



## PEDAGOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL CONFLICTS IN THE FAMILY

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**Introduction:** Basically, social conflicts happen in the family when the interests, values, and needs of each family member are not met, understood, and respected, or when the line of family functioning is disrupted either implicitly or visibly. This leads to a break in the relationship between the family members. There are many forms of social conflicts, ranging from a married couple's misunderstanding over how joint savings are spent to serious and repetitive misunderstandings over family rules between parents and children. This can further escalate to emotional and/or physical violence towards the individuals involved. The objective of each conflict is an attempt to gain back what is lost and/or make up for what that individual perceives to be right. Social conflicts in the family can be defined as a conscious, personal struggle between people who are in a close relationship, which may or may not be overtly hostile, that when resolved, changes the relationship in some way. This definition contains several important features.

First, social conflicts in the family are said to be a "conscious, personal struggle". In other words, those involved are aware that they are in a struggle and they are doing so because they believe that the struggle is worth engaging in. This feature differentiates social conflicts from other forms of tension or anger between family members. The second feature of this definition is that the conflict occurs between people who are in a close relationship. This feature is extremely important to our understanding of family conflicts, as it has been shown that conflicts between family members tend to be more emotionally charged than conflicts between friends (Kurdek, 1994). The third and final feature of this definition is that conflicts when resolved, change the relationship in some way. This means that family members engage in conflict not at random, but rather with some goal in mind. Often family members are not aware what this goal is, but it is generally to change an aspect of the other's behavior that is





causing frustration. This goal and the process of conflict itself have implications for the use of conflicts in pedagogy, to act as a model of conflicts to come and then demonstrate a way of resolving said conflicts. This is what makes conflicts in the family a meaningful event, rather than simply a frustrating situation.

### Importance of Addressing Social Conflicts in the Family

The seriousness of social conflicts in the family is often underestimated. This is due in part to an overly narrow definition of what constitutes a social conflict. Most research and intervention in this area is concerned with antisocial behavior and delinquency in young people and has been based on the assumption that there is a linear progression from such behavior to the development of a criminal career. This approach neglects the many other forms of social conflict and ignores the fact that a child's delinquent or antisocial behavior is often a bid to be accepted within a social group, albeit a maladaptive bid if the child feels he or she is not accepted within the family.

Social scientists are of the view that the family is a microcosm of the wider society. Therefore, the social conflicts that exist in the wider society are often played out in the family. Indeed, families who experience a great deal of social conflict often end up reproducing it in future generations. Social conflicts are therefore a hindrance to the harmonious daily life of families and a barrier to the healthy social development of family members, particularly children.

At the heart of this endeavor lies the recognition that the family is a complex social system, where the interplay of power dynamics, communication patterns, and emotional intelligence can either facilitate or hinder the resolution of conflicts. Consequently, the pedagogical approach to addressing social conflicts within the family must be multifaceted, drawing upon the insights and strategies from various disciplines, including psychology, sociology, and education.

One of the fundamental pillars of this pedagogical framework is the emphasis on effective communication. Families must be equipped with the skills to engage in open, honest, and empathetic dialogue, where each member feels heard, understood, and respected. This involves the cultivation of active listening skills, the ability to express one's needs and feelings in a constructive manner, and the willingness to compromise and find mutually acceptable solutions. By fostering these communication competencies, families can navigate the inevitable disagreements and tensions that arise, transforming them into opportunities for growth and strengthening of familial bonds.





Closely linked to the importance of communication is the need for family members to develop emotional intelligence. This encompasses the capacity to recognize, understand, and manage one's own emotions, as well as the ability to empathize with the emotional experiences of others. When family members possess a heightened emotional awareness, they are better equipped to navigate the complex emotional landscape of family life, mitigating the risk of conflicts escalating into destructive patterns of behavior.

Furthermore, the pedagogical approach to eliminating social conflicts in the family must address the issue of power dynamics and the equitable distribution of responsibilities and decision-making authority. By fostering a culture of shared leadership and collaborative problem-solving, families can avoid the pitfalls of power imbalances and the resentment that can arise from perceived unfairness or marginalization. This, in turn, can contribute to a greater sense of ownership and investment in the well-being of the family unit.

In addition to these interpersonal and relational aspects, the pedagogical foundations for the elimination of social conflicts in the family must also incorporate a strong emphasis on conflict resolution strategies. Family members should be equipped with the knowledge and skills to identify the root causes of conflicts, to engage in constructive negotiation and mediation, and to develop mutually acceptable compromises. This can involve the introduction of formal conflict resolution processes, as well as the cultivation of a family culture that embraces the notion of conflict as an opportunity for growth and strengthening of relationships.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the elimination of social conflicts within the family requires a multifaceted pedagogical approach that addresses the complex interplay of interpersonal dynamics, emotional intelligence, power dynamics, conflict resolution strategies, and the broader social and cultural contexts. By equipping families with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources, we can foster a more harmonious and nurturing family environment, where the inherent strengths and resilience of the family unit can be harnessed to overcome the challenges of social conflicts and promote the overall well-being of all its members.

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