



# ISSUES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIO-INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCE OF ADULT STUDENT-YOUTH IN INCOMPLETE FAMILIES IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Musurmonova Shakhlo Ilkhomovna

*Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences (Phd),*

*Senior lecturer at Gulistan State Pedagogical Institute*

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| <b>Received:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2023<br><b>Accepted:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2023<br><b>Published:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 | This article delves into the challenges faced by adult student-youth from incomplete families in higher educational institutions. It discusses the unique obstacles related to emotional instability, financial strain, limited support systems, and the absence of positive role models. The article explores strategies for creating a supportive campus environment, expanding holistic student support services, empowering parental involvement, offering skill development workshops, providing scholarship and employment opportunities, and advocating for policy changes to enhance the socio-intellectual competence of these students. |

**Keywords:** Incomplete families, adult student-youth, higher education, socio-intellectual competence, challenges, supportive campus environment, skill development, parental involvement, policy advocacy, references.

**INTRODUCTION.** The higher education landscape is diverse, encompassing students from various backgrounds and family structures. One often-overlooked demographic is adult student-youth hailing from incomplete families, where familial structures are non-traditional or unconventional. This article delves into the challenges faced by these students in their pursuit of socio-intellectual competence within higher educational institutions.

Incomplete families, also known as non-traditional families, comprise single-parent households, blended families, families with absent parents, or those where legal guardians take on parental roles. These diverse family structures can significantly influence the experiences and development of adult student-youth in higher education.

Challenges Faced by Adult Student-Youth in Incomplete Families

1. Emotional Instability;
2. Financial Strain;
3. Lack of Role Models;
4. Limited Support Systems;
5. Balancing Responsibilities.

Adult student-youth in incomplete families often grapple with emotional instability arising from family dynamics. The absence of one or both parents can lead to feelings of insecurity and low self-esteem, affecting their confidence in social and academic settings.

Incomplete families may face financial challenges, making it difficult for adult students to afford higher education. Limited financial resources can hinder access to essential academic materials, extracurricular activities, and educational opportunities, impacting their overall competence.

Absence of parental figures can result in a lack of positive role models, making it challenging for adult student-youth to develop social skills, emotional intelligence, and academic motivation. The absence of guidance can lead to a sense of aimlessness, hindering their intellectual growth.

Incomplete families often lack the traditional support systems found in nuclear families. Adult students may face challenges in finding emotional and academic support, leading to feelings of isolation. Limited familial encouragement can diminish their self-belief and hinder their academic progress. Adult student-youth in incomplete families often shoulder additional responsibilities at home, such as caregiving or managing household chores. Balancing these responsibilities with academic pursuits can be overwhelming, leaving them with limited time and energy for intellectual development.

Higher educational institutions should offer comprehensive counseling services tailored to the needs of students from incomplete families. Professional counselors can provide emotional support, guidance, and coping strategies, empowering these students to navigate the challenges they face. Establishing dedicated financial aid programs and scholarships for students from incomplete families can alleviate their financial burden. Financial assistance can enable them to focus on their studies without the constant worry of affordability, promoting their socio-intellectual competence. Implementing mentorship programs where experienced faculty or older students act as mentors can provide invaluable

guidance and positive role models for adult student-youth. Mentorship fosters a sense of belonging and encourages intellectual and social growth.

Offering flexible learning options, such as evening classes and online courses, allows students to balance their responsibilities effectively. These alternatives ensure they can pursue higher education without compromising their familial duties, promoting their intellectual development. Higher education institutions should engage with the local community to create a supportive network for students from incomplete families. Community partnerships can offer resources, mentorship, and emotional support, enhancing the students' socio-intellectual competence through a collaborative effort.

Creating a supportive campus environment is paramount for adult student-youth from incomplete families. Universities should establish designated safe spaces where these students can express their concerns, share experiences, and seek advice from peers facing similar challenges. Additionally, organizing workshops and seminars addressing topics such as resilience, coping mechanisms, and effective communication can empower them to navigate the complexities of their family situations. Ensuring that faculty and staff are aware of the unique challenges faced by these students can lead to a more understanding and accommodating academic environment, further enhancing their socio-intellectual competence.

Higher educational institutions should expand their student support services to address the holistic needs of adult student-youth from incomplete families. This includes offering childcare facilities, mental health counseling, and career guidance tailored to their specific circumstances. Access to affordable healthcare services, both physical and mental, can alleviate stressors related to health concerns, allowing these students to focus on their studies and personal development. Moreover, career counseling services can help them identify suitable career paths, enabling financial independence and long-term socio-intellectual growth.

Navigating the complexities of higher education can be particularly challenging for adult student-youth hailing from incomplete families. These individuals often face a myriad of obstacles, including emotional instability, financial strain, and limited support systems. The absence of positive role models and traditional familial structures can leave them feeling adrift, impacting their self-confidence and sense of purpose. Despite these challenges, there are viable strategies that can be implemented within higher educational institutions to provide essential support. Creating a supportive campus environment, expanding holistic student support services, and empowering parental involvement are crucial steps in fostering a sense of belonging and stability for these students. Moreover, offering skill development workshops and providing scholarship and employment opportunities can equip them with the necessary tools to overcome hurdles and succeed academically and professionally. Additionally, advocating for policy changes and challenging societal perceptions through awareness campaigns are vital in ensuring that these students receive the understanding and assistance they need to thrive in their educational journey. By addressing the unique needs of adult student-youth from incomplete families, higher education institutions can play a pivotal role in enhancing their socio-intellectual competence, paving the way for a brighter future.

In situations where single parents are raising these students, universities can actively involve parents in the academic journey. Holding regular parent-teacher meetings, both in person and virtually, fosters a sense of collaboration between the educational institution and the family. These interactions can provide parents with insights into their child's progress, allowing them to offer targeted support and encouragement at home. Empowered parents can act as strong pillars of emotional and academic stability, positively impacting the socio-intellectual development of their children in higher education.

Offering skill development workshops tailored to the needs of adult student-youth from incomplete families can enhance their socio-intellectual competence. Workshops focused on time management, financial literacy, and effective communication skills can empower them to overcome challenges and succeed in both academic and personal spheres. Teaching essential life skills equips these students with the tools necessary to manage their responsibilities and navigate the complexities of adulthood, fostering their intellectual growth and self-confidence.

To further support the socio-intellectual development of adult student-youth from incomplete families, universities should actively collaborate with external organizations to provide scholarship opportunities and part-time employment options. Scholarships specifically designed for students from non-traditional families can ease their financial burden, enabling them to focus on their education. Moreover, part-time employment opportunities within the campus or nearby locations can offer valuable work experience, financial stability, and networking opportunities, enhancing their socio-intellectual competence and employability.

Advocating for policies that address the unique needs of adult student-youth from incomplete families is essential. Educational institutions, together with advocacy groups and policymakers, should work towards creating a supportive legislative framework. This can include advocating for affordable housing options, accessible childcare services, and comprehensive healthcare coverage. Concurrently, awareness campaigns in communities and educational institutions can challenge stereotypes associated with non-traditional families, promoting understanding, empathy, and acceptance. By addressing societal perceptions and advocating for policy changes, the larger community can contribute significantly to the socio-intellectual growth of these students, ensuring they receive the support they need to thrive in higher education and beyond.

**CONCLUSION.** Addressing the challenges faced by adult student-youth from incomplete families in higher educational institutions is essential for fostering their socio-intellectual competence. By providing emotional support, financial aid,

mentorship, flexible learning options, and community engagement initiatives, universities can create an inclusive environment where these students can thrive academically and personally. Empowering them with the necessary tools and resources not only enriches their lives but also contributes to a more diverse, knowledgeable, and resilient society, where every individual, regardless of their family structure, has the opportunity to succeed.

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