthy growth and formation as mature members of society requires multifaceted action. Children's lack of physical and mental development, dependence on their parents, elderly members of the family, other members of society, inability to function at a sufficient level, lack of working age, more sensitive attitude to negative influences, etc. allows to characterize them as a special population category in parity oriented social policy.

3. Although legislation regarding children has been formed in Azerbaijan, certain gaps remain. This may include changes to the laws on parental responsibility. So, since the legislation does not provide for strict measures against parents, children who are collected from the streets and given to families return to street life after a while.

4. Attention should be paid to two main issues related to children's institutions: 1) substantial state control of the forms of care and upbringing and 2) legally correct management of mutual relations between the state, children's institution and children deprived of parental care.

5. Although a large number of respondents to the survey consider it possible to stop the activities of children's institutions or to replace them with alternative care (foster family), they consider it important to take certain steps in this area (for example, the creation of certain bases and mechanisms for this, related financial and solving the problems of education, lack of foster families in the country, etc.) For this purpose, it is important to ensure the transition to the foster family model in the country in the near future.

6. Research on children deprived of parental care shows that the situation of shelters is a serious problem in terms of protecting the rights

of both children and women and taking certain steps to help them. In many cases, there are not enough shelters for victims of violence, including children. Ideally, victims of domestic violence should be provided with emergency short-term and long-term specialist services - legal and medical assistance and other social assistance - free of charge. It is very important to carry out this work systematically. Issues aimed at the comprehensive protection of children's rights in our Republic have been fully reflected in the "Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Children for 2020-2030".

7. There is a need to conduct long-term socio-psychological rehabilitation work with children. This will help to correctly and objectively understand and evaluate the real situation related to children's activities, determine the right choice of opportunities to influence them, and help to significantly reduce the uncertainty that may arise at the beginning.

8. If it is a problem for children who have been deprived of parental care to go to children's institutions and stay there for a long time, then the life after reaching adulthood and leaving the children's institutions, where they stay, and what kind of work they do is a bigger problem.

9. Unfortunately, most of the elements necessary for education are not available to children deprived of parental care in the current conditions. For this reason, it is necessary to develop relevant programs and projects by the state and other institutions.

10. Employers should be more widely involved in the necessary new vocational training at their own expense in order to re-employ children who have lost their parents and are deprived of parental care, as well as employees who are considered persons among them, to work in that enterprise or in another enterprise, and according to article 9 of the law on employment, the application of the quota for citizens with special needs for social protection and difficulties in finding work should be strengthened.

11. We consider it important that social workers deal with children deprived of parental care separately. In this case, the main goal is to find out in advance the compatibility of the family and the child, to determine how both parties will behave in the new environment that



will be settled. In fact, the child is placed in the family not because the family needs the child, but because the child needs the family.

In **Conclusion** of the dissertation, the research was concluded, the scientific-theoretical propositions obtained in the chapters of the research were summarized, points of scientific innovation, a number of suggestions and recommendations were given.

In the "**Appendix**" part of the dissertation, the text of the mass questionnaire survey and the expert (research instrument) survey was presented.

**The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the author's published theses and articles:**

1. Protection of children's rights and organization of care for orphaned children in Azerbaijan // Education, identity and society" Materials of the Republican scientific-practical conference dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the establishment of Baku State University, Baku, 2014, p.24-28.
2. The problem of children deprived of parental care in the context of social work // Baku: "News of Baku University" Socio-Political Sciences Series, 2015. Issue 1-2, p.118-125.
3. Work with children left without parental care in Azerbaijan // Odessa: Scientific and practical journal "Actual problems of philosophy and sociology", 2016. Issue 10, p. 91-95.
4. Mechanisms of implementing the process of de-institutionalization in Azerbaijan // Materials of the XXI Republican Scientific Conference of PhD students and young researchers of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku, 2017, p.44-46.
5. Formation of children deprived of parental care as active members of society in the context of sociological research // Baku: ANAS. Scientific works. International scientific-theoretical journal, 2019. No. 1, p. 103-110.

6. The problem of socialization of children deprived of parental care // Baku: Civilization magazine, 2021. Volume 10, No. 1, p. 73 -83.
7. The problem of homeless children and its path // IV Final international scientific and practical conference "Integration of world scientific processes as the basis of social progress". System of knowledge in science and education. Collection of scientific papers, Kazan, 2021, p. 162-165
8. Social protection of children deprived of parental care // KANT: Social science & humanities, STAVROLIT Publishing House, 2022. No. 1(9), pp. 88-95.
9. Empirical study of the social policy regarding graduates of orphanages // Social research, Baku, 2023, p.168-176.
10. Adoption as one of the main directions of social policy related to children // Materials of the International interdisciplinary scientific conference on Social Sciences on "Personality, Society and State in the XXI century: Global Challenges and Development Perspectives" dedicated to the 100th anniversary of national leader Heydar Aliyev, Baku, 2023, p.186-187.
11. Adoption as a direction of Azerbaijan's social policy regarding children // Global processes and new formats of multilateral cooperation in science and education. Collection of scientific papers, Kazan, 2024, p.103-107.

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The defense of the dissertation will be held on May 30, 2025 at 14:00 at the meeting of the BFD 4.25 One-time Dissertation Council operating at Baku State University.

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