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Vater, Mutter, Kind?

Acht Trends in Familien, die Politik heute kennen sollte

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Abstract

Based on given relevant data and recent research results the book examines how family life in Germany has changed within the past two decades. The authors take a close look at the new challenges families are facing nowadays. Eight trends have been identified: the increase of different family types, the erosion of the male breadwinner model through the rising educational achievement of women, the blurring boundaries of waged work, the increasing pressure on parents due to family-work-conflicts, the polarization of families' living conditions including the increase of family and child poverty, the cultural diversification through migrant families, the modernized structures of childhood and finally the institutional gap caused by the mismatch of family-related infrastructures.

The intention of the study is to analyze the implications of these trends for the growing-up of children. The changes outlined above have occurred simultaneously, but they have not been coordinated. Therefore, family life has become more complex and demanding. Providing good conditions for the development, well-being and education of children has become more and more challenging. In order to care for children emotionally, physically and mentally, sufficient parental time and attentiveness, material resources and skills are necessary as well as supportive measures which match the needs of families.

The trend analysis can serve as a fundament to discuss how nowadays family policy should react to these changes in order to support mothers' and fathers' caregiving, but also taking into account the needs and perspectives of children. This book can be a contribution to re-think family policy with a strong focus on children's well-being.