

Gender (in)equality in the preschool: hidden curriculum and girls' identity

Olga Savinskaya, the National Research University – Higher School of Economics (Moscow)

Abstract

Russian pre-school education assumes the common activities for girls and boys: both teaching and care activities - walking, eating and sleeping. Daytime sleeping with joint undressing of children and the lack of separation of the bedroom into male and female parts refers to the established principle of equal treatment with boys and girls. However, the activities of the kindergarten is supported by a "hidden curriculum" that prescribes different role models and life strategies for girls and boys. The "conservative turn" in the ideology, strengthened in recent years, has an impact on the practices of the kindergarten: the role games of girls are more associated with occupations related to the care of children or animals, the holiday of March 8 is celebrated as a mother's holiday and chanting of motherhood, girl "fashion" in a kindergarten group determined by "girl" colors (pink, red, purple). The empirical base of the study are interviews with mothers of girls aged 4-6 who are attending kindergartens in Moscow.