

Mobile Arts for Peace (MAP)
Policy Brief: parental support for children in Osh (Kyrgyzstan)
- DRAFT -

Information about the project

The Foundation for Tolerance International (FTI), together with the University of Lincoln (UK), is implementing the MAP project to work with school youth. The project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Council (AHRC) and Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) in the UK.

The project aims to strengthen peace by teaching youth positive skills to express their own ideas and to promote their stronger engagement in community life through the use of innovative arts-based methods. The main objective of the project is to empower young people to promote intergenerational dialogue between youth and adults for peacebuilding. To achieve this goal, the project seeks to support youth to express their feelings and personal experiences through various types of art including theatre, video, painting, music, and dance.

Brief information about the authors

This draft was prepared by members of the young researchers' club at Secondary School No 27 (Osh oblast). In January 2021, young researchers conducted a study among their peers regarding the social issues that affect young people. Together with their peers, they prioritized the problem of lack of parental attention, understanding, and support for children. To convey the voice of their peers, students did a theatrical performance that drew on the forum theatre methodology. The piece sought to open a dialogue on the causes, consequences and potential solutions with decision-makers, the school administration and parents.

Lack of parental attention, understanding and support

Situation

In January 2021, schoolchildren of Secondary School No. 27 in Osh conducted a study among their peers regarding the problems that affect young people. The young people identified parental lack of attention, understanding and support as a pressing issue for youth of the Manas-Ata community. Many parents are busy earning a living and often miss the opportunity to pay attention to their children. Emotional neglect of parents for their child is considered a type of abuse. They are not interested in the needs and interests of their children, as a result, the child receives emotional damage, becoming passive, dependent on other people's opinions and will not develop special interests, initiatives and aspirations.

According to young people, parents sometimes impose their opinions, and young people need their parents to listen and participate in their lives. There are parents who do not take the interests of children seriously and there are times when they push them away when they come to their parents with their stories. Many parents underestimate the importance of communicating with children in the educational process.

'Every young person has the ability to do something in his own way, to realize his plans, goals and dreams. It is necessary and important for parents to give such an opportunity to their children, because only as a result of their own desires and aspirations, their own goals and efforts, they can fully develop personally. Pupil of Secondary School No. 27

Young people feel happier if they feel warmth, attention and help from the family.

Causes

- Parents' lack of understanding of the age characteristics of their children and lack of knowledge how to support them in a difficult situation
- Child abuse
- Parents do not always understand how important it is to pay enough attention to their children
- Lack of communication skills of parents
- Lack of a dialogue between parents and children
- Rooting of the idea that only the material support of the child matters, that the main thing is money, and everything else is secondary
- Lack of trust between parents and children

Consequences/Risks

- Lack of self-confidence in young people
- Inferiority complex
- Dependence of young people on other people's opinions
- Suicide
- Children are left with their own problems
- The appearance of negative traits such as aggressiveness
- Involvement in violent groups

Conclusions

Parental understanding and support of their children contribute to the development of a sense of security, confidence, and peace of mind. However, many parents do not pay attention to their children, are not interested in successes, achievements. They do not feel affection, care, or love. This attitude of parents depresses children, they are left alone with their own problems. This harms the development of their potential abilities.

Recommendations

Local self-government bodies

- Organization of information and explanatory meetings among parents with the involvement of a psychologist about the negative consequences of the lack of parental support.

Educational institutions

- Develop a program for family education in the development of the child
- Strengthen work to improve the psychological and pedagogical skills of parents
- Organize trainings for parents on the topic (e.g. Family education in Child Development)

Social and preventive centers

- Hold information meetings on the topic 'Parental support' for parents
- Carry out activities to strengthen the relationship between parents and young people