
ІСТОРІЯ

UDC 94 (479.24)

DOI <https://doi.org/10.24919/2308-4863/61-1-1>**Raida AMIRBAYOVA,***orcid.org/0000-0001-5036-8696**Lecturer at the Department of Social Sciences and Psychology**Baku State University**PHD student**Azerbaijan University**(Baku, Azerbaijan) r.amirbayova@gmail.com*

THE HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF PARENTAL CARE IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN (1991–2015)

This article analyzes the measures implemented for development of residential institutions in 1991-2015 for children deprived of parental care. The history of formation of a system of normative-legal framework are analyzed within the study.

This period opens a new era in the field of cooperation between state and non-governmental organizations in the field of protection of children rights. In the framework of this research, the author conducts a detailed analysis of the results of cooperation between government and Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the field of social protection of children deprived from parental care and explores the degree of effectiveness and efficiency of common efforts to strengthen and develop the activities of children institutions. The article argues that the involvement of the non-governmental organizations to the social sphere and joint activities in the process of development of the child care institutions gave an impetus not only to the extending and improving of the activities of child care institutions, but also to the solution of a number of social issues.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation is the key non-governmental organization involved in the field of social protection of children deprived from parental care. The Foundation, established in 2004, has played a significant role in the history of the development and functioning of child care institutions. From the very beginning of its activities, the Fund started to implement programs and initiatives in the field of reconstruction of orphanages and boarding schools and in solving of social problems of children living in these institutions.

The involvement of the non-governmental sector to the social sphere and joint activities in the field of development of children institutions for children gave an impetus not only to the expansion and improvement of the services but also to the solution of social problems of children in residential care.

Key words: *independence, children policy, legislation, state programs, child institutions, non-governmental sector.*

Раїда АМІРБЕКОВА,*orcid.org/0000-0001-5036-8696**викладач кафедри соціальних наук та психології**Бакинського Державного Університету**дисертант**Університет Азербайджану**(Баку, Азербайджан) r.amirbayova@gmail.com*

ІСТОРІЯ РОЗВИТКУ ДИТЯЧИХ УСТАНОВ ДЛЯ ДІТЕЙ, ПОЗБАВЛЕНИХ БАТЬКІВСЬКОЇ ОПІКИ В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКІЙ РЕСПУБЛІЦІ (1991–2015 РР.)

У цій статті аналізуються заходи, реалізовані з розвитку дитячих установ для дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування у 1991–2015 роках. В рамках наукової тези досліджено історію формування та зміцнення системи нормативно-правової бази із соціального захисту дітей, позбавленої батьківського піклування.

Цей період відкриває нову епоху у сфері співробітництва державних та неурядових організацій у сфері захисту прав дітей. У цьому дослідженні автором проводиться докладний аналіз результатів співпраці державного та неурядового сектору на прикладі Фонду Гейдара Алієва у питаннях соціального захисту дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування, та ступеня ефективності та результативності спільних зусиль щодо зміцнення та розвитку діяльності установ для дітей, що входять до цієї категорії.

Ключовою неурядовою організацією, в рамках якої здійснювалася діяльність із соціального захисту дітей, позбавлених батьківського піклування, став Фонд Гейдара Алієва. Фонд, створений у 2004 році, відіграв значну роль в історії розвитку та функціонування дитячих закладів. З самого початку своєї діяльності Фонд реалізує численні програми та проекти з реконструкції дитячих установ та вирішення соціальних проблем дітей, що проживають у них.

Залучення неурядового сектора у соціальну сферу та спільна робота з розвитку інститутів дали поштовх як розширенню і поліпшенню діяльності дитячих установ, а й вирішенню низки соціальних питань.

***Ключові слова:** незалежність, дитяча політика, законодавство, державні програми, дитячі установи, неурядовий сектор.*

Introduction. The Republic of Azerbaijan has achieved state independence in a very complex socio-political and military situation. Nevertheless, the protection of the rights of children, and especially children deprived of parental care, was a priority issue for the state in investigated period.

Over these years, the national legislation and normative-legal acts have been adopted, important steps have been undertaken in the direction of development of child-care institutions, expansion of activities, improvement of conditions, and the relevant measures have been undertaken to improve the professional knowledge of specialists working in such institutions.

Also, along this period, important initiatives are being carried out to attract the public, including non-governmental organizations, in the field of protection of children's rights and to establish and strengthen the coordination work on joint activities of the state and non-governmental sector in this area.

The purpose of this study is to investigate which initiatives focused on development of children institutions can have a positive impact on welfare of children in residential care and also to estimate country-level numbers and percentages of children living in institutional care in appropriate years. Within the article the dynamic of changes in numbers of childcare institutions and children is observed and compared.

Within the article the dynamic of changes in numbers of childcare institutions and children is observed and compared.

Research analysis. The involvement of the non-governmental organizations to the social sphere and joint activities in the process of development of children institutions gave an impetus not only to the extension and improvement of the activities of child care institutions, but also to the solution of a number of social issues.

During the investigated period, major repair and reconstruction works were carried out in a number of child institutions, initiatives were implemented to improve and strengthen their activities and functions. Process of building and maintaining cooperation of both state and non-governmental organizations in this field is one of the main features of this period. In this context, the activities of the Heydar Aliyev Founda-

tion should be emphasized. Significant work has been done by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the field of development of children's institutions for children deprived of parental care.

In the years of independence repair and reconstruction activities were carried out in 31 children's institutions, those institutions were provided with new equipment, appropriate libraries and services for organization of leisure-time activities had been improved. Also, daycare services were established in all the redesigned institutions.

A huge number of institutions had been reconstructed and redesigned both by government and by the initiatives of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The policy carried out in the direction of protection of the rights of children deprived of parental care during the years of independence, formation of normative-legal basic, sustainable reforms in this field laid the foundation for the successful and future development of state social protection system for children deprived of parental care. The laws adopted at that time, the implemented state programs and educational measures have given impetus to the formation of a new way of thinking and elimination of existing stereotypes in the field.

Statement of the problem. Children institutions have a significant impact on social and emotional development of children deprived of parental care. In the first years of independence the Republic of Azerbaijan faces with socio-political and military situation.

The field of protection of children rights becomes a priority sphere for the government in independent Azerbaijan. The republic joins main international documents, the government takes steps in foundation of the system of national legislation in the field of social protection of children.

The development of children institutions mostly built in the 1960–1970 years becomes one of the main directions of state child policy of the country.

The early 2000s are characterized by expansion of the state child policy and strengthening of the activities of the non-governmental organizations in the field of protection of children rights in Republic of Azerbaijan.

This period also being analyzed as a period of significant initiatives in the field of building and reconstruction of residential institutions for children deprived of parental care.

Formation of the legislative framework in the field of protection of the rights of children deprived of parental care

It was very important to create a strong legislative framework in the realization of children's policy in the first period of independence. Over the past period, national legislation and normative legal acts have been continuously improved, many documents have been adopted aimed at protecting children's rights, their normal formation and healthy growth.

In 1992, Azerbaijan joined the UN Convention on the rights of the child. This international document was one of the first to be joined by our country. In accordance with the conventions ratified by the state, significant reforms were also carried out in domestic legislation. The protection of children's rights in this national legislation gave impetus to the improvement of work, creation of new mechanisms and the formation of general principles aimed at social protection of children deprived of parental care (Azerbaijan gazeti. 2020, s. 12).

One of the first decisions taken in connection with children deprived of parental care by Cabinet of Ministers in 1994 was related to norms of provision of clothing accessories and soft inventar for children living in boarding schools and child-care institutions.

After the amendments and additions made in 2009 to the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan the Article 17 was renamed as "Family, children and the state", and the sentence "Children deprived of parents or guardians, parental care are under the protection of the state" was added to the paragraph III of mentioned Article.

In order to ensure the protection of children's rights, the Law on "Children's Rights" was adopted on May 19, 1998. This important legal document defines the rights and fundamental freedoms of children, the main principles of state regulation in the field of children policy, defines and regulates the main directions of family, society and child relations.

The law on "Social Protection of Children who Have Lost Parents and do not have Parental Care" adopted on June 22, 1999, was one of the priority normative-legal acts in the field of protection of the rights of children deprived of parental care. According to the Articles 3 and 9 of the law, social protection of children deprived of parental care is provided and protected by the state in accordance with appropriate legislation.

After the adoption of this law, amendments were made to the Law on Education related to children who lost their parents and being deprived of parental care, it was decided to pay the tuition fee at the expense of

the state budget during their education on a paid basis in state, municipal and private higher and secondary specialized educational institutions. According to the Law on Education, if these children enter the university, they have the right to stay in the orphanage until the age of 23.

In 2004, the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted the Law on joining the Hague Convention "On the Protection and Cooperation of Children in Inter-country Adoption".

A special working group was established under the Ministry of Education to ensure the implementation of the Decree No. 1386 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 29, 2006 "On the approval of the State Program for the transfer of children from state children's institutions to families (Deinstitutionalization) and alternative care (2006–2015)", as well as to coordinate the implementation of mutual activities of appropriate state bodies in this field.

In February 2006, the competences of the State Committee on Women Affairs were broadened to address also the issues concerning family and children and it was renamed to the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs. The establishment of 11 regional Child and Family Support Centers was also a very important achievement in strengthening the institutional framework to address the key children's issues and to identify children in need of special care (H. Huseynova, Dövlət uşaq siyasəti uğurla davam edir. 2017 il: s. 8).

In accordance with the "Rule of state control over the implementation of children's rights" approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2012, monitoring of children's nutrition, control, safety, exposure to violence and other issues was carried out in state children institutions.

Activities of state children's institutions for children deprived of parental care within the period 1991–2015

In 1991–2015 according to the types of activities, the state child institutions were classified as follows:

1. Nurseries;
2. Children's homes;
3. Special boarding schools for children with disabilities;
4. Social service facilities for children with disabilities;
4. General education boarding schools, boarding schools for children who have lost their parents or deprived of parental care.

During 1991–2015, the total number of children who lost their parents and were deprived of parental care in boarding schools has dynamically changed. Thus, according to Table 1, in 1991 the number of children in nurseries who lost their parents and

Table 1

	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Number of nurseries of which: <i>Number of children, person including number of orphans</i>	4 241 150	4 166 96	4 197 107	4 156 59	4 143 43
Number of children's homes <i>Number of children in them</i>	5 397	4 395	6 684	6 734	6 513
Number of special boarding schools for children with limited health <i>Number of children in them, person</i>	16 2811	13 1607	13 2679	12 2915	11 2537
General educational of boarding schools, <i>Number of children in them</i>	50 19400	38 15239	38 17638	39 18664	22 6395
Of which number of boarding schools for orphans and children deprived of parental care <i>Number of children in them</i>	2 505	2 548	2 554	2 480	2 398

were deprived of parental care was 150, in 2011 the figure decreased 3 times and reached 43. In 1991, the number of children in general education boarding schools was 19400, and in 2011 – 6395. In 1991, the number of children brought up in boarding schools for children who lost their parents and were deprived of parental care decreased by 505, and in 2011 – by 398 (Azərbaycanda uşaqlar. Bakı: 2016, pp. 75–76).

It should be noted that the big part of these boarding schools began to operate widely from the 60s of the XX century.

During the investigated period, major repair and reconstruction works were carried out in a number of child institutions, initiatives were implemented to improve and strengthen their activities and functions. Process of building and maintaining cooperation of both state and non-governmental organizations in this field is one of the main features of this period. In this context, the activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation should be emphasized. Significant work has been done by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the field of development of children's institutions for children deprived of parental care.

The working group in cooperation with the national experts of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) carried out the assessment of 55 state children's institutions in investigated period.

The results of the assessment were analyzed according to international criteria and appropriate proposals had been prepared and added to the General Plan focused on transformation of state children's institutions.

At the beginnings of 2006 the General Plan for the transformation of state child institutions was approved by the government and sent to the ministries of Education, Health, Finance, Labor and Social Protection of Population for further implementation (E. Suleymanova, Specialized Report on Children's rights, Baku, 2010, p. 29).

Despite the creation of an alternative care system in the country, this system was not able to cover all regions and cities of the country. In view of all this, a Working group was established with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in order to ensure that children living and being placed in boarding institutions live in institutions with appropriate conditions, and this Working group conducted monitoring activities to investigate existing problems in children institutions and boarding schools operating in the country. During the monitoring following aspects are being examined: accommodation, medical services, nutrition, clothing, treatment and material conditions.

In the years of independence repair and reconstruction activities were carried out in 31 children's institutions, those institutions were provided with new equipment, appropriate libraries and services for organization of leisure-time activities had been improved. Also, daycare services were established in all the redesigned institutions.

One of the first orphanages in Baku was secondary boarding school No. 1. This boarding school located in Mashtagha settlement started its activity in 1963. In investigated period the school has 2 bedroom facilities, 1 academic building, canteen, gym, assembly hall and library.

Social Service Institution No. 2 for children with disabilities started its activity in 1974 as "Saray Boarding House No. 7 for children with disabilities". By the decision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 25, 2015, the name of the institution was changed to social service institution for children with limited health of the State Social Security Service under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan. During the studied period children with mental and physical disabilities who were not enrolled in education were admitted to the institution. Most of the children placed

here were abandoned children and children deprived of parental care. The institution with 2-storied administrative and 4-storied accommodation buildings was redesigned in 2010 by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and was provided with high-end inventory and equipment.

Sanatorium-type boarding school No. 8 located in Baku is one of the institutions redesigned within the framework of the program on “Development of children’s homes and boarding schools” of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The school has been operating since 1962. In 2010 the school was reconstructed by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The sanatorium – type boarding school with a general area of two hectares after the reconstruction consisted of 4-storied accommodation building, 2-storied administrative building, cuisine, laundry sports building and canteen. There was also a gym, a library, a medical room, and a briefing hall for 160 people. A stadium with a capacity of 200 spectators has been built in the school yard.

Sanatorium-type boarding school No. 10 has been operating since 1961. The institution was reconstructed by government in 2005. In investigated period after the reconstruction work the boarding school consisted of educational, dormitory and recreation-training buildings. In the first decades of the XXI century, physics, chemistry, biology laboratories, technology rooms and classrooms provided with modern equipment were operating in the educational building of the boarding school. An assembly hall for 320 people, a gym and a 320-seat canteen were built during the reconstruction works. About 100 pedagogical staff were engaged to the activities of the institution.

Auxiliary boarding school No. 11 began its activities in 1961 and operated under the subordination of the District Education Department. In the 2007–2008 academic year, the boarding school was renamed to special boarding school No. 11 (R. Rumzadə, Uşaq hüquqları hamı üçün, p. 29). In the 2009–2010 academic year a day-care center for children aged 3–6 and

a Rehabilitation Center were established within the boarding school. In 2014, by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the name of the boarding school was changed to Integrated training boarding school No. 11. In 2014, the number of children studying in boarding school was 1254, 981 of them were enrolled in general education classes, 173 in special education classes, and 100 of them were 3-6-year-old children trained in the daycare center. The territory of the boarding school was more than 3 hectares and consisted of 6 buildings, in which a 196-seat canteen, an auxiliary building (laundry, bath, farm room, warehouse, and etc.) and a 3-storey sleeping building started to function after the reconstruction activities. The boarding school was renovated twice in 2005 and in 2015 by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. As a result of reconstruction the school was provided with new subject rooms (chemistry, physics, biology, and etc.) and all necessary modern equipment. Here, conditions were created for learning wood carving, sewing and weaving, as well as various arts (cain, ceramics, pottery, mazayka carpet weaving).

Another institution for children deprived of parental care is a special boarding school No. 2, intended for children with impaired health conditions. Operating since 1962 in Shuvalan settlement of Baku, special boarding school No. 2 was reconstructed by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in 2013, the three-storied study building was rebuilt, up-to-date classrooms, computer rooms, a library, aviation knowledge, painting rooms, carpet-making room, chess rooms were founded and provided with furniture and necessary equipment. New canteen for 200 children, a physician’s, injection and medical rooms are functioning at the school. 20 sleeping rooms, 2 TV rooms each for 60 people, and an assembly hall for 120 persons started to function in education establishment. As a result of the reconstruction, the school consists of 4 buildings, 3 open pitches and 1 close sports hall.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. B. Muradova, Uşaqların layiqli vətəndaş kimi formalaşması prioritet istiqamətdir, Azerbaijan gazet, 2020, s. 12.
2. H. Huseynova, Dövlət uşaq siyasəti uğurla davam edir, Səs qəzeti, 2017 il, s. 8.
3. Azərbaycanca Uşaq. Statistik məcmuə. Bakı: 2022, s. 75–76.
4. E.Suleymanova, Specialized Report on Children’s rights, Baku, 2010, p.29
5. R.Rumzadə, Uşaq hüquqları hamı üçün, Bakı, 2009, s. 29.

REFERENCES

1. B. Muradova, Uşaqların layiqli vətəndaş kimi formalaşması prioritet istiqamətdir [Helping a child to become a responsible person is a priority issue]. Azerbaijan gazet. Baku, 2020. P. 12 [in Azerbaijani]
2. H.Huseynova, Dövlət uşaq siyasəti uğurla davam edir [Successful implementation of state child policy]. Səs qəzeti. Baku, 2017, p. 8 [in Azerbaijani]
3. Azərbaycanda uşaq hüquqları [Children in Azerbaijan], statistik məcmuə [statistical yearbook]. Bakı, 2022. pp. 75–76 [in Azerbaijani]
4. E.Suleymanova, Specialized Report on Children’s rights. Baku, 2010. P. 29.
5. R. Rumzadə, Uşaq hüquqları hamı üçün [Children rights for everyone]. Baku, 2009. P. 29 [in Azerbaijani]