

AUTHOR'S INFORMATION

Tkachenko Oleksandr

Doctor of Psychology, Associate Professor

Leading Specialist of the Veteran Development Center

of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

Kyiv, Ukraine

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7586-0027>

E-mail: altkachenko2@gmail.com

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RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL-PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN SERVICEMEN

Tokaruk Liudmyla, Nikolaenko Viktoriia

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Abstract

Relevance. The relevance of the research topic determines the directions of social and pedagogical work and is specified in the following tasks: analysis of the regulatory framework of Ukraine; identifying the needs of the selected client group and determination on the effectiveness of procedure for organising social and pedagogical support for families of fallen servicemen for the implementation of the state policy in the field of social protection of the population of Ukraine.

Methodology. Sample. The study involved 125 representatives of families of fallen servicemen (spouses, children, parents, relatives).

Methodes. Analysis of the legal framework and regulatory documents of the empirical study; authors' structured interview with elements of conversation to collect data on the needs of family members of fallen soldiers for socio-pedagogical support on the path of resocialization in such a status

Results. Socio-pedagogical support is a professional activity aimed at a group or microgroup of people who need help or are in difficult life circumstances. The study of the effectiveness of socio-pedagogical support for the families of deceased servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine was conducted at the theoretical, methodological and empirical levels by analyzing the regulatory and legal framework for social protection of families of deceased war veterans, creating a questionnaire based on it to determine their life needs and collecting information about the features of the necessary socio-pedagogical assistance for this contingent of clients.

Conclusions. According to the results of the empirical study, a third of the families of deceased servicemen do not seek help, although they know about its availability.

Keywords: social and pedagogical support, social and legal protection, families of the fallen defenders of Ukraine, specialists in the social sphere.

Relevance

The war continues in Ukraine, and there is no logical end to the hostilities in the near future, according to military experts. In addition to those who have been injured, gone missing without a trace, taken captive, there are also fallen servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (hereinafter - AFU), whose number does not decrease among volunteers and mobilized individuals, but rather increases by dozens

and hundreds daily. Therefore, the tasks of social-pedagogical support for the families of fallen defenders are expanding.

Theoretical background

The State Statistics Service of Ukraine and the General Staff of the AFU provide information on daily combat losses ranging from 100 to 200 servicemen (Memo to participants of the Russian-Ukrainian war (2022)). Hence the conclusions about the number of families who have lost their husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, and sisters among the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and others. The number of families receiving the status of a family member of a fallen Defender of Ukraine, as defined by the Law of Ukraine "On the status of war veterans, guarantees of their social protection" of 22.10.1993, No. 3551-XII, Art.10, para.1 Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 23.09.2015, No. 740 "On the procedure for granting the status of a family member of a fallen Defender or Defender of Ukraine", namely: dependents of the fallen or missing persons; parents; unmarried spouse/partner; children who do not have and have not had their own families; children who have their own families but have become disabled before reaching the age of majority; children, both of whose parents have died or gone missing (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (1993); Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2015)).

The social-pedagogical, psychological, and legal support of the families of fallen servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is provided by the specialists of Territorial recruitment and social support centers (hereinafter - TRSSC), in the person of a sociologist or psychologist, for the families of fallen soldiers who are in difficult life circumstances; they submit requests to local self-government bodies for the families of deceased soldiers to receive material support, including payments for social programs, or adoption of separate decisions by village, town, city, district, regional councils, territorial communities; protect the interests of persons from the families of fallen servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine at the request or commission for the implementation of the privileges and social guarantees established by the legislation in state bodies, local self-government bodies, medical institutions, organizations and institutions of various forms of ownership; organize leisure activities for the children of fallen soldiers in health and recreation facilities, provide assistance in obtaining travel documents; select, in case of receipt of proposals, distribute applications, representatives of families of fallen soldiers for recreation and socio-psychological rehabilitation; promote the realization of educational, cultural, and religious needs of the families of fallen servicemen; they analyze and systematize informational and reference materials on the implementation of benefits and social guarantees provided by the legislation of Ukraine, including social advertising, contact information in social protection agencies and social services, employment centers, free secondary legal aid, public and charitable organizations



operating in the field of social and legal protection of families of deceased soldiers. They maintain records of family members of deceased servicemen who require enhanced social assistance and support. They study and analyze the results of the activities of public organizations, ensure interaction with such organizations on social and legal protection issues for family members of the fallenm. They organize events (round tables, briefings, seminars, training) to create favorable conditions for the social adaptation of families in solving current social problems of the community and society. They foster family and national-patriotic values within the community. They conduct surveys, questionnaires, and interviews among the families of fallen soldiers to assess their satisfaction with the quality of services provided; they assist representatives of the families of fallen servicemen in processing documents for the appointment of benefits and one-time financial assistance, the discharge from military service of family members of fallen servicemen. They accept documents from the representative of the family of the fallen soldier for the appointment of pensions by the Pension Fund of Ukraine in accordance with the Law, and send them to district RSSC . They explain the legislation on social security and benefits established for the family members of the fallen serviceman. Together with the social welfare authorities and the Pension Fund of Ukraine, they analyze the state of affairs regarding the provision of benefits and the implementation of measures for the social security of families of fallen soldiers, and inform local executive authorities on social issues, and make proposals for improving the social services for the families of fallen servicemen (Organisation of psychosocial assistance to war veterans and their families (2021); Memo to participants of the Russian-Ukrainian war (2022).

The social-pedagogical support of families, children, and youth is regulated by the Law of Ukraine "On Social Work with Families, Children, and Youth" dated 21.08.2001, No. 2558-III, which states that "Social work with families, children, and youth as a professional activity is aimed at preventing, minimizing negative consequences, and overcoming complex life circumstances in families, as well as promoting the realization of life potential in children and youth" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2001).

According to the Order "On Approval of the Regulations on the Psychological Service in the Education System of Ukraine" dated 22.05.2018, No. 509, a social pedagogue, psychologist of an institution or establishment of various forms of ownership, participates in providing assistance to children and families in difficult life circumstances or in need of enhanced pedagogical attention, or those with special educational needs, including victims of violence and military conflicts. They support the interaction between educational institutions, families, and society, as well as their adaptation to the social environment, provide advisory assistance to parents (legal representatives), organize the protection of the rights of education seekers

from any forms of violence, represent their interests in law enforcement and judicial authorities, and promote responsible behavior, a healthy lifestyle, and the preservation of reproductive health among education seekers. They also prevent and counteract conflicts arising during the educational process and prevent and combat domestic violence (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2018).

Therefore, we can assert that a social pedagogue, psychologist at the normative and legal level has great potential in providing families and children of military personnel who have suffered due to armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, with social, pedagogical, psychological, or legal services.

The technologies of social-pedagogical work with the families of military personnel were studied by O. Boyko, L. Hrebin, and N. Levchenko, who noted that during the social support of the families of Ukrainian Armed Forces servicemen, a specialist in the social sphere works in three main directions, acting as:

1. *Advisor* (providing information to the family about the importance and opportunities of mutual interaction and support; giving pedagogical advice on raising children; promoting the formation of a positive social and psychological climate in the family).

2. *Consultant* (providing assistance with legal issues, organizing social interaction, and establishing a positively directed life in the family; informing about methods of raising children who are affected by the death of a parent; informing families in difficult life circumstances about informational, legal, medical, social, and psychological assistance, professional training, provision of recreational services).

3. *Social Advocate* (protecting the rights of the family in case of violation of the legal conditions of personal livelihood) (Boyko, O., Hrebin, L., Levchenko, N. (2018).

At the legislative level, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On the approval of the procedure for conducting a comprehensive review of the social protection system for war veterans and their family members, family members of fallen war veterans, family members of fallen Defenders of Ukraine" dated June 10, 2022, No 663, defines the mechanism for conducting a comprehensive review of the social protection system by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy once every three years. The purpose is to assess the state and readiness of financial, material-technical support, as well as the available capacities for effectively responding to current and projected issues of social protection for war veterans and their family members, family members of fallen war veterans, and family members of fallen Defenders of Ukraine in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On social and legal protection of servicemen and their family members" dated December 20, 1991, No. 2011-XII (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (1991); Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2022).

The analysis of current scientific research and the regulatory framework of Ukraine provides partial information on the content of social-pedagogical support for



the families of fallen Defenders of Ukraine regarding medical, psychological, and informational-legal assistance; the implementation of measures to restore the psycho-emotional state of families; social adaptation and return to active public life in the civilian environment (Mikheeva, O. (2018); Baidyk, V. (2021).

Methodology

During the study of theoretical sources on the provision of competent social and pedagogical support to the families of fallen servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine by social sector specialists, we organized and conducted an empirical study at the first department of the Nizhyn Territorial Recruitment and Social Support Center in Nizhyn, Chernihiv region.

Sample. 125 representatives from the families of fallen servicemen (spouses, children, parents, relatives) participated in the study.

Methods. The empirical research involved diagnostic methods (interviews with elements of conversation) and primary methods (frequency analysis, mean value analysis) to analyze the research results.

The interviews with elements of conversation aimed to determine the level of knowledge and receipt of social and legal information by the families of fallen servicemen, the frequency of appeals to social protection institutions, and separately to social sector specialists. The interviews included 10 questions, allowing the respondents to provide answers that helped determine: Do the families of deceased servicemen possess social and legal information? How often do they appeal to social protection institutions? Do the families of deceased servicemen receive benefits for utilities, financial aid, and quality medical consultations? What benefits do their children receive when attending educational institutions? Do they receive additional free education? Is there social rehabilitation for the children of fallen servicemen in health camps, and under what conditions? What social and pedagogical measures were carried out by community specialists in working with the families and children? Were the families provided with psychological, social-pedagogical assistance if needed? What social advocacy services were offered to the families of fallen servicemen? Are the families of fallen servicemen prepared for the social-pedagogical support of their families?

Results

In response to the question "Do the families of deceased servicemen possess social and legal information?" we can analyze that 67 spouses, 42 children, and 16 parents of fallen servicemen possess social and legal information, including an understanding of the legal framework by 35 of the aforementioned individuals.

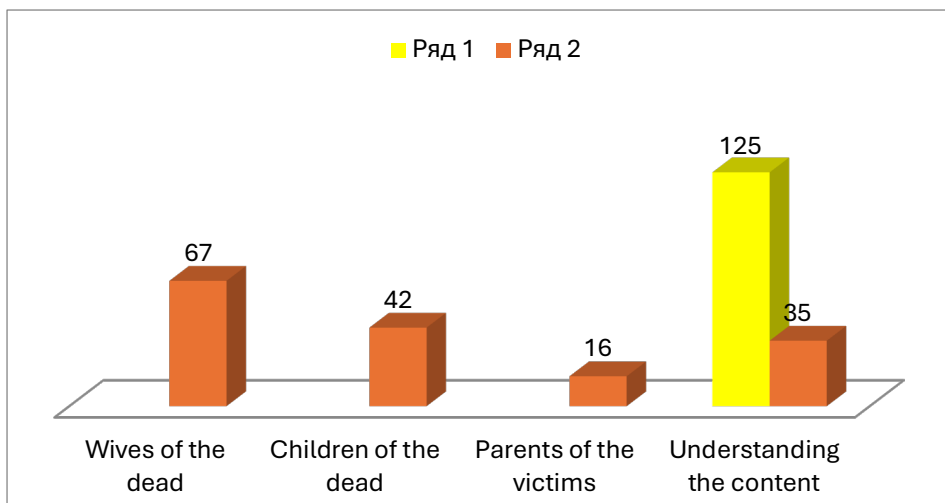


Fig. 1. Results of families of fallen servicemen possessing social and legal information

Therefore, we can conclude that out of the 125 research participants, only 35 individuals thoroughly understand the legal framework and can provide consultations to other families.

In response to the question "How often do you appeal to social protection institutions?", according to the results depicted in Figure 2, 64% of respondents answered that they often appeal, while 36% do not always turn to social protection institutions.

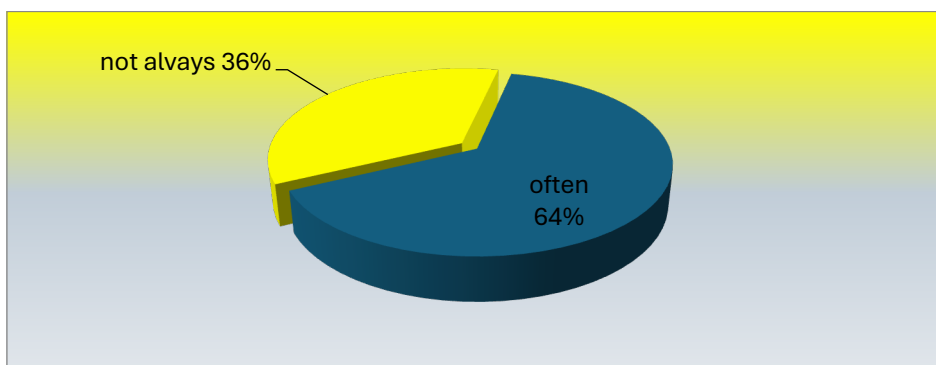


Fig.2. Results of families of fallen servicemen's visits to social protection institutions.



According to the analysis of the number of visits by families of fallen servicemen to social protection institutions, over half of the respondents stated that they frequently seek various types of social services and maintain close contact with the specialists of social protection institutions. However, one-third of the respondents do not frequently visit social service institutions for various reasons (lack of trust, disappointment due to the incompetence of professionals, health conditions, etc.).

To analyze the responses to the question of whether the families of fallen servicemen receive benefits for utilities, financial aid, and quality medical consultations, and whether the social rehabilitation of the children of fallen servicemen takes place in health camps and under what conditions, as well as whether the children receive additional free education, according to the results depicted in Figure 3, it can be noted that 25% of families of fallen servicemen receive benefits for utilities and financial aid, 5% receive quality medical consultations, 20% of the children of fallen servicemen undergo social rehabilitation in health camps, and 25% of children receive additional free education.

Therefore, based on the results of families of fallen servicemen receiving various types of social, pedagogical, and medical services, we can conclude that an equal proportion of families receive benefits for utilities and financial aid from the government, community, and donors. The children of fallen servicemen receive additional free education (clubs, individual lessons with educators, tickets to museums, movies, theaters, exhibitions). A smaller percentage of children undergo social rehabilitation in the country's summer and winter health camps. Unfortunately, a relatively small number of medical facilities offer and provide free services to the families of fallen servicemen

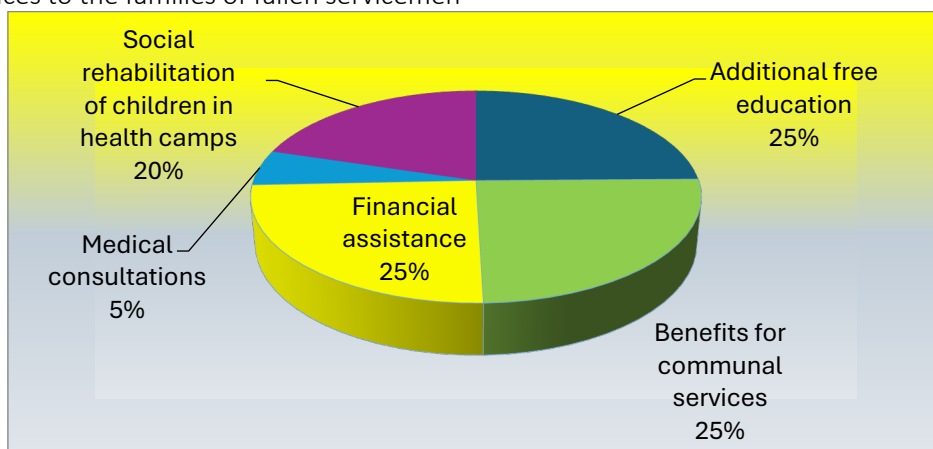


Fig.3. Results of families of fallen servicemen receiving benefits for utilities, financial aid, quality medical consultations, social rehabilitation of children of fallen servicemen in health camps, and additional free education.

Regarding the question, "What social-pedagogical measures were carried out by community specialists in working with families and children?", according to the results depicted in Figure 4, it can be noted that legal advocacy was conducted with 20% of families, diagnostic work with 29% of families, advisory work with 23% of families, counseling sessions were used by 25% of specialists, and observation was undertaken by 3% of social sector employees.

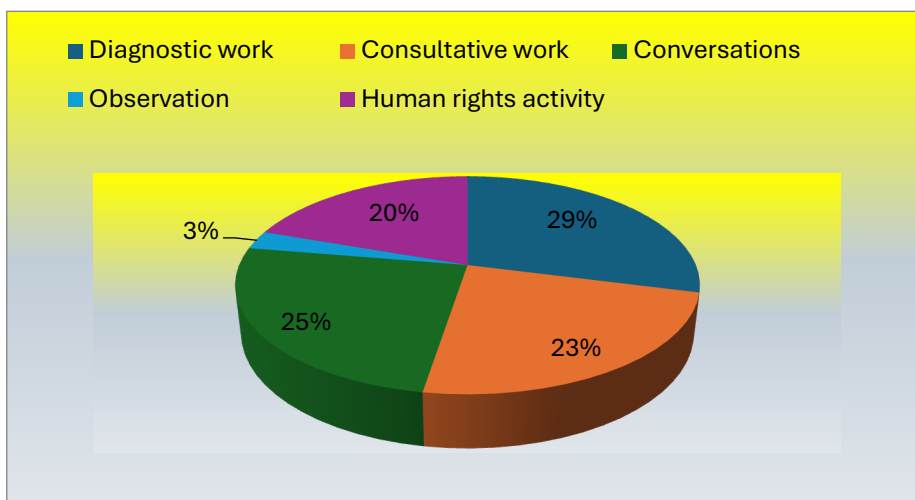


Fig. 4. Results of the social-pedagogical measures carried out by community specialists in working with families and children.

Regarding the analysis of the social-pedagogical measures carried out by community specialists in working with the families and children of fallen servicemen, it can be noted that a small number of families received legal advocacy assistance. Various types of diagnostic work (social, pedagogical, psychological, medical, etc.) were carried out with less than a third of families. A small percentage of families received professional consultations according to their needs. A quarter of specialists employed counseling sessions in their work with families, while a relatively small number of social sector employees engaged in observation.

Regarding the question, "Was psychological or social-pedagogical assistance provided to the family when needed?", based on the results depicted in Figure 5, 40% of families of fallen servicemen expressed a need for psychological or social-pedagogical assistance, while 60% did not express such a need.

Therefore, in determining the need for providing psychological or social-pedagogical assistance to the family of a fallen serviceman, we obtained the result that a third of the families of fallen servicemen expressed a need for psychological or



social-pedagogical assistance, while a large percentage of respondents did not express such a need.

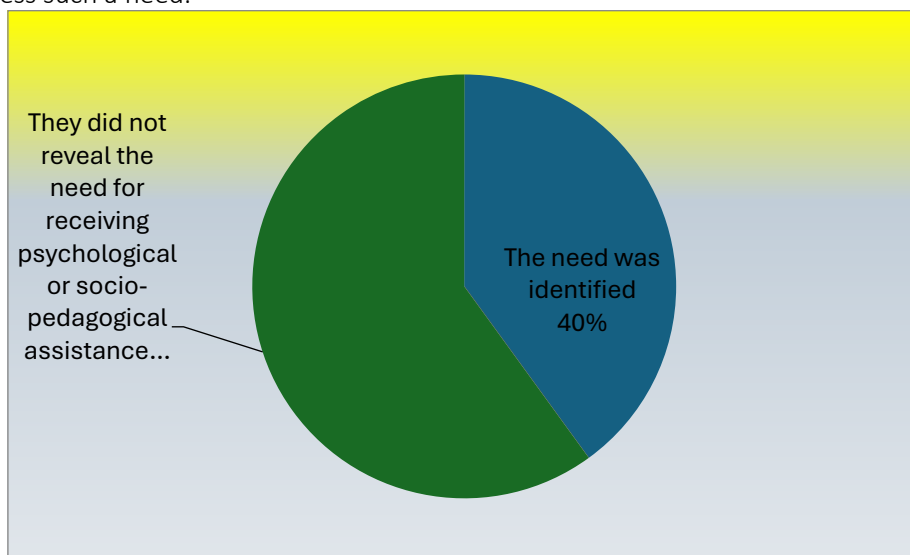


Fig.5. Results of determining the need for providing psychological or social-pedagogical assistance to the family.

Regarding the question, "What social advocacy services were offered to the families of fallen servicemen?" 21% stated that they submitted applications and complaints with the help of specialists, 20% represented the interests in various institutions and organizations, 18% engaged in lobbying the interests of the families of deceased servicemen, 20% of families received consultancy services, and 21% received legal support.

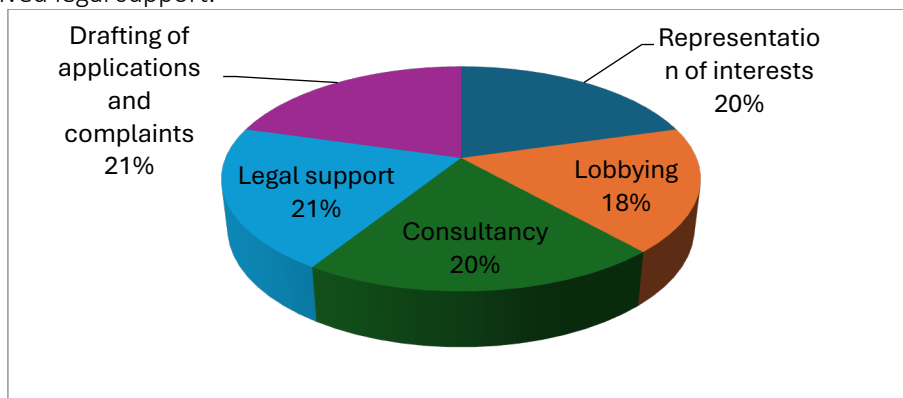


Fig.6. Results of providing social advocacy services to the families of fallen servicemen.

Regarding the results of providing social advocacy services to the families of fallen servicemen, we can note the following indicators: Less than a third of respondents replied that they submitted applications and complaints to various social institutions with the assistance of social and legal sector specialists. A small number of respondents had their interests represented in various institutions and organizations of the country by social sector specialists. A small percentage of families of fallen servicemen engaged in lobbying for their interests. Only a portion of families received various types of counseling and legal support with the assistance of legal sector specialists.

In response to the question, "Are the families of fallenservicemen ready for social-pedagogical support for their families?" 91 individuals are ready for social-pedagogical support, including 53 spouses, 31 children, and 7 parents. 20 individuals found it difficult to answer the question, including 8 spouses, 7 children, and 5 parents who are ready for social-pedagogical support. 14 individuals indicated that they do not require social-pedagogical support, including 6 spouses, 4 children, and 5 parents.

Therefore, based on the identified results of the readiness of the families of fallen servicemen for social-pedagogical support among the 125 individuals, we can assert that the majority of respondents are ready and fully open to social-pedagogical support. Less than a third of the individuals replied that they found it difficult to answer the question as they are not informed about this type of social-pedagogical activity, and only a few individuals indicated that they do not require social-pedagogical support.

Recommendations for organizing psychological, social, and pedagogical support for the families of fallen servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces by social specialists can be given by studying the assessment of the needs of the families they work with, which includes: a map of providing social, psychological, educational, medical, legal, economic, and other services; development of a program to support mental health and social integration; a step-by-step assistance model in organizing psychosocial support services for the families of fallen servicemen; consideration of the needs and interests of the family members of the fallen servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces by age; educational work among the families of the fallen servicemen on self-help methods, information on signs of deterioration of mental and physical health; taking into account the role of family, wife, children, parents, relatives of the fallen servicemen in their own lives (Organisation of psychosocial assistance to war veterans and their families (2021); Tokaruk L., Nikolaenko V. (2024).

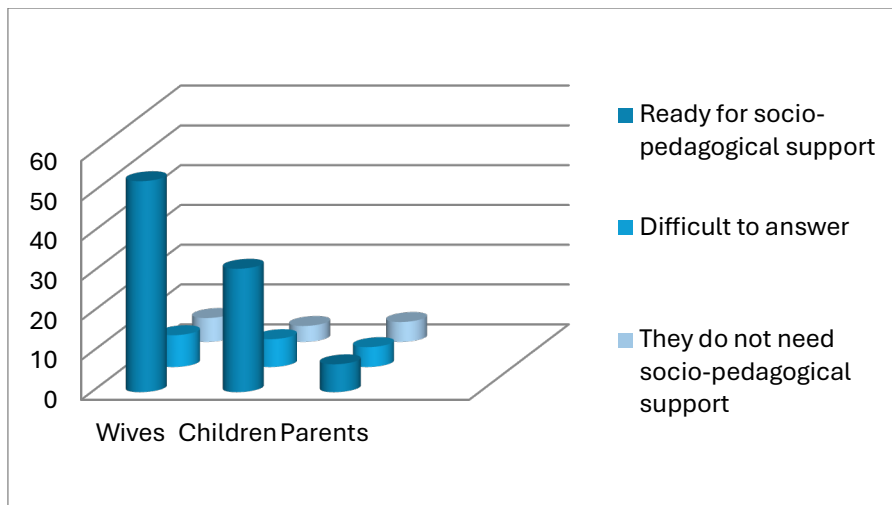


Fig.7. Results of the readiness of the families of fallen servicemen for social-pedagogical support.

Conclusions

The study of the social-pedagogical support for the families of fallen servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine at the theoretical level was conducted through the analysis of the normative and legal framework regarding the social protection of war veterans and their family members, the families of fallen war veterans, as well as scientific sources that reveal the main content of the implementation (collection, receipt, analysis, and systematization of information and reference documents) of the benefits and social guarantees established by legislation in state authorities, local self-government, educational, medical (rehabilitation and recreation) institutions, organizations, and establishments of various forms of ownership by social sector specialists. However, we must also mention the main shortcomings that arise in the process of practical social-pedagogical work with the families of fallen servicemen, namely, it is not always possible for specialists to fully identify individuals from among the families of the fallen who are in difficult life circumstances, require social support, and timely provide social-pedagogical services. According to the results of our empirical study, a third of the families of fallen servicemen do not seek help, despite being informed about its availability.

The prospects of the research lie in the dissemination and utilization of the results of the theoretical and empirical study of the social-pedagogical support for the families of fallen servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in informational scientific, professional sources, and practical events (round tables, briefings,

seminars, training), with the aim of creating favorable conditions for addressing the current social problems of the families of fallen servicemen in Ukraine.

Conflict of interest. The authors are not aware of any conflict of interest in the preparation of this publication.

Disclaimer. The authors declare that their opinions and views expressed in this manuscript are not subject to the influence of any organizations

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AUTHORS INFORMATION

Tokaruk Lyudmila

PhD in Pedagogy, Associate Professor
Associate Professor of the Department
of Social Rehabilitation and Social Pedagogy
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Kyiv, Ukraine

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-7330-406X

E-mail: mila-la@knu.ua

Nikolaeva Viktoria

Master's student of the ONP "Social Pedagogy"
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Kyiv, Ukraine,

ORSID ID: 0009-0000-9802-2117

E-mail: nikviktoria17@gmail.com