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TÍTULO: El problema de la maternidad en adolescentes en la Rusia contemporánea: aspecto social y pedagógico.

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RESUMEN: La relevancia del problema a investigar está condicionada por el hecho de que el fenómeno de la maternidad temprana lleva un carácter social agudo. Debido a este hecho, el artículo está destinado a revelar las causas de la maternidad temprana y a buscar las vías de la solución del problema en el contexto de trabajo social y pedagógico. El método líder para la investigación de este problema es un estudio demoscópico que permite identificar las causas de la detección y elaborar recomendaciones relacionadas con la perfección de la ayuda social y pedagógica a las madres adolescentes. Fue revelado que es necesario prestar gran atención a la profiláctica del embarazo temprano y a la solución de las situaciones sociales de crisis.

PALABRAS CLAVES: embarazo, menores de edad, madres adolescentes, natalidad, pedagogía.

TITLE: Problems of young motherhood in modern Russia: socio-pedagogical aspect.

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ABSTRACT: The relevance of the problem under study derives from the fact that the phenomenon of early motherhood is a pressing social issue. In connection therewith, this paper is aimed at identifying the causes of early motherhood and finding solutions to the problem in the context of socio-pedagogical work. We used sociological survey as a leading method to explore this problem, which has allowed us to identify the causes of the phenomenon and to develop recommendations for improving social and pedagogical support to young mothers. It has been revealed that a greater emphasis should be placed on the prevention of early pregnancy and resolution of emerging crisis social situations.

KEY WORDS: pregnancy, minor age, young mothers, birth rate, pedagogy.

INTRODUCTION.

The problem of adolescent pregnancy and childbirth has high relevance all over the world. Presently, more than 80% of first teenage pregnancies end in abortions.

Until recently, adolescent mothers were never recognized as a separate category of socially unprotected citizens, and have never been the focus of special attention and impact target eligible for support and rehabilitation from state authorities. While in August 2019, the most popular age for childbirth among Russian women became known. It turned out that the majority of women in the country had their first child at the age of 26. The second child was delivered at the age of 30 and the third at the age of 31. At the same time, five children were born in Russia in 2018, who became fifth-borns to their mothers aged 17.

According to the authorities, also in 2018, four 12-year-old girls became mothers, while 34 children were born to 13-year-olds and 190 to 14-year-olds, and for four of them it was the second childbirth. 15-year-old girls gave birth to 919 children in 2018, out of which 22 children were second-born. 16-year-olds gave birth to 2925 children, 165 of whom were second-born, nine were third-born and two were fourth-born (Federal State Statistics Service, 2019).

As concerns, the phenomenon of young motherhood, more and more attention is being paid to the need for dedicated work by specialists of social service agencies in terms of psychological and physical preparation of young mothers for the upcoming maternity; helping them to deal with social crises related to pregnancy, prepare them for safe delivery, and train to give care to newborns.

Measures to prevent early pregnancy include raising the adolescents' awareness of contraception, the consequences of abortion, family planning and counseling on intimate relationships (Breheny & Stephens, 2007, Passino et al., 1993, Chigisheva, 2010).

Psychological and physical preparation for future motherhood, assistance in dealing with pregnancy-related social crises, preparation for safe delivery, and training in newborn care are also components of medical and social work with young pregnant women (Clemmens, 2002, Cowley, 2007, Frejka & Sardon, 2006).

DEVELOPMENT.

Literature Review.

In the Russian Federation, the array of measures aimed at increasing the birth rate, providing social support for mothers and children, protecting the reproductive health of the population and preventing abortions is a high priority of the state social policy. In light of this, today the major importance is attributed to the following directions of demographic policy:

- Promoting healthy lifestyle among children, young people and their parents, and raising their awareness of the ways and forms of health-saving habits.
- Creating conditions conducive to absorption by young people of the traditional attitudes towards family, marriage and parenthood, strengthening the authority of the family and family values in society, bridging the gap between young people's desire to create a family and the real possibilities for its implementation in conditions of socio-economic and financial instability.
- Improvement of social protection of the family and provision of multi-dimensional support by the state.
- Support for young people seeking to have a large family.
- Providing social guarantees to young mothers and preventing their discrimination in the labour market.
- Providing access for the youth to the high-quality health care system (Shimanovskaya & Shimanovskaya, 2011).

Implementation of the above measures will allow to build and sustain health-saving habits of young Russians in the form of systematic actions intended to build, strengthen and preserve their health, reduce morbidity, increase life expectancy and life quality (Rezer, 2003).

An important place in the system of family interactions is taken by the issues related to motherhood, a concept that encapsulates the complex of directions related to preparation for family life, familiarization with issues of marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and child raising (Kluge, 2005, Seyler, 1999, Hudson, 2000, Kelly, 1996, Luker, 1996).

At the same time, on the background of increasing sexual activity of adolescents and the no state system in place for prevention of unwanted pregnancy, childbearing at a young age has become a reality today. Therefore, today special attention should be paid to such a widespread social phenomenon as underage motherhood. In our times, the first teenage pregnancy ends with induced abortion in more than 80% cases (Biel, 2006, Kluge, 1999, Gavrilova, 2000). At the same time, in the context of puberty acceleration, growing sexual activity of teenagers, no state system in place for educating younger generation on the issues concerning prevention of undesirable pregnancy, the childbearing in the juvenile age has become the reality of our days, the phenomenon which has been named "the teenage motherhood" (Ziegenhain, 2003, Oskina, 2016, Laryusheva, 2007).

The problem of underage motherhood is becoming increasingly important in modern Russian society due to the propaganda by some mass media of "...the atmosphere of all-permissiveness, aggressiveness, moral irresponsibility, which leads to a spiritual and moral crisis", heightened interest in the issues of sexual relations, which may lead to early and unwanted pregnancy (Shimanovskaya, 2014, p. 41).

At the same time, researchers also highlight that the older generation does not approve of the premarital sexual relations. "...64% of the total number of respondents condemn a girl's carnal knowledge before marriage and 57% are inclined to believe that young men should also refrain from the early sexual debut" (Sirotkina, 2010, p. 37).

Psychological and socio-pedagogical work with underage mothers, their parents and social environment in Russia is in its infancy. They receive some support from the state, but it is insufficient and uncoordinated. The status of a young mother as a social work client is not defined by law. Young mothers facing difficult life situations may be eligible for support, but due to the fact that in the law-enforcement practice these norms of laws are not valid, they may not fully use social benefits.

Research methodological framework.

In order to examine the social standing of underage pregnant women and young mothers, a sociological study named "Study of the social standing of underage pregnant women and young mothers" was conducted in Moscow in 2019 with a view to develop recommendations on improvement of social and psychological assistance provided to underage pregnant women and young mothers and prevention of early pregnancy.

The focus of the study were the girls aged from 14 to 19 who are registered in the maternity welfare clinics in Moscow.

A questionnaire was developed for the study. It consists of an introduction (appeal to the respondent), a demographic part, a main part covering central aspects of social standing of this category of the population. The sample included 500 people. Besides, a free interview was conducted with the girls, the purpose of which was to obtain more complete information about the problems that arise during preparation for the birth of the child after the child birth.

Findings and Discussion.

As found by the survey, distribution of respondents by their age was as follows: 21% of 16-year-old girls, 50% of 17-year-olds, 12.5% of 18-year-olds, 16.5% of 19-year-olds.

Based on the obtained data, the majority of respondents (69.9%) have completed 9 grades, only 8.3% of respondents from all the respondents have secondary complete education, 12.5% have secondary professional education, and 8.3% of the interviewed girls have only primary education (Fig. 1). At the time of the survey, none of the interviewed girls has obtained or has been in the process of obtaining higher professional education at the time of the survey. According to the survey results, only one third of all interviewed girls (29%) currently study at a trade school or general education school.

The majority of the respondents (79%) have a separate apartment or some space in the apartment, while the rest of the girls (21%) live in a hostel. The housing of 79.2% of respondents have all the necessary amenities, while the rest of the respondents (20.8%) have only some of the amenities.

It should be noted that at the time of the survey none of the interviewed girls had a job. It is reasonable to conclude that all girls are dependent on their parents or the child's father, or on state support. The survey results show that families of 33.2% of the girls have an income below the minimum subsistence level per family member, the income of 45.8% of the families is approximately equal to the minimum subsistence level, and 21% have an income above this level.

The majority of respondents (78%) admitted that income is just enough for basic necessities. Approximately 16.5% of respondents may not afford even the basic necessities. The remaining 5.5% of respondents stated that they have sufficient income.

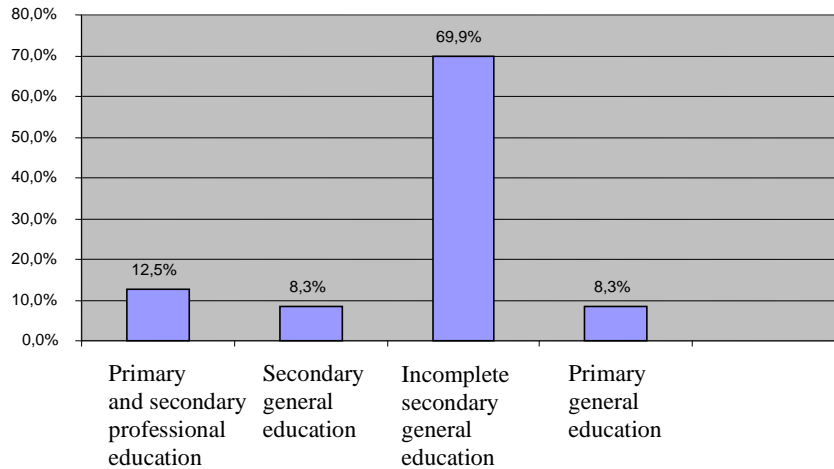


Figure 1. Education level of the surveyed girls (%) (Source: authors).

Distribution of the surveyed girls by their marital status was as follows: 37.5% are in the officially registered marriage, 25% are actually married, and 37.5% have never been married (Figure 2).

Only one third of the surveyed girls (29%) live in a full family, 21.5% live with one of the parents, 24.3% live separately, and 25.2% - with the child's father. It should also be noted that 8.3% of the girls surveyed are orphans.

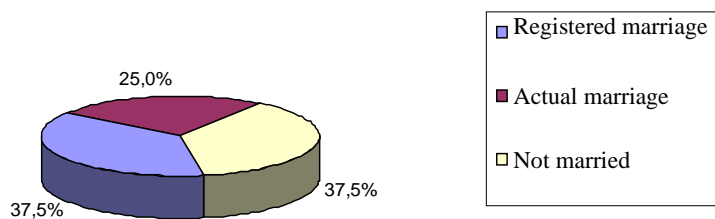


Figure 2. Marital status of pregnant minors (%) (Source: authors).

Only 16% of respondents are the eldest child in the family, 37.5% of respondents are the youngest, and 37.5% are the only child in the family.

Only 8.3% of all interviewed girls answered that they have very good family relationships, 37.5% have good relationships, and 50.2% of the girls have bad relationships, while 4% of the girls defined their family relationships as very bad (Figure 3).

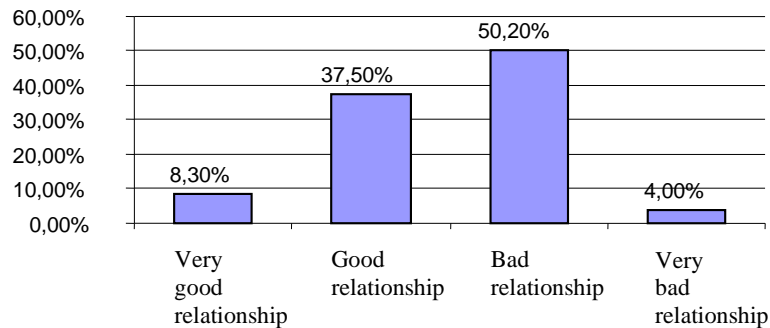


Figure 3. Relationships in the families of pregnant minors (%) (Source: authors)

The vast majority (91,7%) of the girls did not plan their pregnancy, and only 8.3% had the wanted child (Figure 4).

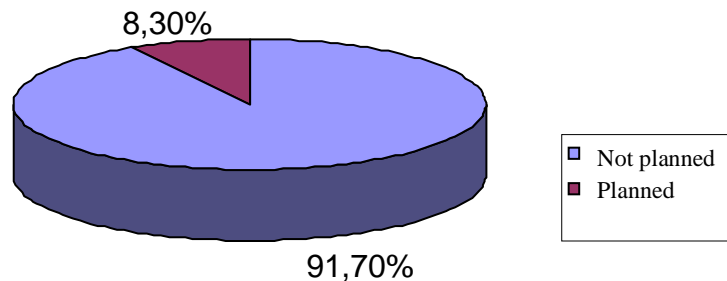


Figure 4. Current pregnancy planning (%) (Source: authors).

As revealed by the survey, 42% of girls wanted to recourse to abortion when they found out about their pregnancy, more than a half (about 67%) experienced fear and anxiety because of their condition, and only 21% of the respondents were happy (Fig. 5).

According to the received data, only 42% of girls told about their pregnancy immediately after they found out, and about 58% of girls were concealing their pregnancies for a period from 1 week to 5-7 months.

The majority of girls (62.5%) first shared the news with the father of the future child, 12.5% did not tell anyone and concealed the pregnancy, and the rest of the girls (25%) first informed their parents.

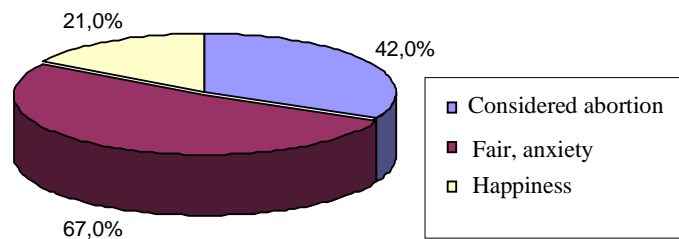


Figure 5. Attitude to the pregnancy (%) (Source: authors).

Early onset of sexual intercourse is the major contributing factor, the average age of sexual debut among the girls surveyed was 13-15 years. At the time of the survey, 8% of the girls already had a second pregnancy, of which 75% had their first pregnancy terminated with an abortion.

CONCLUSIONS.

Based on the obtained data, and analysis of the survey results, a conclusion may be drawn that in Moscow the aspects of social disadvantage among young mothers are similar to that in other

regions of Russia. The main problems faced by young mothers and underage pregnant may be described as follows.

Financial difficulties: most of the girls are actually married or not married at all, which suggests that they are financially dependent on their parents or have no means of subsistence at all, since most of them have been brought up in socially disadvantaged families.

Psychological problems: when a child is born, young mothers are not ready for this psychologically, most of the respondents have not attended the courses for young mothers, and as the talk revealed, they actually have no idea how to take care of, how to develop and communicate with the child.

Medical aspects: the body of a young mother is yet going through changes and it is not mature enough to carry a child, at a young age various complications are more often, primarily due to the immaturity of the body. Another important factor is stress experienced by a pregnant teenager, since the fact of pregnancy itself is stressful for the body, and it is aggravated by the social assessment of the situation (Macleod, 2003, Macvarish, 2010, Murcott, 1980).

It is necessary to specify that in work with young mothers' attention should be given not only to dealing with the existing problems, but also to prevention of this social phenomenon (Schmidt, 2006, Sielert, 2002).

Having studied the literature and statistics on motherhood in minor age, and having reviewed the work experience of social agencies, it was found that attention should be paid not only to resolution of existing problems, but also to prevention of teenage pregnancy as a social phenomenon.

Preventive work consists in the development of a responsible attitude among the youth towards their own health. The second dimension of activity consists in the direct work of specialists with underage pregnant girls and young mothers. Here, the main emphasis should be placed on the development of a correct attitude towards motherhood among girls, teaching them the skills and rules of child care and upbringing.

The effectiveness of social and pedagogical work with young mothers depends on a number of methodological, technological, organizational and pedagogical conditions:

- Coordinated efforts of all the services that at various stages interact with the mother's family, and the search for suitable organizational forms that combine various aspects of interagency cooperation.
- Due regard for the specific features of early motherhood attributable to internal (age-specific and individual) and external (environmental) factors, and the implementation on this basis of a differentiated approach when selecting appropriate methods and forms of pedagogical impact.
- Psychological and socio-pedagogical support for young mothers on the basis of a social organization, the family aid centre, where the efforts of specialists, volunteers, sponsors and members of the public may be concentrated.
- Creation of a favourable social, psychological and non-educational environment conducive to the development of a little mother as a person, accumulation of positive maternal experience, mastery of household skills, communication with peers in a similar life situation, expansion of social contacts, harmonization of the emotional sphere.
- Development and implementation of a system of measures, including a series of specially designed group sessions aimed at developing maternal competence, which are held regularly and alternate with holidays, meetings and individual conversations at the request of young mothers.
- Organizing counseling for young mothers on the issues related to health, education, social security, employment, vocational training, psychological and legal problems and securing the necessary financial assistance.
- Engaging young mothers in joint activities with others through participation in the preparation and holding of state and family holidays, organization of joint summer holidays for the improvement of health of young mothers and babies.

In conclusion, we would like to highlight the apparent importance of the social and pedagogical work of specialists with young people for solving problems related to young motherhood. It is not hard to assume that if we do not pay proper attention to this problem, in the near future, when the children born by minor mothers enter adolescence, and become fertile, more and more young mothers will appear. This situation may have a substantial impact on the economic, demographic and intellectual potential of the society, as well as on the status of this particular category of the population.

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