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THE ROLE OF THE MODERN FAMILY IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESSES WITHIN SOCIETY.

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Abstract. The modern family plays a fundamental role in the educational development, socialization, and value formation of children and young people. Although formal educational institutions have become increasingly important in contemporary society, the family remains the first and most influential social environment in which an individual develops attitudes toward learning, communication, responsibility, morality, and social interaction. This article examines the changing role of the modern family in educational processes within society and analyzes the interaction between family education, formal schooling, and broader social influences. The study applies a qualitative analytical approach based on the review and interpretation of theoretical and empirical literature concerning family education, parental involvement, child development, and educational socialization. The analysis indicates that positive parental involvement, effective communication, emotional support, and cooperation between families and educational institutions contribute significantly to children's academic motivation and social development. At the same time, digitalization, changing family structures, parental workload, socioeconomic inequalities, and the increasing influence of social media create new challenges for family-based education.

Keywords: modern family, family education, educational process, parental involvement, socialization, child development, school-family partnership, digitalization, social values, society.

Introduction. Education is one of the fundamental mechanisms through which societies transmit knowledge, values, cultural traditions, social norms, and behavioral patterns from one generation to another. Traditionally, the family has been regarded as the first educational environment of an individual. Before children enter formal educational institutions, they acquire their initial language skills, behavioral patterns, emotional responses, moral concepts, and attitudes toward other people within the family.

The role of the family, however, has changed considerably under the influence of social, economic, technological, and cultural transformations. Contemporary families operate in a rapidly changing social environment characterized by digital communication, increased mobility, changing employment patterns, diverse family structures, and expanding access to information. These changes have created both new opportunities and new challenges for family education.

The modern child does not receive educational influences exclusively from parents and teachers. Digital media, social networks, online communities, entertainment platforms, and peer groups increasingly participate in the formation of children's worldview. Consequently, the educational function of the family has become more complex. Parents are no longer the only source of information

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available to children, but they remain critically important in helping children interpret, evaluate, and use the information they encounter.

Family education can be understood as a continuous process through which parents and other family members influence a child's intellectual, emotional, moral, social, and behavioral development. It includes direct activities such as helping with homework and discussing educational issues, as well as indirect forms of influence, including parental behavior, communication styles, attitudes toward learning, and the emotional climate of the household.

The relationship between the family and educational institutions is particularly important. Schools provide systematic academic instruction, professional pedagogical support, and opportunities for social interaction. Families, in turn, provide emotional security, personal guidance, values, and everyday educational support. When these two environments cooperate effectively, children are more likely to experience consistency in expectations and educational values.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the role of the modern family in educational processes within society, identify major factors influencing family education, and examine the challenges and opportunities associated with contemporary family-school relationships.

The research addresses the following questions:

1. What educational functions does the modern family perform in contemporary society?
2. How does parental involvement influence children's educational development?
3. What factors strengthen or weaken the educational role of the family?
4. How can cooperation between families and educational institutions be improved?

Research methodology. The study employs a qualitative analytical research design. The purpose of this approach is to examine the educational role of the modern family through the synthesis and interpretation of existing theoretical concepts and research findings related to family education, parental involvement, socialization, child development, and school-family cooperation. Rather than focusing on a single educational institution or demographic group, the research considers the family as a social institution functioning within a broader educational environment.

For the purposes of the study, the educational role of the modern family was analyzed according to five major categories:

- intellectual and academic support;
- moral and value education;
- emotional and psychological support;
- socialization and communication;
- digital and media education.

The analysis also considered external factors that influence the effectiveness of family education, including socioeconomic conditions, parental employment, family structure, digital technologies, cultural values, and access to educational resources.

The collected theoretical evidence was interpreted comparatively. Particular attention was given to the relationship between parental involvement and educational development, the transformation of family educational practices under digitalization, and the importance of cooperation between families and schools.

The analytical approach makes it possible to identify both positive tendencies and structural challenges affecting the educational function of contemporary families.

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Results. The analysis demonstrates that the family remains the first and one of the most influential educational environments in a person's life.

Children initially learn through observation and interaction with parents and other family members. They acquire basic communication skills, attitudes toward work, concepts of acceptable and unacceptable behavior, and emotional patterns before they encounter formal educational institutions. One of the most important characteristics of family education is its continuity. School education is organized according to curricula, schedules, and institutional requirements, whereas family education takes place continuously in everyday situations.

For example, children learn responsibility when parents expect them to complete household tasks. They learn communication skills through family conversations. They develop attitudes toward education by observing whether adults value reading, learning, and intellectual development. The analysis indicates that parental involvement can contribute positively to children's academic motivation and educational engagement.

Parental involvement may include:

- monitoring educational progress;
- communicating with teachers;
- creating suitable conditions for study;
- encouraging reading;
- discussing school experiences;
- helping children establish learning routines;
- recognizing educational achievements;
- providing emotional encouragement.

However, effective parental involvement should not be confused with excessive control. When parents provide constant pressure, compare children with others, or focus exclusively on grades, educational motivation may become externally driven. In contrast, supportive involvement encourages children to develop autonomy, curiosity, and responsibility. Therefore, the quality of parental involvement is more important than the amount of parental control.

Emotional support as an educational factor. Education is not limited to the transmission of knowledge. Emotional well-being is also an essential component of successful learning.

A supportive family environment can provide children with:

- emotional security;
- confidence;
- motivation;
- resilience;
- a sense of belonging;
- opportunities for open communication.

Children who feel respected and supported are generally better positioned to cope with academic difficulties and social challenges.

Family communication is therefore an important educational mechanism. Open conversations about school, friendships, difficulties, and personal interests can help parents identify children's needs at an early stage.

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The emotional climate of the family can also influence children's attitudes toward failure. If mistakes are treated as opportunities for learning rather than as reasons for punishment or humiliation, children may develop greater resilience and willingness to attempt challenging tasks.

Children increasingly use smartphones, computers, online learning platforms, video services, social networks, and digital communication tools. These technologies provide access to enormous amounts of educational information.

At the same time, unrestricted digital access can create risks related to:

- excessive screen time;
- inappropriate content;
- cyberbullying;
- misinformation;
- online dependency;
- reduced face-to-face communication;
- privacy and safety problems.

As a result, parents have acquired a new educational responsibility: digital guidance. Effective digital parenting does not necessarily mean banning technology. Rather, it involves helping children develop responsible and critical patterns of digital behavior. Parents should teach children to distinguish reliable information from misinformation, protect personal data, communicate respectfully online, and balance digital activities with physical, social, and educational activities.

Family structure and educational opportunities. Modern societies contain diverse family structures, including two-parent families, single-parent families, extended families, blended families, and families in which grandparents play a significant educational role.

Family structure itself does not automatically determine educational success. More important are the quality of relationships, emotional support, communication, and access to educational resources.

Nevertheless, some families face greater structural challenges. Economic difficulties, parental workload, migration, limited access to educational technologies, or insufficient time for communication may reduce opportunities for direct parental involvement. This finding suggests that educational policy should recognize differences in family circumstances rather than assuming that all families possess identical resources and capacities. One of the most significant results of the analysis is the importance of cooperation between families and educational institutions.

The school and the family have different but complementary educational functions.

Family	**Educational Institution**
Provides emotional support	Provides systematic academic instruction
Develops basic values	Develops academic and professional competencies
Establishes everyday behavioral patterns	Provides structured social interaction
Supports individual development	Provides professional pedagogical guidance
Provides personal guidance	Evaluates educational progress
Creates a home learning environment	Creates an organized learning environment

The most effective educational model is therefore not based on competition between family and school. It is based on partnership. Regular communication between teachers and parents can help identify learning difficulties, behavioral challenges, and individual educational needs.

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Research discussion. The findings demonstrate that the educational role of the modern family is undergoing transformation rather than disappearing. One important change is the diversification of educational influences. In traditional societies, parents and teachers controlled a large proportion of the information available to children. Today, children can independently access enormous quantities of information through digital technologies.

This transformation creates a paradox. Children have greater access to knowledge than ever before, but access to information does not automatically produce knowledge or wisdom. The family therefore remains important not necessarily because it controls information, but because it helps children interpret information and develop criteria for evaluating it.

This observation changes the traditional understanding of parental authority. Modern parents increasingly function as guides, mentors, and partners rather than as the exclusive sources of knowledge. Another important issue is the balance between parental control and child autonomy. Excessive control may restrict children's ability to make decisions and develop independent thinking. At the same time, insufficient parental attention may leave children vulnerable to negative social and digital influences.

The most productive approach is therefore supportive guidance. Parents should establish reasonable boundaries while allowing children increasing levels of independence according to their age and developmental stage. The findings also suggest that socioeconomic conditions must be taken into account when discussing parental involvement.

It is inappropriate to interpret limited parental participation simply as a lack of interest. Parents may face demanding employment schedules, economic difficulties, limited digital access, or other structural barriers. Therefore, educational institutions should develop flexible forms of family engagement, including digital communication, parent consultations, educational workshops, and accessible informational resources.

Another significant issue concerns the changing relationship between family and school. The traditional model often assumes that teachers are responsible for education while parents provide support at home. A more effective contemporary model recognizes shared responsibility. Teachers possess professional pedagogical expertise, while parents possess detailed knowledge of the child's personality, interests, behavior, and family context. Combining these forms of knowledge can create a more comprehensive educational environment.

Conclusion. The modern family remains a fundamental institution in the educational development of individuals and society. Despite the rapid expansion of formal education, digital technologies, and alternative sources of information, the family continues to shape children's values, attitudes, emotional development, communication skills, and approaches to learning.

The analysis demonstrates that effective family education depends primarily on the quality of relationships rather than on parental control alone. Emotional support, positive communication, appropriate guidance, encouragement of autonomy, and consistent behavioral models contribute significantly to children's educational and social development.

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