

Summary

Comparative approach to family education and parent's support programmes

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The present day image of a family differs from the traditional image that included a married couple and children as the core of the family, and other close and remote relatives. Changes in the society necessarily reflect on the family. The family follows all social changes and transformations, changing itself, as well as its own role in the society. Parents perform the educational and socialisation function in the family, which requires them to adapt to various obligations and needs that accompany the contemporary family and parenthood. Due to increasing requirements and difficulties parents are facing, there has also emerged a need for various forms of support, help, counselling and education of parents. This could help parents feel pleased, confident and successful in their parental role.

In developed Western countries there are a large number of parent-oriented educational and support programmes to be found. These programmes are so well developed that every parent can find a suitable programme that offers the knowledge, advice, support or skills they need or that would help them feel competent in their parental role. In this country the concept of parent education and support is still in early stages of development, and the question of parent education is expected to be given wider social relevance and to be accepted as part of various national strategies aimed at family and child welfare.

This paper shows available educational and support programmes for parents, types of programmes offered, professionals who organise and run such programmes, the ways in which the programmes are delivered and the situation in the Republic of Croatia in relation to such programmes.

Keywords: contemporary family, parents, parental role, parent education, parent support, counselling.