

SOME ISSUES OF YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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It is known that crime prevention is a system of state and public measures aimed at neutralization or reducing the impact of factors, which are the causes and conditions of crime. It is impossible to totally prevent crimes, as it is impossible to completely neutralize all its causes and conditions. The maximum that is possible to do, is to conduct an economic, institutional, ideological, cultural, psychological measures aimed at overcoming the negative effects in these areas. This will limit the growth of crime or, at best, reduce its level¹.

V.V. Luneev rightly notes that only strengthening legal and criminological control over criminal behavior can reduce the level of crime in particular society, and here priority should be given to criminological control, since it is the most effective and radical². Strong impact on the causes and conditions of crime, both by its results and by its volume, is the main direction in the prevention of crime³.

The socialization of a young person is largely influenced by the varieties of factors which are concerned to economic situation, peculiarities of the family of the young person, the education, working environment, relations with peers, etc. In fact, it can be stated that a person does not exist outside of society and social relations, and his activities, the choice of one or another mode of behavior (including criminal) in different life situations is ultimately associated with these relationships. Moral norms and rules are not genetically inherited by man, they are not the fruits of evolution. These norms are passed on as social experience from generation to generation through education⁴.

The formation of a personality at the initial stages is closely related to imitation of behavior, when a person adopts the forms of behavior adopted in his immediate environment. These forms of behavior can determine both the further normal development of the personality and its degradation and socially dangerous activity. Socialization in the family can play a decisive role in shaping the identity of the offender, and the negative impact of the family can become an

¹ Vetrov, N.I. . Prevention of Offences among the Youth. Moscow, 1980, p. 69.

² Luneev, V.V. Crime of the XX Century. Moscow, 1997, p. 475.

³ **Alekseev, A.I. , Gerasimov S.I. , Sukharev A.Y. ...** Criminological Prevention: Theory, Experience, Problems. M., 2001, p. 4.

⁴ **Dubinin.** Social and Biological in the Contemporary Problem of Man. Problems of Philosophy, 1972, no. 10, p. 51.

insurmountable obstacle to the normal development of the personality. This is the reason that in the prevention of youth crime, first of all, it is necessary to pay attention to the neutralization of criminogenic factors in the family of a young person.

The prevention of psychological alienation and maladjustment of young people is largely hampered by the fact that these phenomena are determined by personal, intimate relationships with the family and the immediate environment, and the detection of these negative factors is often associated with penetration into the private life of a young person. In fact, activities aimed at preventing youth crime can affect the most important constitutional rights and individual freedoms. All this leads to rather great difficulties in the prevention of youth crime, since, without knowing the problems and concerns of a particular young person, it is impossible to effectively help him overcome them, provide him with social and moral and psychological assistance.

Therefore, despite the current difficult economic and social situation in Armenia, it is necessary to create a specialized state organization, which will carry out purposeful work with the alienated, maladaptive young people and provide them with an effective social and psychological assistance. Such organizations must be provided with the necessary material and technical base and have governmental support. They must cooperate with all state and public organizations dealing with youth issues, systematize the work aimed at preventing youth crime. No matter how complicated and expensive it is to create such an organization, the costs of it are significantly less than the losses incurred by the state as a result of young people committing crimes.

In fact, the prevention of youth crime at the personal level has the goal of detecting and neutralizing the reasons for the commission of crimes by a specific person, preventing his antisocial activities, overcoming the negative influences of the causes and conditions of crime⁵. To achieve this goal, the following conditions are necessary: 1) improving the living conditions and social status of young people, ensuring the necessary prerequisites for their normal development; 2) neutralization of various adverse influences on youth; 3) carrying out preventive measures aimed at overcoming antisocial attitudes, as well as at preventing young people from committing crimes⁶.

Personal prevention of youth crime can be conditionally divided into preliminary and immediate. The basis of this division is the time "separating" a young person from the commission of a crime. In this sense, as noted, it is very important to timely carry out preventive measures in relation to those young people who commit anti-social actions⁷.

⁵ **Sarkisov, G.S.** The Object of Individual Preventive Influence in the Theory of Crime Prevention. Yerevan, 1985, p. 12.

⁶ Theoretical Aspects of Crime Prevention. Moscow, 1977, p. 199.

⁷ **Antonyan, Yu. M.** Psychological Alienation of Personality and Criminal Behavior. Yerevan, 1987, p. 153.

Preliminary preventive measures should be carried out starting from the birth of a person, and continue throughout his entire socialization.

The signal for immediate measures can be any demonstration of anti-social behavior of the young individual, and if such behavior doesn't prevent in time, then it can get stereotyped, become a prerequisite for further criminal activity.

Preventive measures, first of all, must be carried out in relation to those young people who have not committed a crime, but which way of life and behavior indicate a high probability of that. Such measures should be carried out in relation to young criminals, because if in the first case we are trying to prevent a crime, then in the second - its recurrence, which is often more dangerous. For effective prevention of youth crime, it is extremely important to have objective information about the activities and lifestyles of young people. Such information about a specific young man who is in a criminogenic environment will allow police and other governmental bodies successfully prevent his anti-social behavior and not wait for him to commit crimes.

Both preliminary and direct prevention of youth crime are associated with a number of activities with the following goals:

1. State and public support for alienated and maladaptive young people, the correct organization of their studies, work and leisure.
2. Carrying out educational activities in relation to these young people, teaching them a socially useful state ideology.
3. Establishing control over those young people who lead an antisocial lifestyle, neutralizing adverse factors that influence their behavior.
4. Prevention of the creation of informal youth groups with an anti-social orientation, the detection and dispersal of such associations.
5. Improvement of the educational and upbringing system, attraction of highly qualified specialists in the field of youth upbringing⁸.

Such events are numerous, and it is impossible to formulate a complete list of them, but all of them should be aimed at ensuring such conditions so that young people can find their place in life, learn, develop and become full-fledged members of society.

In the matter of personal prevention of youth crime, the role of law enforcement agencies is especially important, on the correct and effective work of which the successful prevention of youth crime largely depends, and any defects in this area can contribute to the growth of youth crime.

Many state bodies, as well as some public organizations, are engaged in the prevention of youth crime. It should be noted that the objective of work of public organizations is mainly neutralizing the causes and conditions of youth crime, which, of course, can have great anti-criminogenic impact, but in the prevention of youth crime, the primary role still belongs to state bodies, in par-

⁸ Avanesov, G.A. Criminology. 2nd ed. - M., 1984, p. 403.

particular, the police, prosecutor's office. These specialized government agencies are endowed with enormous anti-criminogenic potential, and they have at their disposal many tools to effectively combat the causes and conditions of crime.

Personal crime prevention by law enforcement officers is mainly carried out with young criminals, but these bodies should also pay attention to those young people who lead an antisocial, immoral lifestyle⁹.

In general, it should be noted that prevention of youth crime is largely associated with successful police work. In particular, widespread corruption in the police system often creates preconditions for even those who have committed grave crimes to evade punishment or any other measures of criminal law enforcement, which creates conditions for young criminals to act more impudently and more confidently, to commit more and more sophisticated and daring crimes. Corruption is rife in all public bodies, but corrupt police is the most powerful catalyst for the growth of youth crime and the fight against it - one of the most effective methods of combating crime in general.

In my opinion, the police in the RA cannot successfully perform their functions, since this structure is insufficiently funded. If the employees of this system are not socially provided for, one cannot expect that they will perform their functions with honor and dignity, and there will always be a danger of them committing malfeasance. The primary task of the state should be the material and technical support of the police (as well as the entire state system), concern for sufficient funding for the law enforcement system in general.

One of the main directions of the police work is the implementation of personal control measures at the place of residence for persons who have previously committed crimes. This is particularly relevant in relation to young criminals, since the presence of such persons in informal youth groups makes these groups antisocial. The inculcation of antisocial, anti-state ideology, criminal "romance" by young criminals among other young people forms a peculiar system of values, which in the future, combined with other criminogenic influences, can lead to the commission of crimes. This is the reason why young people who have previously committed crimes should always be in the focus of police attention, as most of them hold strong antisocial values. And if the state does not promptly take the necessary measures to neutralize the criminogenic influence of such persons, then they can, like a disease, spread throughout the social environment, and in this case the fight against them will be more difficult, and the losses of the state will be more significant.

As it's known, the formation of the intent of a crime has a cumulative character, and even the most insignificant offence, which remains unnoticed, gradually brings a young person closer to committing a crime¹⁰.

⁹ Luneev, V. V. . Motivation of Criminal Behavior. M., 1991, p. 330.

¹⁰ Lopushansky, F. A. Criminological Problems. Prevention of Youth Delinquent. Kiev, 1986, p. 91.

For personal crime prevention, it is necessary to take into account some of the characteristic features of a given individual, in particular, his spheres of activity, his interests and needs, and the social environment. It's highly important during investigation process.

During the investigation, the investigator must take all measures aimed at fully identifying the causes and conditions of a particular crime. When the investigator identifies the reasons that may contribute to further antisocial behavior of a particular young person, then he must notify the administration of the educational or labor institution where this young person studies or works about these reasons, if, of course, these reasons or conditions are somehow connected with the educational or the work activity of this person.

The investigation of crimes committed by young people is conducted in a general manner (unlike juvenile crimes), but this does not exclude some of the features of such cases. To disclose crimes committed by young people, as well as to prevent youth crime, it is very important to identify as fully and thoroughly as possible the causes and conditions of youth crime, the circumstances that push young people to antisocial behavior. This is due to the fact that youth is the core of society, its most active and strong part, and youth crime poses a serious danger to the future fate of the country¹¹.

One of the most important subjects of the criminal process - the prosecutor - stands out for its special role in the prevention of youth crime. One of the most important powers of the prosecutor in the prevention of youth crime is to supervise the legality of the inquiry and preliminary investigation. Prevention of defects in the work of the aforementioned law enforcement agencies and their accurate performance of their preventive function largely depends on the effective work of the prosecutor. Within the powers that are formulated in the Constitution of RA, the Criminal Procedure Code and in the law on the prosecutor's office, the prosecutors must perform a very important preventive function. - regulate the activities of all law-enforcement agencies to efficiently and purposefully to fight crime.

The unfavorable trends in youth crime indicate that there are also many problems and unresolved issues in this area. The success of the fight against youth crime and, in general, the effectiveness of the prevention mechanism, largely depends on overcoming these problems. To prevent youth criminality, purposeful and systematic work of all law enforcement agencies is necessary, the provision of which is the most important function of the prosecutor's office.

At the last stage of criminal proceedings, the most important subject of the prevention of youth crime is the court. The court, with all its activities, one way or another contributes to the prevention of youth crime. The preventive functions performed by the court have their own characteristics, which is due to the

¹¹ Youth of the Russian Federation: Choice of Path. M., 2000, p. 67.

special status of the court as the only body of justice. As in other areas, there are also many unfavorable factors that interfere with the normal functioning of the judiciary. Our justice system is not yet completely independent of the executive branch and is far from European standards. If the state will and determination to create a truly fair and independent judicial system are not formed, then all efforts aimed at preventing crime, especially youth crime, will be nullified.

One way or another, during the trial, there is an opportunity for a deeper and more comprehensive study of all the details of the crime, assessing the effectiveness and legality of the work of the bodies of inquiry and preliminary investigation, identifying the causes and conditions of youth crime (naturally, against the background of the causes and conditions of crime in general), discovering new circumstances that were not known during the preliminary investigation, as well as for the imposition of a punishment on the offender that would maximize the achievement of the goals of punishment. When imposing punishment, the state tries to achieve such goals as restoring social justice, correcting convicts and preventing crimes. By assigning punishment to a specific offender, the goal is to prevent him from committing new criminal acts (special prevention) and, at the same time, punishment warns other people not to commit crimes (general prevention)¹². General prevention is of particular importance in relation to young people, since confidence in the inevitability of punishment for a crime committed and the possible hardships associated with it can be a powerful incentive for a young person to stay free of crimes and choose a law-abiding behavior.

Thus, it can be stated that the personal prevention of youth crime can be successfully implemented only with the necessary staffing and financial support. Even the most sophisticated national programs aimed at preventing youth crime cannot be implemented and will remain on paper if the appropriate personnel are not involved in this matter. This is the reason that the state should not save either money or efforts on the training of such personnel, since the benefits brought will largely exceed any costs.

Key words: *crime, prevention, family, groups, personality, alienation and maladjustment, neutralization, reducing, factors, immediate measures, preliminary and direct prevention, influences*

ՏԻՊԻՍԱԿԱՆ ՄԻՍՈՆՅԱՆ – ՀՀ-ում երիտասարդների հանցավորության կանխման որոշ հարցեր - Հոդվածում քննարկվում են ՀՀ-ում երիտասարդների հանցավորության կանխմանն առնչվող որոշ հիմնահարցեր, հատկապես անհատական մակարդակում երիտասարդների հանցավորության կանխմանը, նրանց անմիջական շրջապատում հանցածին գործոնների վերացմանը և դրանց ազդեցության չեզոքացմանն ուղղված միջոցառումների առանձնա-

¹² **Alekseev, A.I. , Gerasimov, S.I. , Sukharev, A.Y. ...** Criminological Prevention: Theory, Experience, Problems , p. 295.

հատկություններին: Նշվել է, որ այս գործընթացի արդյունավետությունը մեծապես պայմանավորված է իրավապահ մարմինների նյութատեխնիկական պատշաճ ապահովվածությամբ, ինչպես նաև կադրային արդյունավետ քաղաքականությամբ: Առաջարկվում է ստեղծել բարդ կենսապայմաններում հայտնված երիտասարդների աջակցության պետական հիմնադրամ: Երիտասարդների հանցավորության կանխարգելման գործում կարևորվել է ընտանեկան, աշխատանքային և կրթական միջավայրում բացասական գործոնները չեզոքացնելուն ուղղված պետական և հասարակական ծրագրերի իրականացումը:

Բանալի բառեր - *հանցավորության կանխարգելում, ընտանիք, ռեֆերենտային խմբեր, անհատականություն, օտարացում, տազնապայնության նվազեցում, գործոններ, անհապաղ միջոցառումներ, հանրավտանգ վարքագծի նախնական և անմիջական կանխարգելում, ազդեցություններ*

ТИГРАН СИМОНЯН – Некоторые вопросы предупреждения преступности среди молодежи в Армении. – В статье, посвящённой профилактике молодёжной преступности, освещены соответствующие мероприятия, которые индивидуально проводятся с молодыми людьми, а также меры по устранению или нейтрализации криминогенных факторов в их непосредственном окружении. Отмечено, что эффективность этих мероприятий во многом обусловлена правильной логистикой правоохранительных органов, а также эффективной кадровой политикой. Предлагается создать государственный фонд поддержки молодых людей, находящихся в тяжёлых жизненных условиях. Для предотвращения молодёжной преступности важно реализовать государственные и общественные программы по нейтрализации негативных факторов в семье и производственно-образовательной среде.

Ключевые слова: *профилактика преступности, семья, референтные группы, личность, отчуждение, сокращение меры тревожности, немедленные действия, начальное и непосредственное предотвращение опасного поведения, последствия*

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