

THE ROLE OF THE FATHER IN THE FAMILY IN RAISING A SON AS A PATRIOT

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Abstract. The article analyzes the father's influence and duties in raising sons in a spirit of patriotism. Family upbringing is examined as the initial foundation of patriotic feeling, and the father's personal example along with the mechanisms for transmitting military-patriotic traditions are discussed. Recommendations are given on ways to strengthen the institution of fatherhood in modern families.

Keywords: patriotic education, family, father, son, national value, personal example, military-patriotic upbringing.

Love for the homeland and readiness to defend it do not form in a person's heart in a single day — they are the result of a long and complex educational process. The first stage of this process begins in the family, at the time when the child's consciousness is only beginning to take shape. Among family members, the father holds a special place, since it is precisely the father who serves as a son's example of masculinity, courage, responsibility, and loyalty to the homeland. Under conditions of today's globalization, at a time when the information environment exerts a strong influence on children's consciousness, providing a scientific basis for the father's educational role and strengthening it in practice is of considerable social and pedagogical significance.

The psychological basis of patriotic education stems from the child's need to imitate authoritative figures in his immediate environment. For a son, such a figure is, first and foremost, his father. Through his own conduct, words, and convictions, a father instills in his child a sense of diligence, honesty, and awareness of duty toward society and the homeland. Practice shows that children who grow up in a close, trusting relationship with their father develop a considerably more stable sense of social responsibility and civic position.

One of the important means of transmitting military-patriotic traditions in family upbringing is the recounting of family history and stories about ancestors' combat path and courage. Such stories, told by the father, transform the abstract notion of the "homeland" in the child's mind into a concrete, emotionally close image. Furthermore, a father's attention to sport, physical fitness, and discipline is an important factor in shaping masculine qualities in a son.

Under contemporary conditions, fathers being occupied with work, and educational duties in the family sometimes being placed entirely on the mother, is weakening the institution of fatherhood. This situation may lead to the weak formation of masculinity, responsibility, and independence in sons. For this reason, state and public organizations need to carry out purposeful work to raise fathers' pedagogical literacy and to actively involve them in raising their children.

Cooperation between preschool and school educational institutions and the family, especially events involving the participation of fathers — sports competitions, military-style games, and events dedicated to the memory of ancestors — are considered effective means of strengthening paternal influence.

From the standpoint of military-patriotic education, the experience of fathers who have completed military service or work in the military sphere is of incomparable importance. Such fathers are able to instill in their children, not merely through words but through personal experience, a sense of discipline, physical endurance, and awareness of duty toward the homeland. A father's memories of his period of military service and his respect for his comrades and commanders shape a positive attitude toward the army and the military profession in the child's mind.

Regular communication between father and son, joint physical exercises, trips, and visits to historical sites are also considered practical forms of strengthening patriotic feeling. Through such activities, the child absorbs theoretical knowledge at the level of emotion, so that love for the homeland becomes an inseparable part of his personal system of values.

It should be particularly emphasized that Uzbek folk pedagogy possesses a rich heritage concerning paternal responsibility. As expressed in the folk saying "The father is the pillar of the family," in our national mentality the father is interpreted as the moral support of the family. The educational precepts that great ancestors such as Amir Timur and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur gave their children, aimed at instilling feelings of courage, justice, and loyalty to the homeland, have not lost their significance even today. Applying this spiritual heritage to the practice of modern family upbringing further enriches the national system of patriotic education.

Looking at world experience, many developed countries operate special state programs to support the institution of fatherhood. For example, in some countries social projects called "schools for fathers" organize special training for young fathers on raising children. In Uzbekistan, too, the activation of the mahalla institution and the establishment of public structures such as "councils of fathers" can be regarded as one of the practical ways of enhancing paternal responsibility.

In order to strengthen the institution of fatherhood, we propose the following recommendations: to regularly organize educational events involving fathers at the mahalla level; to introduce advisory-methodological meetings in the form of "father classes" in preschool and general education institutions; to organize meetings between fathers who have completed military service and schoolboys; and to expand social projects in the mass media that highlight paternal responsibility in family upbringing. The comprehensive implementation of these measures will serve to form a stable sense of patriotism in the younger generation.

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