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THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO DEFINING THE NATURE OF THE FAMILY BUDGET

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Abstract. *This article examines the essence of the concept of the 'family budget', summarises the main theoretical approaches to its definition, and analyses the structure of household income and expenditure. It systematises academic views on the role of the family budget in ensuring household financial stability. The importance of effective management of family finances in conditions of economic instability is substantiated.*

Keywords: *family budget, household, income, expenditure, financial planning, well-being.*

This study presents a comprehensive analysis of academic approaches to defining the concept of the family budget, which has enabled it to be understood as a multidimensional economic category that combines the financial, social and behavioral aspects of household functioning. The classical, functional and socio-economic approaches to the interpretation of the family budget have been summarized, enabling it to be defined as a system of monetary relations associated with the formation, distribution, planning and use of a family's financial resources.

The structure of the household budget has been defined through the interrelationship of its key components – income and expenditure – and their classification and role in sustaining the household's livelihood have been examined. Particular attention is paid to the systematization of the functions of the family budget, among which the distributive, control, regulatory, motivational, social and forecasting functions are highlighted; together, these ensure the family's financial stability and development.

This paper analyses contemporary approaches to household budget management, specifically the normative, behavioral, goal-oriented, systemic and innovative (digital) approaches, and outlines their content, advantages and limitations. It demonstrates the interconnection between the functions of the household budget and the approaches to its management, which enables households to improve the effectiveness of their financial decisions.

It has been concluded that the household budget should be viewed not merely as a tool for recording income and expenditure, but as a vital mechanism for the strategic management

of financial resources, ensuring financial stability, enhancing social well-being and achieving long-term goals. Prospects for further research relate to the development of integrated approaches to household financial management using digital technologies and behavioral tools in conditions of economic uncertainty.

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