

Juvenile Offenders: Causes and Attributes of Criminal Conduct

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Abstract

The essay analyzes the problem of "juvenile delinquency," evaluates its current status, and identifies the trends in its expressions. Juvenile delinquency in Ukraine, as a component of crime in a broader context, emerges and evolves under the impact of certain variables. The examination of the causes and conditions of adolescent delinquency continues to be pertinent, highlighting the significant threat this type of crime poses to societal progress. The paper aims to examine the issue in Ukraine and the experiences of other nations in mitigating juvenile criminal behavior within property and non-property interactions. The primary methodology employed in the paper is the comparative examination of contemporary materials regarding the issues of criminal behavior among individuals who are underage. Consequently, the social traits of adolescent offenders and the motivations behind their illegal conduct were discerned. Significant focus is directed towards the elements that contribute to criminal behavior: a dysfunctional home, deficiencies in the educational system, and the issue of substance abuse among youngsters. Furthermore, strategies for the prevention of adolescent delinquency were devised. The applied value pertains to the capacity to amend legislation on employment and the rehabilitation of small offenders' conduct.

Keywords: Prevention, accountability, property and non-property interactions, legislation

Introduction

Several positive changes in public life have occurred due to the notable changes in the political, social and economical situations, and increased consciousness of Ukrainian citizens; however, existing conflicts escalated within a group of young people. The specific ability to diagnose, understand the root causes and relations, apply and on the regional, professional and individual level to find and implement solutions for youth in Ukraine can significantly improve the status

of young people in the country and provide a whole range of opportunities to actively pursue their individual and general self development and the opportunities for creative self-realization and for personal and collective progress in Ukraine. There are very many historical reasons political development of society which relies upon the essential utilization of minors. The relative size of youth is the primary predictor of the demographic composition of any given country. Secondly, principally and at any given time as well as in different civilizations, youth has always acted as pioneers or as a driving force to societal advancement. The aggravation of crime remains one of the most acute phenomena, acting as a near-profound problem affecting almost every aspect of communal life, threatening economic and political change urgently in allowing social destabilization. Exemplary research suggests that a high percentage of offenders might be initialized on criminal careers during the age of vulnerability. This is because dealing with the source of this phenomenon dramatically helps to prevent crimes committed by juvenile and adult persons. It becomes clear that juvenile delinquency as a phenomenon requires a distinctive approach to studying its roots; it is necessary to determine the circumstances contributing to criminal activity, the development of its components and interaction, and the understanding of its intrinsic dynamics. Analyzing such aspects of a definite social phenomenon as its nature, roots, consequences, and trends is significant for science and practice. This could provide the ground for strengthening social relations and civil society, social norms practices, control, and continuous applicative enforcement of moral and legal norms.

Education, social prevention, and accountability are commonalities of social entities. All activities are aimed to ensure the highest level of personal safety, meet people's interests, and contribute to society's democratization and humanization. This article aims at discussing the criminological characteristics of juveniles, review all the factors and situations that may force young people into criminal activities, and establish the significance of the need to develop and implement sound policies on juvenile delinquency based on the criminological characteristics of these young people. Criminology attaches much attention to the problem of juvenile delinquency. Studies have been carried out at different periods Bugera (2014); Golina and

others, with (2006); Dedkovskaya (2016); Rybalko (1990); Aksonova, Vakulenko, and Vasiliev (2015); Yuzikova (2015). Most used a wide range of issues concerning the problematic behavior of juveniles. New working hypotheses were proposed based on their scientific research findings regarding The common type of crimes committed by juveniles in criminology, general behavior traits of juveniles per § 2, causative factors, and prevention strategies. Most of the theoretical concepts, research outcomes, and applied recommendations reflect views on juvenile delinquency developed during the Soviet period. Unfortunately, there are no existing national studies concerning the current state of affairs for this issue. The thematical analysis of recent research indicates that many characteristics of juvenile delinquency proliferation were described by criminologists, as well as some of the historical tendencies in its development. Included are: its relation to self-serving tendencies and the collective and urban character of criminal offenses; the increased criminal activity among students with backgrounds of social adversity, as well as those diagnosed with psychological and behavioral problems; excessive aggressiveness and gratuitous violence toward victims in violent criminality. Therefore, the outstanding issues include the theoretical problems of defining the phenomena of juvenile delinquency, the description of its manifestations in recent years, and the assessment of the current state of this issue.

Materials And Methods

The article drew its information from the published articles of Ukrainian scholars in criminology, law, counseling, and social sciences (Bandura, Bocharova, and Zemlyanskaya 1998; Didorenko, 2007; Steblinskaya 2013; Smetanina, 2013; Golovkin, 2013; Grabbe 2013) and the literature on juvenile criminology by international writers All methodological and systematic concerns relevant to social research was taken into consideration while carrying out Criminological study. The primary methods employed in composing this article encompassed: 1) Scrutinizing for data in scientific journals, synthesizing the received data in prior studies, investigating current social practices, and critiquing principles examined and/or proposed in the literature, as well as the findings and their corresponding theories' and practices' validity and relevance. This article's



developing study technique was used to collect data, consisting of objective and key, subjective facts or observation data. The reporting of students' progress contains quantitative and qualitative aspects (objective-subjective complex) aimed at obtaining confident results. 3) The methodology of sociological study comprises a preventive arsenal of activities to find one or another type of social characteristics and the ways to obtain and process the primary sociological information. This methodology consists that enables the use of several techniques within a specific area to obtain and structure data collected from practice. It applies to the methods of obtaining the required information and dealing with the material. Processing is recognized as an independent research stage, while the methods used are considered from the start. Therefore, the processes of obtaining primary information and the methodological tools, including questionnaires, programs, and interviews, were adapted and improved. 4) Document analysis was one of the methods adopted for data collection regarding adolescent delinquency. The analysis of documents is vital and beneficial to social cognition understanding due to the importance of documents in people's lives. All the papers show more or less detail how spiritual and material matters of society work and the results of individual, communal, and societal actions. Therefore, documenting material was relevant to our study.

Findings And Analysis

We examine juvenile delinquency as the criminal behavior of individuals between the ages of 11 and 18 years. Juvenile criminal conduct and its type and dynamic inevitably depend on adverse circumstances impacting the personality and individuality of an adolescent, age-related motives, methods of behaviour and acting, and last but not least, the presence of other criminals. Minors engage in criminal activities for four primary reasons: first, they emulate adults with criminal records, second, they use criminality as a form of free speech or protest; third, criminality is a reaction to feelings of social exclusion, abandonment, and marginality; fourth, crime is a form of response to unfavorable living conditions, an effort to survive in a particular environment. The increase in aggravated rates of adolescent misconduct leads to increased recidivism levels of crimes committed by adults. Similar opinion was given by all the



contributors such as foreign persons who get engaged in the study of the criminal situation in the deprived areas of large industrial cities, include. United States of America. From such understandings, various critical International law making instruments in combating Juvenile delinquency. What it is worth mentioning regarding penalties is the fact that Ukrainians aged 16 or over are criminally responsible. However juveniles between 14 to 16 years, are prosecuted for certain kinds of offenses. Such forms of punishment may be resulting from conviction of a crime by adolescent, fines, community service, corrective labor, detention or even imprisonment. In addition, minors can be punished additionally, through fines, as well as through the cancellation of the right to engage in certain activities or occupy certain positions. In addition, less rigorous as well as more merciful forms of criminal responsibility and penalties are provided for underaged people compared to the grown men. Thus, as a rule, in some cases, such mandatory educational measures would allow exempting a juvenile from criminal liability; the number and durations of categories of punishments were reduced; criteria for the exemption from criminal sanctions are less strict; the periods when a minor can be released conditionally early with the right to repayment and expungement of punishment were also shortened. In Ukraine, before passing a sentence in relation to a juvenile, the court studies the degree of danger of a committed offense, the character of the offender, circumstances that both mitigate and exacerbate the punishment, the life situation, upbringing, impact by adults, level of development, and other features of the minor.

The propensity towards a minor status is a factor that should be taken in account when passing a sentence, irrespective of the status of an offender that might have been tried as a minor but is considered a major at the time of passing a sentence. The specificity of interaction with the juvenile offenders is the fact that they might be dismissed from the criminal penalization according to Ukrainian legislation, yet certain conditions have to be met. A juvenile may be excused for punishment altogether under the terms of a probation. Its release is possible when an individual has been sentenced to detention or imprisonment. The probationary term shall be for a term of one to two years. Second, the penalty may be suspended to obligatory



educational measures if a minor has committed a crime and if a minor has committed a crime of small or moderate gravity he may be absolved from punishment. However, it must be noted that true remorse and the subsequent adjustment-free live of the juvenile criminal ceases the social danger. A similar method of combating adolescent delinquency is seen among the UN nations and the European Union and other international organizations. In Ukraine as in several other industrialized countries, a minor may be imprisoned. Imprisonment for a designated duration constitutes the most severe penalty for: Minor offenses up to one year and six months, moderate offense up to four years, serious offence up to seven years, particularly serious offence up to ten years, particularly serious offences involving premeditated murder up to fifteen years. Exemptions from criminal culpability applicable to children include: remorse and contrition; offender and victim forgiveness and restoration; offender bail transfer; and conditions change. Parole can also be granted to juvenile who is serving out a sentence. Still, the latter one refers only to individuals who has been sentenced to serve prison time.

At present, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine is the only body that promotes and coordinates all the activities related to the reform of the Ukrainian system of juvenile justice. On this basis, Ukraine has adopted the strategy for reforming justice for children until 2023, which proposed the draft law on child-friendly justice and launched the idea called "From the dream to action" to prevent juvenile crime. The Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in cooperation with the Prosecutor General Office launched pilot project called the "A Rehabilitation Programme for Minors Suspected of Crime Implementation" using the BPD system In regions of Donetsk, Odesa, Lviv, Lugansk, Mykolaiv and Kharkiv. The necessary conditions for the use of the program include additional activities that will help the minor make new friends, find a new hobby and change his behavior. For this purpose, specific institutions and psychologists who have adequate exposure dealing with the facet of resocializing youngsters are hired. In addition, according to the analysis of the outcomes of the Recovery Program, when a minor compensates the damage and apologizes to the victim, the criminal processes will be stopped. The minor will be enrolled in resocialization sessions. According to the Prosecutor General's Office, 70 percent of youth

convicted and having served one year and more of the prison sentence get rearrested. For this reason, restorative justice affords a chance to get back to normality. Criminal actions are normally committed by the adolescent actors for some reasons. After the analysis of current data by local and international forensic specialists several factors attributing to juvenile delinquency have been discovered. According to scientists, educators, and personnel of various institutions which come in contact with juveniles including juvenile criminal police and specialized facilities, claim that most juvenile delinquents are as a result of the unfavourable home environment and its consequences. The family is inherently assigned a basic and, in addition, an extended function of child-rearing.

It forms an emotional and psychological microclimate based on the peculiarities of relationship between teachers and a child, thus affecting child's interactions in all spheres of life: family, neighborly, educational, ludal, and professional. The family works as a teacher for relationships between genders and potential family role; determines the attitude to education and relevant professional activities; integrates social responsibility and reciprocity; forms/imposes the perspectives of the legal, ontological, epistemological and axiological perception and valuation of the society; develops character and self-esteem as well as critical self-reflection; organizes spare time; and supervises children and teenagers that constitute a group in a phase of intense

The novelty of the manner in which this goes on is one of great and essential importance, the family education process. That is why, when speaking of family education, one should stress its duration, its time, and its nature. There is no other educational public institution nearly comparable to the family. Lackages and violation in Hashkullah education is other causes of personality anomalies among adolescents leading to criminality. They are a contributing factor to as much as 80% of cases in adolescent delinquency. Loss of focus in a programs direction by other criminal influences to the kids is contributed further by the families attitudes. The anti-social behavior is not unique in the home environments, though it is a noted detriment to the youth from dysfunctional home environments; they have a four to fivefold increase in risk of being an offender over those from homes with no anti-social home environment. In their study,



the authors note that 15.8 % of the examined juvenile offenders were in homes with prior convictions of adult residents; 13.1 % had ongoing power struggles; and 14.3 % were living in conditions involving alcohol dependency. Maladaptive patterns of beliefs toward other people are present in 10.8% of cases among households that have a teen with at least one criminal conviction. The governmental program must also be instituted to respond to all kinds of family issues in order to prevent negative familial circumstances from escalating and harming the children more specifically criminalizing them. Minors engage in juvenile delinquency that type around 10 major areas of criminal conduct. In approximately one-third of cases, the child is also an illegal target of attack by other youths.

More than fifty percent of all juvenile offenses can be classified as serious and especially serious. As for the geographical aspect adolescent delinquency is growing more actively in the crowded industrial east and south east regions of Ukraine where a multi layered and persistent criminality remains a constant. Criminal rates are high among children in economically deprived urban areas, regional and district centers. Adolescent delinquency increases at the same rate as the recidivism rate of crimes committed by adults over a period of time. With the application of these fundamental principles, the writers will strive to give a quantitative as well as a qualitative account of juvenile delinquency. The lawmaker limited the period by the minimum age of criminal responsibility – 14 years and the maximum age of a juvenile – 18 years. Juvenile delinquency reflect itself as the subject criminal facts concerning the minors, that is why its parameters are conditioned by the objective reality. Research suggests that children normally advance to crime and other risky behaviours at the age of 11 years. From this age, individuals who commit socially dangerous offenses provided for by the Criminal Code of Ukraine, involving imprisonment of more than five years, are admitted to receiving centers for minors. Juvenile offenders are often characterized by two primary types of criminal behavior: by combination into poly-motivational and nonmotivational. This work identifies seven aspects of Islamic terror, of which the first aspect is characterized by bipolarity of wants, emotions, and oppositions; competition of needs and interests; dispersal of aims; multiple and uncertain



intentions concerning the means and ways of unlawful encroachments; a high degree of dependence on collective decisions for the actualization of intentions; the element of context sensitivity, and victim contribution. This behavioral model is seemingly typical of juveniles who are starting to indulge in unlawful activities and sample all kinds of forms of risky behaviours; therefore, they only want to acquire initial criminal experience to boost their ranking within their peer group. The mono-motivational model of adolescent criminal conduct assumes equal desire and concern, equal motive and aim, and equal forms and methods of unlawful activity within a single motive. Usually these are planned and carried out by criminals comprising of people of different ages in different groups such as the youthful, middle aged and other older persons. First of all, these offences are to property or to life and limb.

Conclusion

The criminological history of the juvenile offender includes all the information relating to the identity of the offender (age, health, mental development, and various socio-psychological features), the participation of adult organizers and accessories in the crime, negative traits (substance abuse, alcohol abuse, gambling, and other pathologies), circumstances that can either decrease or increase punishment, and dependence between motives, actions, and consequences of unlawful actions committed. It is critical to consider the criminological characteristics of juvenile offenders to construct responses to relevant crimes and to determine a system of actions by state agencies and public organizations as part of strategies to eliminate undesirable trends and processes promoting juvenile delinquency. For the efficacy of the research topic, the research has demystified several social characteristics of adolescent offenders and the main reasons for offenders' acts. Thus, crime is a form of social pathology that correlates with corresponding social consequences, resulting in dysfunction for society and the individual. Strengthening democratic institutions and nurturing civil society can never be realized while enduring this deviant impact. The progress of this question has theoretical and practical implications, and further research would contribute to the identification of correct and timely trends with respect not only to the present but also to the future, notably concerning



the creation of favorable environments that allow youth's lawful conduct and participation in artistic, cultural, sports, and recreation activities. During the extreme conditions and in the course of the accelerated reforming of law enforcement bodies, including the (Activity related to criminal justice concerning minors in Ukraine is initiated while the state underestimates the threat of juvenile delinquency and pays insufficient attention to combating this problem. However, the amount of data on juvenile delinquency has risen somewhat after 2014, albeit higher than in prior years. This is due to the overall situation with crime in the state and with the rate of criminalization of deviant adolescent environments. The following trends mark the present condition of juvenile delinquency: a worsening of rampant and egotistical tendencies, the predisposition of dominant crimes due to unfavorable life conditions and the struggle for existence in unfriendly environments, an increase of violence among Caribbeans living in towns, a combination of various forms of criminality, an increase in the frequency of offenders' repealing and children incorporation into crime by parents/relatives/criminals. Juvenile offenders are gradually becoming more focused on the issues of delivering money and other properties for different economic purposes.

Nevertheless, their criminal conduct is mainly random. Modern-day or present-day delinquency is gradually becoming a mix of both an amalgam of offenses and, at the same time, more incidences of serious or het particularly severe criminal acts are being recorded. The observed trend is harmful as this approach weakens the effectiveness of preventing this kind of unlawful action in Ukraine, requesting a reconsideration of measures based on juvenile offenders' behavior patterns.

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