

Discussion from the Social protection of children in the interdisciplinary approach in Ukraine

BY

Kateryna Ihnatenko, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Lugansk Taras Shevchenko National University, Poltava, Ukraine



Article History

Received: 30/07/2022

Accepted: 03/08/2022

Published: 05/08/2022

Corresponding author:

Kateryna Ihnatenko, PhD

Abstract

The article examines the concept of "social protection" in the context of an interdisciplinary phenomenon. An author has reviewed interdisciplinarity as defining the same problem in different sectoral planes, which seeks to connect these planes and create a qualitatively new one. According to the analysis of theoretical material, the definition of "social protection" has the following philosophy: the state must protect citizens. The article also presents a brief description of the concept in sociological, political science, and legal research. Research analysis has shown that "social protection" is an integral part of the state's policy, responsible for its citizens' welfare, development, and security. The author has analyzed pedagogical and socio-pedagogical research on a specific topic. She identifies social protection as a series of natural processes that depend on many external factors that constitute a protective environment of social, psychological, pedagogical support, and assistance for children. The author concludes that social protection should minimize the negative impact of risk factors, provide social education, various types of social service and support, adapting behavior and emotional state. The study also compares "social security" and "social protection." Ihnatenko K. defines social security" as the activity of public authorities, local governments, public associations, and citizens to create favorable conditions (guarantees) for the lawful and consistent implementation and protection of citizens' rights. The author concludes that social protection aims to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable citizens or citizens in difficult life circumstances or who need social protection from the state and other citizens, including children.

Keywords: Interdisciplinarity; social protection; social security; children's rights; Ukraine's war

Introduction

Regular artillery shelling, gunfire, fields full of ammunition that can explode at any moment, mines, psychological stress, lack of food, unsanitary living conditions, and insufficient charcoal and firewood supplies for winter are all daily problems for families with children in the east of Ukraine. The vulnerability and discrimination significantly increase under crisis conditions, especially during military conflicts. The diversity of the issues makes it necessary to consider the social protection of children in an integrated approach to interdisciplinary relationships.

Analysis of Recent Studies and Publications A thorough study of domestic and foreign publications provides an understanding of the

current status of protecting children's rights and the government's role in its resolution. Many Scientists survey of a variety of aspects of child protection. The substantive side of the activities of government and non-government organizations in this area is explored by O. Bezpalko, V. Bocharova, L. Volinets, I. Zviereva, A. Kapska, L. Koval, G. Laktionova, L. Mischik, A. Mudrik, V. Orzhehovska, S. Tolstoukhova, I. Trubavina, J. Petrochko. They are descriptions of the world history and practice of social and legal protection of children living in difficult conditions. The study of the current system of protection of children's rights at the different levels and the activities of international and government organizations in this field are devoted to the works of I.

Kovchynina, A. Mudrik, A. Zinchenko, Y. Gapon, I. Smolyuk. Scientists such as O. Karaman, N. Krasnova, S. Kharchenko, T. Vasilkova, O. Holostova, Z. Kiyaniysya, L. Petyushkova, M. Kravchenko, I. Zvereva. Problems of protecting children's rights in the conditions of military conflict are present in the works L. Volinets, O. Kochemirovska, I. Shchebetun, T. Mikhailina, and other researchers.

The article's objective is to examine the notion of social protection of children in the field of political disciplines and to determine the necessity of interaction between practitioners to protect children during the military conflict in Ukraine.

Definition of interdisciplinarity

We analyzed the scientific works published in the open access and published on Google Scholar in the research context. It was conducted in Ukrainian and English. From the content posted in the system, we selected the publications with these keywords: social care, child protection, social work social protection, Ukrainian legislation on social care, interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary team, social work, social security, child protection, community's social worker. An analysis of the abstracts of the surveyed and publicly available publications allowed us to select potentially essential works by the scope and objectives of the research.

The subject of our research leads to the search for a complete answer used to an interdisciplinary approach. The relevance and presence of different points of view to the concept of "interdisciplinarity" prompted us to consider the "social protection" phenomenon from three points of view. It is around them that we will conduct our research and make conventions about the stability of the social protection system of children in the conditions of military conflict.

Firstly, the concept of "interdisciplinarity," from our point of view, includes knowledge integration. Interdisciplinarity is a suggestion and intertwining of approaches and methods of different sciences (disciplines), intending to understand, find out and describe what becomes accessible within the limits of a particular science using the tools of other sciences (occupations). Secondly, interdisciplinarity connects sciences (disciplines) with their methods and tools. So, it is a constant reference to the Theory and practice of related spheres. The third position defines interdisciplinarity as a simple arrangement of methods and tools from other sciences (disciplines) and the latter's integration at the level of constructing interdisciplinary objects and subjects, the evaluation of which allows obtaining new scientific knowledge. Considering these points of view can be concluded that interdisciplinarity considers the same problem in different spheres, allowing combining these spheres and creating an entirely new, comprehensive idea about the investigated subject. We are focused on interdisciplinary research to achieve a complete understanding of the problem of child protection as a particular system and an integrated approach to study. Lysi says interdisciplinarity is universality and the completeness of knowledge of the problem.

All those mentioned above allow us to formulate the general will to formulate the concept of "interdisciplinarity," which is extensive but more applicable to the current situation of children's protection in the conditions of military conflict in Donbas. In this case, her functional understanding requires the contact, interpenetration, and synergy of different sciences (disciplines) involving the development of integrative processes, growing interaction, enrichment of methods, and tools for obtaining new scientific knowledge. The interdisciplinary nature of research reflects the general trend of modern science, strengthening of integrative processes, mutual influence, and penetration of different branches of knowledge in understanding the phenomenon of social protection of children.

Therefore, let us proceed to examine the social protection of children from the perspective of integrated branches of science. The concept of social protection began to be paid attention to in the XIX century. Psychology, pedagogy, sociology, political science, and other scientific disciplines have accumulated a varied and significant amount of theoretical and practical material that requires philosophical consolidation and conceptual understanding. The scientific disciplines studying the phenomenon of social protection deepens and broadens the knowledge of this complex and multidimensional phenomenon. The social and pedagogical interpretation requires exploring different understandings.

Our analysis of the scientific literature allowed us to identify a few of the most critical areas of scientific research for our study. Social research leads to the formation of scientific understanding and perception of social protection as a phenomenon of the synergy of various sciences, disciplines, and practical activities.

Since ancient times philosophers have searched for a sense of life and a place of power for a member of society. Thus, in his treatise "Polity," the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle considers the ideal state, which meets Aristotle's ideas about justice and, in his opinion, helps people achieve welfare. One of the tasks of the state is to protect, do good, and be. At the same time, the German philosopher Immanuel Kant believed that in the residual outcome, people should strive to achieve a general human society based on the rule of law, the members of which will give the greatest freedom, combined, however, with the complete freedom of others. Based on the principles of the social contract and people's sovereignty, the subordination of power, the state is intended to guarantee a stable rule of law, ensure the rule of law, individual freedom, and the rule of law. Hegel views a relationship between people and the state in two aspects: the connection within the state and the relationship within the community. Each person's activity in society is often carried out in the form of confrontation and struggle of conflicting interests. Civil society occupies the sphere of individual interests; only the state is the guarantor of human rights and freedoms and the harmonious development of society as a whole. Social protection is a function of the state. Social power is a reliable achievement of humanism and the progress of civilizational development of society. Every citizen and every social group must recognize the goal and the means of implementation. A person with state-guaranteed rights and freedoms is at the center of all decisions.

Among the sociologists, M. Weber ranked high with the definition of "social action" as a form or a way of solving the social problems of society. M. Weber believed that social institutions (state, religion, law, etc.) are a group of people who fulfill certain social functions necessary for the common cause, including the protective role. The philosopher and sociologist Auguste Comte used two categories to clarify the essence of power - order and progress. Order as stability of society and progress as a peaceful and progressive process of improving and developing community. And since the development of the human spirit is the basis and the reason for the development of society, the very moral qualities are the determining factors of social progress.

Social protection in context of emergency situation, that include military activities, from point of Humanitarian Law

Our article presents the analysis of political science sources that connect with our aim, particularly the work of Svitlana Vovk. She is indicative of the military conflict as the use of means and methods prohibited under international legal norms, which cause excessive ruination and have an unconvincing effect. The principle of protection of the civilian population had violated by the opposing parties during the war. The civilian population or civilian objects had been attacking since the start of work.

Social protection is an integral part of the state's policy, responsible for its citizens' well-being, development, and safety. This factor in the efficiency of which depends on the civilizational development of any society. The term "social protection of the population" in law and jurisprudence entered the legal sphere of "leisure" in the mid-twentieth century, used in international legal acts and foreign legal practice. The emergence of this concept and its active use is explained by cardinal changes in social policy in many countries after the Second World War. The governments of many European countries put at the forefront of the urgent and important tasks of domestic policy the need to systematize the various institutions of the social sphere. Social protection is one of the most controversial issues of social security law. It has been studied at different times by such scientists as V. Andreyev, N. Bolotina, J. Gorbachova, L. Zabellin, M. Zakharov, V. Shaykhatdinov, etc. The origin of the term "social protection" is widely believed to be related to the adoption of the U.S. Social Security act in 1935, which legally defined the institution of mandatory insurance against the risk of old age, death, invalidity, and unemployment new for this country. Its creator, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, called the new legislation "the touchstone in a system that is going on now, but is by no means complete" [16]. However, there are other points of view on the origin of this concept. As Guy Perrin notes, even though this term has been used in the United States, the concept of the social protection system was incorporated in the New Zealand legislation of 1938 (Sirota, I., 2004). N. Bolotina asserts that the priority here belongs to Russia, which on June 31, 1918, approved the Statute on workers' social security (Bolotina, N., 2005). It is possible to assert that in the 30s p.p. XX century, "social security" has become a general term. The term "security" is used herein the sense of "safety", "defense", "protection", "security", "guarantee" [15]. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck played a key role in this

process. Germans today have medical insurance, insurance against accidents at work, and pensions.

Social protection in the legal approach associated with the development of the concept of human rights led to the division of children's rights and their defense into separate categories. The beginning of international legal regulation in protecting children's rights considers the creation in 1923 of the International Union for the Protection of Children. At that time, the children's rights are viewed primarily in measures taken against slavery, child labor, and child trafficking. The Union drafted the first international act - the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (or the Geneva Declaration), which adopted by the First Assembly of the League of Nations in 1924 thanks to the efforts of Eglantine Jebb, the first child rights activist. Since child labor in the form of the exploitation of children in production without regard to their physical condition was widespread, the Declaration prohibited primitive child labor. In general, the Geneva Declaration consists of nine basic principles:

1. The child shall have provided all the necessary services for their regular material and spiritual development.
2. A hungry child will have provided for; a sick child must receive aid; a child who has made a mistake must be corrected; a shelter and care must have supplied for an orphan or a homeless child.
3. The child must be the first to receive aid in times of distress.
4. The child must have child care and protection in all forms of exploitation.
5. The child will have been educated in the knowledge and will have directed toward the good of others.

This definition was used by the U.N. Convention on the Child's Rights as an international treaty on children, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Association for Social Welfare (MACO), and others. International law and political science define "social protection" by the European Council and the European Union standards. Social protection as a unique social institution is in the process of development. The first most authoritative document in the field of protection of children's rights can be considered the General Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, which states that the enjoyment of fundamental human rights is not dependent on age; emphasizes the need for special protection of motherhood and childhood (article 2.2.1).

From the point of view of economics, social protection is related to social security. Thus, V. Shaykhatdinov describes the concept of "social protection" as covers the activities of the state and local self-government bodies, community organizations for the creation of a favorable economic environment for citizens, material assistance in maternity, service to parents in difficult living conditions, protection of the health of the citizens. Occupational training of the population, ensuring employment of the people, labor protection, regulation of wages and income of the people, provision of housing to the citizens, regulation of the property rights of the citizens, material services and support for the unemployed, and other people in need of social aid. Social

protection is a practical activity to implement social policy's main legislative and economic directions [16]. O. Machulska and J. Gorbachova distinguish social protection broadly and narrowly. Thus, under social protection, in the broad sense, we understand the activity of the state aimed at ensuring the process of formation and development of a complete person, identifying and neutralizing negative factors that affect the person, at creating the conditions for self-recognition and approval in life. In a high sense, social protection considers in the context of the totality of legally enshrined economic and legal guarantees that ensure citizens' most critical social rights and achieve a socially acceptable standard of living (O. Machulskaya, J. Gorbacheva, 1998). From the point of view of I. Syroty, the term "social protection" refers to the state's functions and means a set of measures of material support for the most vulnerable and most protected citizens [12]. Law researcher O. Chutcheva indicates that social protection, as an autonomous legal institution, consists of a separate group of legal norms that regulate social relations, which characterize the desire of society to protect its members from the threat of impossibility of satisfying the needs recognized as essential to ensure the stable development of society [15]. It has been noted that such speculation about the term "social protection" is caused, first, by a certain novelty of this category for the national economic science and practice, and second, by the relevance of the issues related to the presence of poverty and needy categories.

Implementation: Pedagogical and Social concept of social child protection

Analysis of the concept of "social protection" in pedagogical, researchers identified social protection as a low legal process that depends on many external factors that make up the protective environment for children. Children's social status to characterized by the complete absence of any civil rights. They distinguish these periods in the attitude toward children. The ancient time: the father and mother was the absolute owner of the child; the education of children was training; children educate as future warriors, power figures, and sages. Middle Ages (500-1500 years): Children have economic value and contribute to the family's income; children have no choice but to follow their parents' professions. Period of the Age of Genesis (1500-1750 years): Children are born into sin and must become better (1500-1600 years); change educational methods from severe physical punishments (this tradition back to ancient Greece) to humane ones that protect children's rights, and encourage adults to dialogue with them. Since the 18th century, children giving a special status: children of all ages can read and write, and childhood is the transition period to the future. Enlightenment and Romanticism (1750-1850): every child has the right to be a child; children are the future; the guilds and monks begin to nurture children. Industrial Revolution (1850-1950): many children work in factories; children have no rights, only duties. Informatization and globalization (1950 to the present): children are fully empowered citizens; children's rights are recognized worldwide. As you can see, it took many thousands of years before people became aware of the specific needs of children and the need to provide them with additional assistance and support.

In conclusion, the family is the first core of the protective environment. In the family, a child acquires necessary skills and receives support in life situations (Holostova, 2010). A. Mudrik has actively developed the problem of Socialization in the social and pedagogical science of the last years. Socialization is a two-way process that includes, on the one hand, an individual's acquisition of social experience by entering the social environment, a system of social ties. On the other hand, the process of active creation of the system of social relations of an individual through functional activity and active involvement in the social environment. A person becomes a full member of society, being not only a subject but also a subject of Socialization. Social protection as a process includes saving the diversity of people's needs. Social workers have had main approaches to protect children's rights and interests: using support and social patronage of the family, which focus activities on developing family forms of education. The children's rights are not only a possibility to maintain and dispose of material, cultural and social benefits, enjoy fundamental freedoms within limits established by law. It ensures the child's full functioning, but as state-guaranteed abilities to meet the needs that enable them to develop by their age and individual characteristics. It has been informed that consumers, as a substantive core and intrinsic desire, determine the strength and validity of the law. Thus, from the point of view of social pedagogy, the basis of guaranteeing the child's rights is identifying her needs; without satisfying them, the Socialization of the child's personality can't be effectivities. (Petrochko, J., 2011) She continued the analysis of several domestic types of research in a social and educational activity. The social and pedagogical training she considers assistance in positive Socialization of the person, particularly in the integration of the child into society, aid in her development, education, and professional self-identification. Autor O. Bezpalko considers the process of socio-pedagogical activity from similar positions. Bezpalko interprets it as "activity aimed at creating favorable conditions for socialization, all-round development of a person, the satisfaction of his/her social and cultural needs or renewal of socially determined ways of people's activity" (Bezpalko, 2007).

From the point of view of social pedagogy, the social protection of children is determined by their problems and needs, the fulfillment of which requires:

- Integration of educational influences on the child in a general educational establishment;
- Forming children's personal self-esteem, life plans, and implementation of vocational guidance;
- Detection of violations of children's rights and their protection; correcting the child's behavior;
- Visiting the child in the home and studying the conditions of their life, education, and development;
- Legal education about children's rights and the social environment in the children are cared for;
- Creation of requirements for the preservation and strengthening of the physical, mental, moral, and social health of children;
- Formation and development of moral qualities, socially significant orientations, and attitudes;

- To prevent the negative socializing influence of the micro-society on the child's development;
- Creation of favorable conditions for the development of their abilities and capabilities;
- Provide the social, psychological, and pedagogical support and assistance, implementing a system of preventive and rehabilitative measures to optimize the child's social adaptation process.

The results of socio-pedagogical research show that social protection has focused on minimizing the negative impact of risk factors. They are also implementing social education, providing various types of social assistance and support, adapting behavior and the psycho-motional state of such children, and establishing their relations with the social community. The goal of social protection of children is to solve their problems and ensure the possibility of overall development, successful adaptation, and Socialization. The high level of organization of the educational process and social and pedagogical activity creating appropriate conditions for children's physical, mental and social development guarantees social protection.

The need for child protection becomes especially acute during humanitarian disasters. The levels of the protective environment, which have multiplicative components, are disrupted or become fragmented in situations of an unprecedented and global nature. It requires the assistance of social work practitioners to different categories of the population for renewal of their ability to socially function and protection of citizens' rights. The social protection of children during emergencies has based on the provisions of international law, which regulate the state's obligations to its citizens and other persons located on the territory of that state.

As we wrote earlier in our article "Social Protection of Children in the Activities of State Organizations in Ukraine," social protection identified the priority needs and expectations for assistance from civil society. The task of state and non-state organizations is to identify trends and patterns, trends and gaps in the system of assisting the affected population in the conflict zone (both at the national and local levels). As we mentioned earlier, local authorities must have broad powers and sufficient resources to resolve all local issues and be responsible for them. Also of great importance for the social protection of children are community initiatives and the involvement of the population in solving the problems of the territorial community (Ihnatenko, 2021).

Conclusion

The analysis of interdisciplinary research allows us to conclude that social protection is a more specific concept that is reduced to the practical work of all branches of power to implement the rights and freedoms of citizens, that is, social work. Nowadays, Ukrainians are more assertive in demanding the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution of Ukraine. The citizens of Ukraine in the conflict zone expect government facilities where victims provide free medical aid, an exact algorithm for obtaining the right to a pension, and its guaranteed provision. Thus, social protection measures are aimed not only at meeting the basic needs of the most socially vulnerable categories of people or those who find

themselves in difficult living conditions or require social protection from the state but also at other categories of people, including children.

Research Prospects.

The prospect of further investigations in this area is to analyze the activity of non-state organizations in the field of child protection in the conditions of the military conflict on the territory of Ukraine.

References

1. Adams, R. (2008). Empowerment, participation, and social work (4th ed). Palgrave MacMillan.
2. Bezpalko, O. V., Klishevych, N. A., Pavliuk, R. O., & Liakh, T. L. (2017). Research-Based Training: Methodological Characteristics and Results of the Analysis of Educational Programs. *Social Sciences*, 6 (4), 152. Retrieved from <http://elibrary.kubg.edu.ua/id/eprint/22259> DOI: [10.1111/chso.12609](https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12609)
3. Bolotina, N. (2005). The right of social protection: formation and development in Ukraine. Kyiv.
4. Convention on the rights of the child. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>.
5. Ihnatenko, K. (2021) The Social protection of children in the activities of state organizations in eastern Ukraine]. *Social work and education*. Vol. 8 No. 3 (2021). DOI: [10.25128/2520-6230.21.3.2](https://doi.org/10.25128/2520-6230.21.3.2)
6. Kaps'ka, A. (2011) Social pedagogy. Textbook. Kyiv: ID: 1258297 <http://irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/ASUA/1258297>
7. Kholostova, E. (Ed.) (2015) Theory of social work. Moscow. [in Russian].
8. Klimenko, A. L. (2017). [Social security of citizens of Ukraine: the current state and perspectives of improvement](https://doi.org/10.25128/2520-6230.21.3.2) Proceedings of the 1st. International Symposium on Intellectual Economics, Management, and Education. <https://univd.edu.ua/science-issue/scientist/231>
9. Lysyi, I. (2011) Interdisciplinarity in the Humanities: Metadiscipline or Methodology? *Hamanitarno-naukove znannya: stanovlennya paradyhmy. Materialy mizhnarodnoyi naukovoyi konferentsiyi 7-8 zhovtnya 2011 r. Chernivtsi: Chernivets'kyy natsional'nyy universytet*. [in Ukrainian] P. 36-44 Retrieved from URL <http://www.philosophy.chnu.edu.ua/>
10. Mattocks, N. O. (2018). Social action among social work practitioners: Examining the micro-macro divide. *Social Work*, 63(1), 7-16. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swx057>
11. Melnyk, N., Pavlyuk, A., Petrov, M., & Glushko, O. (2019) Armed conflict in eastern Ukraine: damage to civilian housing. Retrieved from

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/report_on_damage_to_housing_of_the_civilian_population_in_the_eastern_ukraine_ukr.pdf

12. Pylypenko, P. D. (Ed.) (2012) The law of social security of Ukraine: Textbook. Kyiv.
13. Shaykhatdinov, V. S. (2015) Social security law: a textbook for academic undergraduate studies. Moscow.
14. Teeroovengadum, V., Kamalanabham, T.J., Seebaluck, A.K. (2016). Measuring service quality in higher education. *Quality Assurance in Education*, 24, Iss.2, 244-258. DOI: 10.1108/QAE-06-2014-0028.
15. Trebin, M. P. (2011). *Sociology*. Textbook. Kharkiv.
16. Yaroshovets, V. I, Bychko, I. V., & Bugrov, V. A. (2002) *History of Philosophy*: Textbook.
17. Zvereva, I. D. (2008) *Social pedagogy: a small encyclopedia*. [ISBN 978-966-667-281-3](https://doi.org/10.1108/ISBN-978-966-667-281-3)