

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT IN THE FORMATION OF ADOLESCENTS' AESTHETIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract. *The family environment plays a crucial role in shaping an adolescent's aesthetic development, influencing their perception of beauty, creativity, and artistic expression. This study explores how family interactions, cultural values, and home aesthetics contribute to the formation of an adolescent's aesthetic perception. Parents and caregivers, through their tastes, hobbies, and artistic experiences, act as primary mediators in developing a sense of aesthetics. The research examines key factors such as parental involvement in artistic activities, the presence of aesthetic stimuli at home, and the role of discussions about art, fashion, and design in shaping an adolescent's aesthetic preferences. Additionally, it considers the impact of digital media and contemporary cultural trends within the family environment. The study highlights that an aesthetically enriched home environment fosters creativity, critical thinking, and a deeper appreciation of beauty in various forms. The findings suggest that enhancing family engagement in aesthetic experiences can strengthen adolescents' artistic sensitivity and cultural awareness, ultimately contributing to their personal and intellectual growth. The research emphasizes the need for parents and educators to recognize the importance of aesthetic education within the family environment as a means of fostering aesthetic development in adolescents.*

Keywords: *family environment, aesthetic development, adolescents, artistic expression, cultural influence, parental involvement.*

The issues of adolescent aesthetic education theory and practice have been extensively explored in the works of aestheticians and psychologists such as P. Blonsky, E. Kirschner, A. Burov, M. Kagan, H. Gardner, E. Winner, L. Vygotsky, B. Teplov, and others. In Georgia, the topic of adolescent aesthetic education has also been intensively studied. The traditions stemming from the legacy of Georgian educators such as I. Chavchavadze, I. Gogebashvili, A. Tsereteli, and others have been further developed in the research of A. Chkhartishvili, Sh. Nadirashvili, D. Uznadze, M. Zandukeli, G. Jibladze, D. Lortkipanidze, U. Oboladze, T. Sarishvili, V. Gagua, M. Taboridze, A. Khuroshvili, O. Alavidze, and many more. Despite the significant and insightful contributions made by these scholars, numerous unresolved issues remain, particularly concerning adolescent aesthetic education within the family setting.

Adolescence is a critical period in human development, characterized by significant cognitive, emotional, and social transformations. Among these developmental aspects, aesthetic perception and evaluation play a crucial role in shaping an individual's identity, values, and creative expression. The family environment, as a primary agent of socialization, has a profound impact on adolescents' aesthetic development by facilitating artistic exposure, cultivating taste, and reinforcing cultural values [9, p. 58; 5, p. 112].

Adolescent aesthetic development is often linked to the experiences and stimuli provided within the home environment. Parents and caregivers foster this development by encouraging artistic activities, exposing adolescents to diverse cultural experiences, and modeling an appreciation for beauty in various forms, including visual arts, music, literature, and nature [3, p. 76]. Studies indicate that adolescents raised in aesthetically enriched environments exhibit higher levels of creativity, emotional intelligence, and critical thinking skills [4, p. 45; 10, p. 89].

Furthermore, factors such as family socioeconomic status, parental education level, and cultural background significantly influence aesthetic development. Bourdieu [1 p. 132] highlights the role of "cultural capital" in shaping aesthetic preferences and artistic engagement, emphasizing that families with greater educational and cultural resources provide richer aesthetic experiences for their children. Additionally, the digitization of modern society has expanded adolescents' access to aesthetic experiences beyond the family environment, raising new questions about the evolving role of parental influence in aesthetic formation [6, p. 56].

This study aims to explore the role of the family environment in shaping adolescents' aesthetic development by examining various factors that contribute to artistic engagement, taste formation, and aesthetic sensitivity. Through a review of existing literature and empirical analysis, the research will address key questions regarding the nature and extent of parental influence on adolescents' aesthetic preferences and creative abilities.

Aesthetic Development in Adolescence

Aesthetic development is a crucial aspect of adolescent growth, influencing an individual's ability to appreciate, create, and engage with beauty in various forms, including art, music, literature, and nature. Adolescence, a period of significant cognitive, emotional, and social transformation, is particularly critical for the development of aesthetic sensitivity. Among the numerous factors contributing to an adolescent's aesthetic development, the family

environment plays a fundamental role. Specifically, cultural values, parental influence, and socio-economic factors shape the aesthetic growth of adolescents.

The modern family is multifaceted, and parenting has become an increasingly complex and multidimensional phenomenon. The scale of modifications in the traditional family structure has introduced new dimensions to its influence on the younger generation—some of which are not always desirable. Families often struggle to fulfill roles that they once managed effortlessly. This situation obliges them to acknowledge that transmitting moral values and shaping ethical character in adolescents follows objective laws; if these are ignored, achieving meaningful results becomes impossible.

This principle, of course, also applies to family-based aesthetic education. Due to its specific nature, aesthetic upbringing requires special attention from adult family members. Aesthetic education is an integral part of the upbringing process, through which adolescents acquire aesthetic norms, perspectives, and certain behavioral rules. They internalize values that are recognized within the pedagogically organized environment of adults and develop a positive attitude toward them. The necessity of this process arises from the fact that family upbringing takes place in the continuous coexistence of generations. This intergenerational interaction is one of the primary factors facilitating the transmission of accumulated knowledge and experience from adults to adolescents—though only if the parents' lifestyle and their influence on the younger generation align with an appropriate, optimal approach.

At the current stage of social development, the issue of fostering an adolescent's spiritual, emotional, moral, and aesthetic growth within the family has become increasingly significant. However, many parents perceive their role in child-rearing in a highly limited manner. Some believe their primary responsibility is to provide their children with food, clothing, and, eventually, a diploma and a well-furnished home. While these aspects are undoubtedly important for proper upbringing, they are insufficient and, more importantly, not the essence of child-rearing. Comfort is valuable only when it does not lead to spiritual impoverishment.

Upbringing involves developing the innate abilities that a child inherits biologically from birth. These abilities include speech, thinking, listening, reading, adherence to ethical norms, worldview formation, and more. A newborn possesses these potentialities, but their development requires nurturing. Since the goals and objectives of upbringing are planned systematically, its implementation must also follow a structured approach. This organization includes the structured environments of school, family, and society. The family is a crucial component of the social environment and plays a fundamental role in shaping an individual's moral character. Within the family, a child encounters essential concepts such as private, collective, and societal interests, patriotism, national identity, work ethics, and spiritual needs.

Experts distinguish three primary functions of the family in the upbringing process:

1. **Transmission of Social Experience** – The family must pass down the accumulated social experiences, civic consciousness, behavioral norms, hygiene, and physical practices developed over generations.
2. **Lifelong Development** – The family continuously nurtures the growth of each member throughout their lifetime.
3. **Mutual Influence** – Children constantly influence their parents, compelling them to seek self-improvement and self-education continuously.

Naturally, the effectiveness of a family's educational influence depends on the nature of the family itself, its strength, and its pedagogical preparedness.

One of the highest purposes of a family is the upbringing of children, which requires great effort. Many young people create families just three to four years after completing their secondary education, taking on the responsibility of raising children without special preparation, relying instead on imitation and the advice of the older generation.

A particularly important aspect is that a family's educational influence is built on a solid emotional foundation. Family upbringing is inherently much more emotional than any other form of education. What determines this? Primarily, the fact that within the family, a child does not perceive a deliberate educational impact, allowing them to express themselves more freely. Additionally, family education is fundamentally individual and is carried out through emotional relationships.

Thus, the family possesses extensive opportunities to influence an adolescent's aesthetic development. The effectiveness of aesthetic education within the family depends significantly on the awareness of its importance.

There is no single formula for ensuring the aesthetic education and development of an adolescent within the family, nor is one necessary. Every family has its own lifestyle and resources, leading to diverse approaches. However, some general recommendations can be provided to assist families in this endeavor. To organize a child's aesthetic upbringing properly, a family must first focus on creating a well-structured environment, fostering healthy family relationships, and maintaining a general cultural atmosphere. This does not require special financial support or government regulations – only a genuine willingness and the awareness that raising children properly is not merely a private matter. Concern for a child's aesthetic education begins with self-improvement. This process is never too late for those who recognize their own shortcomings and seek to enhance their knowledge. The only people incapable of self-improvement are those who firmly believe they already know everything and that life can be navigated without striving for aesthetic refinement.

Several factors influence an adolescent's aesthetic development, including:

Parental Attitude Toward Aesthetics

Parents' engagement with aesthetics significantly impacts an adolescent's development in this area. Parents actively involved in artistic activities – such as painting, playing musical instruments, or appreciating visual and

performing arts – demonstrate the importance of aesthetics and inspire their children to do the same. Adolescents who observe their parents participating in aesthetic activities develop a deeper appreciation for beauty and creativity.

Proper Organization of the Living Environment

The arrangement of a family's living space plays a crucial role. "A cozy and beautifully decorated home, meticulously cleaned and organized – where every item, practical and elegant, has its rightful place – is valued not only for hygiene and discipline but also for its aesthetic dimension" [7, p. 349].

Socio-Economic Factors and Accessibility

The availability of resources within a family also affects an adolescent's aesthetic development. Socio-economic status influences access to artistic experiences such as museum visits, music lessons, theater performances, and high-quality art materials. Families with higher economic resources can provide greater exposure to diverse aesthetic experiences, while those with limited means may rely on alternative, often community-based, pathways for aesthetic development. However, financial constraints do not necessarily hinder aesthetic growth.

Cultural and Social Influences

A family's cultural background plays a significant role in shaping an adolescent's aesthetic values. Families from diverse cultural traditions may emphasize different forms of artistic expression, from classical music to contemporary visual arts, shaping a child's aesthetic preferences and appreciation. Cultural rituals, traditional art forms, and historical narratives introduced within the family environment provide adolescents with a sense of identity and belonging, further enriching their aesthetic sensitivity.

Moreover, societal expectations and norms surrounding aesthetics, often conveyed through family discussions and exposure, contribute to shaping an adolescent's aesthetic perspective.

Here's the English translation of your text:

Contributing to the Adolescent's Understanding of Beauty and Creativity

For example, families that prioritize academic achievements over artistic pursuits may inadvertently limit an adolescent's aesthetic potential.

Emotional and Psychological Influence

The emotional climate within a family also plays a crucial role in an adolescent's aesthetic development. A supportive, open, and emotionally stable family environment fosters creative thinking, allowing adolescents to freely explore their artistic passions. Conversely, a stressful or neglectful family atmosphere may suppress aesthetic engagement, as adolescents might prioritize coping mechanisms over creative exploration.

Household items, their arrangement, size, wall colors, and other elements often significantly influence an adolescent's aesthetic development. A home should not contain objects chosen merely to impress others but should instead be filled with items that are precious to us, that we love, cherish, and that bring beauty and ease to our lives. Most importantly, they should have practical use—there should be no functionless items in the household.

Early Aesthetic Education in the Family

A child's aesthetic education should begin at an early age. This involves the selection of toys, engagement in play, and later, joint efforts to maintain order. A child's natural curiosity and desire to explore the world around them drive them to investigate, experiment, and assume different roles. Through this process, they grow, learn, and develop. This is why play is the primary activity for young children.

Introducing children to visual arts at an early age is essential for their harmonious development. It helps cultivate imagination, creativity, and aesthetic perception while also enhancing fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and technical abilities. These skills enable children to fully participate in artistic activities. By using a variety of artistic materials and tools, children express their emotions, thoughts, and impressions, observing significant events in their surroundings and portraying them through colors and shapes.

In our dynamic era, children are exposed to vast amounts of visual and intellectual information daily. They also strive to create and accomplish something themselves. A significant portion of children's toys should be those with transformative properties – ones that allow them to build castles, ship models, and more. If a computer is available at home, parents should select age-appropriate games and activities that promote various skills. It is essential to set time limits for computer use and ensure that the games offered have educational and aesthetic development potential.

For preschool-aged children, specific computer programs allow them to perform tasks similar to adults, such as saving, modifying, or printing their work. These include digital "drawing" or simplified graphic design programs. Additionally, there are specialized programs designed for children to create their own fairy tales or books. Parents can also choose high-quality digital children's literature. Digital books enable children to follow along with words and illustrations, pause to replay certain phrases, or click on images for additional information or short stories.

The Role of Family in Artistic Engagement

An essential aspect of aesthetic education in the family is cultivating a child's interest in the arts, including television, books, music, and painting. There is hardly a family where at least one form of art is not valued.

Reading literary works, visiting art exhibitions, attending plays, movies, and concerts as a family, and discussing these experiences are all crucial. Family members should not only express their opinions but also explain and justify them.

A child's engagement with art begins at an early stage, particularly with drawing, which fascinates them once they realize that a pencil or pen... If any other tool leaves a mark on paper, this is also the period when children begin to systematically explore illustrated books, magazines, and newspapers.

The great Georgian educator Iakob Gogebashvili placed significant importance on drawing in a child's aesthetic education. He believed that the process of drawing aligns closely with a child's inquisitive nature, making it an object of interest in itself. As children actively engage in drawing, they not only acquire knowledge but also experience aesthetic pleasure and personal development. However, drawing alone is not sufficient for aesthetic development. From an early age, children should be encouraged to observe and analyze images.

School-aged children, including adolescents, exhibit an increased interest in viewing works of visual art and experiencing the impressions they evoke. It has been established that the driving force behind the development of a person's character traits is their own active engagement in a process. According to Sh. Chkhartishvili, the development of a child's physical, intellectual, and moral characteristics is directly linked to their ability to activate corresponding physical, intellectual, and moral capacities [2, p. 16].

Therefore, fostering an adolescent's aesthetic characteristics requires activating the internal potential that exists within them in the form of a need for aesthetic development and emotional impressions. "Aesthetic perception of a work of art occurs when the adolescent fully grasps its form and content, internalizing the depth of aesthetic information" [8, p. 34].

Conclusion. The family environment plays a fundamental role in shaping an adolescent's aesthetic development. As the primary social unit, the family provides the initial exposure to artistic, cultural, and aesthetic values that influence a young person's perception of beauty, creativity, and artistic expression. Parents and caregivers shape aesthetic preferences through direct involvement, such as encouraging artistic activities, introducing children to various forms of art, and fostering discussions about aesthetics. Additionally, the family's socio-economic status, cultural background, and educational level significantly impact an adolescent's opportunities for aesthetic enrichment.

A supportive family environment that values artistic expression, promotes critical thinking about aesthetics, and provides access to diverse cultural experiences enhances an adolescent's ability to appreciate and create art. Conversely, a lack of exposure or an environment that neglects aesthetic development can limit an adolescent's creative potential and artistic sensitivity.

Ultimately, the family is a key factor in aesthetic socialization, influencing not only an adolescent's artistic skills and tastes but also their broader cognitive, emotional, and cultural development. Therefore, fostering a family environment rich in aesthetic experiences is crucial for nurturing creativity, an appreciation of beauty, and deeper engagement with the arts.

Based on the above discussion, it can be concluded that an adolescent's aesthetic development should be viewed as a relatively stable personal characteristic that does not automatically follow a specific age stage but rather develops through proper influence and guidance.

Thus, the family continues to play a crucial role in shaping an adolescent's value orientations and remains one of the primary factors in aesthetic development. This is due to the fact that family upbringing is individualized, emotionally rich, and increasingly provides opportunities for frequent encounters with art through modern material resources. When combined with high personal and aesthetic culture among parents and family members, home-based aesthetic education becomes holistic and serves as a cornerstone for raising a well-rounded, harmoniously developed individual.

Aesthetic development is a vital aspect of adolescent growth, influencing their ability to appreciate, create, and engage with beauty in various forms, including art, music, literature, and nature. Adolescence, as a period of significant cognitive, emotional, and social transformation, is particularly critical for the development of aesthetic sensitivity. Among the numerous factors contributing to an adolescent's aesthetic development, the family remains a key determinant.

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РОЛЬ СЕМЕЙНОЙ СРЕДЫ В ФОРМИРОВАНИИ ЭСТЕТИЧЕСКОГО РАЗВИТИЯ ПОДРОСТКОВ

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***Аннотация.** Семейная среда играет решающую роль в формировании эстетического развития подростка, оказывая влияние на восприятие красоты, креативности и художественного выражения. В работе рассматривается как семейное взаимодействие, культурные ценности и эстетика дома способствуют формированию эстетического восприятия подростка. Родители и воспитатели, благодаря своему вкусу, хобби и художественному опыту, выступают в качестве основных посредников в развитии чувства эстетики. Исследование анализирует ключевые факторы, такие как участие родителей в художественных активностях, наличие эстетических стимулов в домашней обстановке и роль обсуждений искусства, моды и дизайна в формировании эстетических предпочтений подростков. Кроме того, учитывается влияние цифровых медиа и современных культурных тенденций в семейной среде. Исследование подчеркивает, что эстетически обогащенная домашняя среда способствует развитию креативности, критического мышления и более глубокого понимания красоты в различных формах. Выводы предполагают, что усиление семейного участия в эстетическом опыте может повысить художественную чувствительность и культурную осведомленность подростков, что, в конечном итоге, способствует их личностному и интеллектуальному росту. Исследование подчеркивает важность признания родителями и учителями эстетического воспитания в семейной среде как средства содействия эстетическому развитию подростков.*

***Ключевые слова:** семейная среда, эстетическое развитие, подростки, художественное выражение, культурное влияние, участие родителей.*