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# THE RESULTS OF A FIELD STUDY ON THE EVALUATION OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISSTANCE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN RETURNED FROM THE MILITARY ZONES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF STATE REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS

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## **ANNOTATION**

Armed forces in Syria between the government and ISIS illegal paramilitary groups attempting to create a new Islamic state, thanks to the successful dissemination of their radical extremist ideologies among the communities and people who are professionals of Islam, have led to active recruitment as well as joining to their ranks of individuals who have expressed a desire to help their viewpoints. Recruitment and involvement in military teams, although prevailing among men, has also not left aside women as well as children, who are also target groups for the implementation of long-term military strategies of ISIS. Women and children, in most cases, are family members of men who joined ISIS.

KEY WORDS: ISIS, victims, re-integration, integration, repatriated persons, G. Shmishek and K. Leonhard's test-questionnaire.

## INTRODUCTION

Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan also got involved in the processes of participation in paramilitary forces on the territory of Syria, besides, exact data on the number of men, women and children who went to the military zone are not available in the public domain. Mass casualties among men during military operations have caused a humanitarian crisis among women as well as children who have lost their bread winner and are unable to autonomously supply with their minimum necessities of life [1].

From 2019 to 2021, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, at the initiative of the President of the country, five special operations were implemented to return women and children from the zones of armed forces, thereby helping the call of the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the importance of assisting governments in resolving the humanitarian crisis in Syria and Iraq. As part of the Mehr-1 operations [2] (2019), 156 women and children were returned; "Mehr-2" [3] (2019) - 64 children, of which 39 are boys and 24 are girls; "Mehr-3" (2020) - 25 women and 73 children; "Mehr-4" (2021) - 24 compatriots, involving 19 children; "Mehr-5" (2021) - 24 women and 69 children.

Unlike other countries that have also returned their citizens from the zones of armed forces, Uzbekistan has implemented an approach focused on the reintegration of repatriated persons through the restoration as well as strengthening of family ties (mainly biological), which should supply not only rehabilitation, but also assistance in re-socialization women and children in the community.

Conventionally, the process of entire reintegration consisted of three stages, the first of which consisted in the provision of urgent crisis (medical and psychological assistance) to returnees for one month in specially prepared places (boarding houses) with the participation of specialists of different profiles. In parallel, work was carried out with family members who expressed their readiness to accept women and children.



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The second stage can be depicted as the stage of integration into biological/adoptive families where the repatriated people were to live in the future. At this stage, measures were taken to return the repatriated people to the legal atmosphere, namely the restoration of documents as well as access to state social services. The duration of this stage was more than 6 months.

Additionally, the third stage is the further reintegration of repatriated people through training in professional skills as well as employment, education and long-term medical care (for persons with disabilities). The consideration of this survey is precisely the second (partially) and third stage of work with repatriated people, since the first stage was successfully implemented because of the short-term goals as well as objectives, particularly the participation of highly qualified specialists. The issue caused by the need for this survey is that service providers at the level of assistance have not had prior training in working with this target group, and, accordingly, find it difficult to plan and provide high-quality comprehensive long-term assistance that allows repatriated individuals to restore social ties, and decision makers to assess the success of programs for the reintegration of women and children into society.

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this survey is to collect and analyze successful practices and difficulties/barriers in the process of reintegration of women and children returned from the zones of armed forces in Syria and Iraq so as to improve universal methodological recommendations for all social service providers involved in the process of reintegration of repatriated individuals in society.

## THE RESEARCHERS HAD THE FOLLOWING TASKS

- > Overall overview of the situation related to the processes of providing assistance to repatriated individuals.
- > Collection of information in the context of areas in which repatriated individuals interact or accept public services.
- To study the trends taking place in work with repatriated individuals in order to make recommendations to decision makers in order to review, amend and add to programs / roadmaps in work with this target group.
  - > Drawing up a socio-demographic portrait of a team of repatriates.
  - > Studies of neuropsychological, emotional and other adaptation processes.
  - ➤ Measure expert opinions for further development of approaches.

According to the plan of research as well as analytical work, a psychological study was conducted aimed at studying the level of intellectual, psycho-emotional, social and adaptive development of women and children who returned from the zones of military operations to Uzbekistan. Based upon a representative sample, 193 repatriates were studied (including 3 (2 husbands, 1 wives) persons replacing parental functions), of which 47 families of repatriates and 3 families with guardianship, or guardianship by court decision, of which 32 (including 1 family of guardians) with Namangan and 18 (2 families of guardians) from Surkhandarya, 49 - female representatives and 1 representative male guardian, among children the total number is 143, of which 70 are girls and 73 are boys, by age structure differentiation from 0-4 years among girls is 9 and boys 13, from 5-18 years among girls 61 and boys 60.

Adaptation of children is one of the most significant and urgent problems of child psychology, which solves it together with pedagogy, psycho-hygiene, biology, sociology.

The process of adaptation is the moment when a child becomes a subject of social activity. This is mainly because in the course of adaptation the child acquires orientation in the system of behavior, which for a long time determines the further share of its improvement. Also in the course of this process, the main ways of interacting with a certain level of socio-psychological cohesion are formed. Relationships with the social institutions of society are a strong means of attracting the child's personality to new social functions, cultures, along with norms of behavior that are characteristic of the new environment.

According to regional variation among children, the following structure is observed: in Namangan, the total number of children is 84, of which 42 are girls and 42 are boys, according to the age category from 0-4 years old among 7 girls and 10 boys, from 5-18 years old among 35 girls and boys 32. In Surkhandarya, the total number of children is 59, of which 26 are girls as well as 28 are boys, according to the age category from 0-4 years old among girls 2 and boys 3, from 5-18 years old among girls 26 and boys 28.



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## "Individual psychological characteristics of repatriates" Description of the technique

The test - the questionnaire of G.Shmishek, K. Leonhard is wished for diagnosing the type of personality accentuation, published by G.Shmishek in 1970 and is a modification of the "Methodology for studying personality accentuations of K. Leonhard". The technique is intended for diagnosing accentuations of character as well as temperament. According to K. Leonhard, accentuation is the "sharpening" of some individual properties inherent in each person.

Character accentuation is an excessive expression of individual character traits and their combinations, representing an extreme version of the mental norm. In some people, some character traits are so pointed (accentuated) that under certain circumstances this leads to the same type of conflicts and nervous breakdowns. When character is accentuated, a person becomes vulnerable not to any (as in psycho-pathy), but only to certain traumatic influences addressed to the so-called "place of least resistance" of this type of character whilst remaining resistance to others. Accentuations can turn into each other under the impact of different factors, among which an important role is played by the characteristics of education, social environment, professional activities, and physical health.

Empirical data analysis: Analysis of the results of the study of repatriates according to the Shmishek method showed that the majority of respondents have difficulties in controlling emotions and maintaining emotional stability.

Separate character traits of repatriates become significantly pronounced, more accentuated, as a consequence of which a significant vulnerability to some psychogenic influences is manifested, while excellent resistance to others is shown.

To date, the study of character accentuations is the most complex social, psychological and medical problem. Many repatriates have abnormal manifestations of character, this is expressed in their behavior in society, in interaction with others, is reflected in work activities, etc.

Therefore, the data in the table make it possible to identify the main dominant indicators, according to the nature of accentuation, they are distributed between such types as "Emotive" 16 respondents and "Affective-exalted", 17 respondents, which shows that repatriates of the "Emotive" type have a weak nervous system, which affects more acutely in response to situations where someone is in danger, scenes of violence cause them strong shocks, which are not forgotten for a long time and can lead to a violation of the psychoemotional state. A poorly developed self-control system leads to an inability to get rid of negative emotions in time, accumulating them leads to reactive depression or suicidal thoughts, which increase the chance of suicide. Whereas people with the Affectively Exalted type are often prone to argument, they have a habit of not bringing things to open conflicts. In conflict conditions, there are both active and passive parties. They are attached to friends as well as relatives, altruistic, have a sense of compassion, good taste, show brightness and sincerity of feelings. They can be alarmists, subject to momentary moods, impulsive, easily move from a state of delight to a state of sadness, and have mental illness.

Under the impact of unfavorable conditions, character accentuation can lead to changes in the behavior of repatriates, as well as to pathological disorders. To mitigate unfavorable conditions and maintain repatriates in a state of harmony, a long-term as well as complex work of a psychologist together with other specialists is needed.

## DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Depending on the micro-society in which the repatriate is located, on social conditions, on the state of his mental health, the period of formation of the "I-concept" ends either with a stable positive I-concept, which is characterized by a positive attitude to oneself, self-esteem, self-acceptance, a sense of one's own value, or, the formation of a negative I-concept, a negative attitude towards oneself, rejection of oneself.

The presence of pronounced typological character traits importantly aggravates the process of personality formation, the development of mental processes, affects the level of self-esteem, as well as the level of upbringing and behavior of the repatriate. Relationships with others suffer. Possible psycho-emotional manifestations affect the psychosomatic state of the individual.



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At the present stage, psychologists dealing with problems in this area argue that psychopathic features in a not pronounced form are characteristic of almost all people. The sharper the individuality is expressed, the more characteristic it is, and the accentuated features are expressed in it, this is confirmed by the relationship between character accentuation and genius.

It should be noted that a pronounced character accentuation is an extreme degree of the norm and, under the influence of adverse conditions, can lead to pathological disorders and alterations in personality behavior, due to psycho-pathy.

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