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The role of the father in a child's life

It is worth noticing that meeting the emotional needs of the children has a significant influence on their subsequent behavior. The acceptance is also crucial, as it is the basis for the proper development of the child. You can agree with the words of actor Alain Delon, who said that "fatherhood is something unbelievable. Unprecedented, not because something happened: the event was awaited and wanted. This discovery is extraordinary human being, her waking up in the eighth, ninth, tenth month. The child shakes all, and yet everything falls into place (Marizy, Rindoff-Petroff 1992). Contact with a small, defenseless child, which calls for unconditional love and affection helps a man to look at his manhood in new way as "this tiny creature in whom all the friends suddenly find his father's traits, cuddles and unceremoniously clings to the DAD demanding showing affection, not taking even a note of culturally shaped image of the hard man" (Marizy, Rindoff-Petroff 1992). Paternal feelings are much freer than the feelings of the mother, not so intensive and less dependent on the changes in a child's development. It is less probable to report tensions between the father and the toddler. Men become less angry and less offended, as well as they retain a more unequivocal attitude to the child.

Man's organism is not involved in the fatherhood. His body is completely unchanged. The biological balance is not affected. Therefore, a man must somehow accept his fatherhood himself in an act of will. This demands a full consciousness from him. Man must recognize in the unborn child a fully-fledged person, aiming at eternal life. He must also find in this situation his role as a father. This is accomplished by the act of reason, because man has no experience that would make it easier for him. Above all, the man does not feel in his body that he is the father. (Póltawska 1978).

The moment in which a man learns that his child will be born is for him a huge breakthrough, both physically and mentally. A woman at the moment of conception becomes a mother, which is associated with the biological fact of the existence of pregnancy. Whereas in man this fact triggers a number of psychological mechanisms. First of all it stimu-

lates the imagination, evokes memories and dreams. As the pregnancy advances, the emotional bond of mothers and fathers with a child increases. Both women and men have different ideas about their unborn child, but each of them would like their child to become in the future a man of value, contributing to the development of civilization and culture (Bielawska – Batorowicz 2005).

Fatherhood develops on the basis of love between spouses. Relations between a mother and a father largely depends on the quality of the betrothal period and marriage period before their first child conception (Kociołek 1998). The desire of procreation should be a deliberate, serious decision, it should not be an accidental act because, “there is a significant relationship between the love and the fatherhood concept. The affirmation of conjugal love is the guarantee of the mature fatherhood experience. Where there is lack of love, there is an accidental fatherhood, often not willed. It does not engage the man in a sustainable manner.” (Marczewski 1985).

It is a man that causes a woman to become a mother. And the fatherhood is shaped due to woman’s motherhood. However, the fatherhood does not take as much place in the man’s organism as does physical and psychological motherhood of a woman. The woman experiences pregnancy and delivery that are signed In a woman’s nature.. A man can only experience it indirectly through the wisdom and feelings (Wojtyła 1982, Marczewski 1985, Kociołek 1998).

To be a good father, you must first learn how to be a good man. This involves the ability to manage your own live, the responsibility for yourself and others, the ability to devote and make sacrifice. It also requires the ability to have good relations with others and the ability of creative work. False experience of own masculinity is closely linked to the immaturity of fatherhood. The measure of man’s quality is the assessment of his paternity. A child can learn from his father how to be a man only when he himself will have a sense of self-identity. Mature paternity can only be built on mature masculinity (Pulikowski 1998, Augustyn 1999, 2001, Kułaczkowski 2003).

A man has to mature into fatherhood through individual, positive elevation of attitudes, such as the ability of mature love, the attitude of protectiveness towards the weak, the ability to express feelings. Building such attitudes and behaviors requires a great work on yourself: to overcome selfishness, to organize your emotional life. Good experience of betrothal period is significant in the preparation for mature fatherhood.. The foundation of a successful marriage, fatherhood is the emotional and spiritual maturity and personal change of spouses combined with mutual acceptance and study. This is difficult because as noted by P. Kociołek “today’s young married couples are rarely people who are shaped enough to raise children to maturity in the only effective way - through the testimony of their own, well-formed personality and spirituality. Therefore, it requires work and de-

velopment, the effort of both spouses. The modern family gives basis to self-grow in wisdom to a less extend. We must, therefore, look for those bases in the surrounding world - in faith, in the Church, with wise people, in different communities and institutions” (Kociołek 1998).

Statements of the fathers (Exley 2000, Meaney 1999) clearly show that the fact of being a father dramatically changes the life of a man, his approach to the world, people, love. This confirms the psychological concepts, which indicate that the desire to be the father is deeply rooted in the man's nature. As Researches show the true paternity is shaped in a man in the sphere of mental, emotional and moral life only by the presence of a child and his/her mother.

The reality, however, shows that this is not always the case, a large number of men do not realize that a grown man taking sexual act is potentially a father. And the man making the sexual act must always feel a father and be ready to take responsibility for any possible conception. If in the result of a sexual act child is not born, it is only because the woman's body was not ready for it.

According to W. Połtawska fatherhood does not give any experience. The man became a father needs to be informed about the fact of becoming a father. If you he is not interested, he may not know. A woman may not want to tell him about it. Many fathers also react negatively to the fact of fatherhood. Negative reaction is of course the evidence for irresponsibility. Experience of fatherhood is not present, so the man must have a will to be a father, and must regard a child as his own. Paternity is the process of maturing and it matures together with the child. The older the child, the greater is the chance of getting a deeper bond between a child and a father. The child evokes in man a father's heart, in a way forces to tenderness, provokes sensitivity by being helpless, and the sensitivity is an unselfish affection. The Sensitivity does not seize, is not prone to be greedy, but it is an expression of tenderness of heart, is the testimony of good, is a sign of love. Just as the child's mother has a chance to liberate the tenderness and love in her husband, so the child has a chance to liberate the fatherly love, in which he fulfills (Półtawska 1995). Further W. Półtawska rightly proves that every man matures into parenthood. There is no other maturity for a man like being a father, because, of course, fatherhood does not only mean participation in the transfer of biological life, but above all, it means a share in the creative power of God Himself, that bestowing the fatherhood to a man, gives him a part in the creation, formation of a new person - a child under his care (Półtawska 1995).

K. Witczak assumes that to be mature father means to possess the ability to seriously present his previous life, make an effort of self-control and continual vigilance over the growth and development of the child, and not forget about necessity of his own adolescence (Witczak 1987). There are many qualities and attitudes which a father should have,

just to mention love, responsibility, kindness, diligence, honesty, thoughtfulness, patience, sensitivity, kindness, empathy, caring, fairness, dedication, consistency, decisiveness, communication, kindness and sense of humor, the ability of control, understood as a service, acceptance of a child just as he /she, respect for the child, cooperation with children both when playing and performing duties, recognition of the rights of children in the family. My opinion can be best expressed by the words of Cz. Wales "in good fatherhood strikes a balance between the provision and care, authority and withdrawal of competence or power, conduction and service, responsibility for own children and respecting their personal freedom, fidelity to the principles and a democratic way of communicating, the fathers' social struggle for equality in nurturing rights and granting mothers special privileges" (Walesa 2001).

Fatherhood is a special function of man. The task of the father is the altruistic concern for the comprehensive development of family members. The role of man as a father is not limited to fertilization of his wife. A man must be aware of the responsibility for choosing the moment of conception of the child, must respect not only physiology, but also the psyche of his wife. The task of the father is a care for his wife during pregnancy, childbirth and afterwards. Father should be responsible, especially in terms of responsibility for life. The man is particularly called to protect life (Mierzwiński 1986, Urbaniak 2001, Witczak 1987).

Acceptance of fatherhood in a man is also associated with difficulty and taking a variety of tasks. During pregnancy, the man must treat his wife with special care and emphasize his goodness as a husband. It is important that the man should be sensitive and understanding, to be the support for his wife, as it allows the mother-to-be to enjoy your child. It is extremely crucial because as researches show, the lack of involvement of the father in the care of his wife before the birth is an important factor influencing the death of newborns, premature births and postnatal depression. After the birth of a child, the man should help his wife with infant care. It is also important to provide psychological support in the perinatal period, when a woman may experience temporary anxiety and depression (Mierzwiński 1981, Póltawska 2001, Podlach 1986, Jungmarker, Lindgren, Hildingsson 2010, Fagan, Lee 2010).

The task of man is also securing the development of his family members. However, the role of the father can not be limited to money earning. Work should be a source of livelihood of the family, but should serve the family and in no way should be done at the expense of the family, cannot break the unity of the family and its proper functioning. The employment should be a source of peace, stability, family unification.

The presence of the father in a child's life plays very important role. The father is of great importance in social- moral development of child. Positive contacts between the

child and a father have a good influence on his school performance and intellectual development. The father is a role model of a man both for his son and daughter, enables to determine the child his or her gender and role in life (Marczewski 1985, Podlach 1986, Jundził 1993).

The literature refers to three basic functions of the father in the family (Mierzwiński 1999):

- Procreative function - the man must be aware of their responsibility for the conception of the child, respecting not only the physiology and psychology of his wife, but also moral principles. Properly understood, procreative function also implies concern for his wife during pregnancy and childbirth. The continuation of this function is to care for his wife and baby after returning home from the hospital,

- Educational function - is very important and necessary. The father should love his child, should be aware that the most important in education is a personal example, should find time for a child and have interest in its problems, be able to listen, to have honest conversations, try to understand with love but consistently enforce the requirements imposed,

- Maintenance and protection of the family – the work of a man has a major impact not only on the psyche of the man himself, his position in society and attitudes towards society, but primarily for his role in marriage and family. Increasingly, there are families in which the woman earns much more than her husband has a greater social prestige. Such situation can lead to feelings of low self-esteem in a man, his aggressive attitude towards his wife, diminishing of paternal authority in the eyes of his children. Extremely difficult for a man can be a disease, disability or unemployment also preventing him from implementing the functions of the family feeder. Unemployment outrageous male's psyche, undermines his authority as a husband and father of the family, often leads to alcoholism.

J. Augustine rightly notes “that a good emotional contact with his father during childhood and adolescence becomes the foundation for emotional stability and sense of security for the whole subsequent life, both for girls and boys. The girls who had good emotional contact with their fathers have usually much simpler and more natural relations with the opposite sex. Boys having good emotional contact with their fathers, deal with self-esteem, emotional and sexual problems and seeking confirmation of himself at work and actually understood success far more better” (Augustyn 1998). It should be emphasized, however, that not amount of time devoted to the child is important, but also the quality and intensity of those contacts is crucial. The presence of the father is necessary for the proper functioning of the family. However, this presence cannot be passive, limited only

to physical presence. It is significant that the father was actively involved in the process of children's upbringing.

Absence of father in a child's life can lead to a series of negative consequences such as: lack of a self-realization male model, the loss of control over own aggression level, may lead to social maladjustment and crime. Even After establishing own family, absence of the father in a childhood makes it difficult for the man to fulfill the role of father in relation to own children, and he cannot place himself in a husband's role. Lack of father has profound social, cultural, practical and spiritual effects. This causes low self-esteem in children and lack of confidence (Śledzianowski 2000).

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Summary

The role of the father in a child's life

The article analyzes the role which father played in the life of the child. The paper highlights the quality of contacts with the child's father, the emotional involvement that accompanies fatherhood, examines different styles of education.

The author emphasizes in the article that fatherhood grows on the ground of love between spouses that when would you like to be a good father, you must first to be a good man and husband.

The author shows the changes which take place in a man when he become a father. In completion of article are analyzed father's functions in the family.

Keywords: Fatherhood. Educational styles. Emotional involvement. Father's functions in the family.