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## PREVENTION OF CRIME IN YOUTH ENVIRONMENT

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The research topic is relevant, since offence in the youth environment is a part of general crime, and therefore is influenced by the criminal situation that has developed in society. This influence is of particular importance, since the objects of influence are both adolescents and young people undergoing socialization through the development of a future profession, getting an education, participating in various types of sociocultural and political activities.

The purpose of the study is to reveal the main directions of preventing youth offences.

**Material and methods.** The study of the problems of crime prevention in the youth environment is based on an analysis of the current legislation and statistical materials. The examination of the preventive effect on the behavior of young people required the use of such methods of scientific knowledge as statistical, logical, systemic analysis, as well as synthesis, induction and deduction.

**Findings and their discussion.** In the Republic of Belarus, issues of offense prevention in the youth environment are given considerable attention both from the side of law enforcement agencies and from the legislative branch. Legal regulation in this area is carried out by two laws: “On the basis of the system for the prevention of neglect and juvenile delinquency”, and the law “On the basis of the activity on the prevention of delinquency”. The country has created a legislative framework that defines both the subjects of prevention and the main directions of preventive work with various categories of the population. However, the state has not yet been able to achieve a permanent decrease in crime. So, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in January-September 2019, 66.7 thousand crimes were registered in the republic, or 106.5% of the level of January-September 2018 [1].

The priority task of the state and the backbone social institutions (family, church) is the fight against crime in all age categories. Youth crime requires

special attention, because in fact, youth is the generation that should replace the generation of parents and take responsibility for the fate of society. It should be noted that young people are a heterogeneous age and social group. Some experts include young people aged 14 to 30-35 years old into this group. Therefore, it seems reasonable to divide it into at least two subgroups: adolescents from 14 to 18 years old and actually youth - from 18 to 35 years old. And in the second subgroup, the age spread is too large. Indeed, by the age of 25-27, a significant number of young people form families, acquire a profession, acquire housing and become parents. Accordingly, in this subgroup there is a transition to a new system of values based on the desire for a stable, safe, creative life. Therefore, the focus of attention on youth crime prevention structures should be a group of young people aged 14 to 25 years.

Criminologists state that every third person who has served his sentence in isolation from society, again takes the criminal path. Therefore, the priority is to prevent young people from committing offenses. But no less important is the task of preventing relapse among those who violate the law and serve their sentences in prison.

Studying the socio-psychological mechanisms of the action of punishment, A. R. Ratinov formulated a number of postulates that are very significant in terms of increasing the effectiveness of crime prevention:

- the motivating significance of punishment is the more intense, the closer the moment of its application;
- the precautionary role of punishment is the higher the more inevitable it seems to the subject;
- the stimulating power is the higher, the greater the good that is lost by the criminal as a result of its use;
- the success of preventive punishment motivation is inversely related to the degree of prevalence and sustainability of prohibited behaviors;
- the success of preventive motivation depends on the proportionality of punitive sanctions and forbidden behavior;
- the degree of motivational effect of the punishment depends on how much the subject considers the prohibited action as acceptable, desirable and proper [2, p. 175].

It seems that these postulates cannot act equally effectively in relation to all categories of offenders. The reaction to the threat of punishment may differ depending on the level of intellectual development, education, social background and other factors.

Today, the system of criminal penalties applicable to minors should be reviewed in the direction of their mitigation. After all, staying in places of deprivation of liberty leads to a violation of positive social ties, loss of contact with family, relatives and friends. It is necessary to differentiate and individualize as much as possible the responsibility of minors, taking into account the strength of the offense committed, as well as their personal characteristics, reasons and conditions for the commission of an unlawful act. If

it is possible not to isolate the minor from society, such an opportunity should be taken. If the offense is not socially dangerous, measures of legal liability should be replaced by measures of public influence. The very methods of working with juvenile offenders in places of deprivation (restriction) of liberty should be as humane as possible. After all, the offender is a person, a person who has made the wrong choice, but who has the right to correct his life path.

What society can offer young people who have been released? It seems that it is necessary to begin their preparation for civilian life already in places of isolation. It is about getting a profession, and for young people with a general secondary education - also about getting a secondary special or higher education. As for obtaining a profession, such an opportunity has been realized in our country. Things are worse with getting secondary specialized and higher education. So, for example, the only higher education institution that took part in the European Distance Learning Program for Prisoners in agreement with Ministry of Internal Affairs, was Minsk Innovation University. However, in the current academic year, the implementation of this program has been suspended.

In addition, in places of deprivation (restriction) of freedom, the work of structures whose activities are aimed at the re-socialization of personality and adaptation to life in freedom should be improved. In particular, it is necessary to expand the staff of psychologists and social educators. And their training or retraining should be entrusted to educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The issues of employment and obtaining (continuing) education become relevant for young people after they are released. Due attention should also be paid to the organization of youth leisure. An urgent problem for young people is the availability of cultural and leisure facilities (sports sections, gyms, exhibition centers, clubs). The solution to this problem cannot be solved without budget funding. It seems that the practice of creating yard leisure organizations should be expanded, when sport courts are created on the territory of residential areas, and various sportive equipment is installed. Access to them should be as free as possible.

**Conclusion.** Prevention of offenses in the youth environment involves the creation of a set of measures aimed at finding a job, getting an education, organizing leisure activities, and re-socializing persons serving sentences in places of deprivation (restriction) of liberty.

The Republic of Belarus has created a legislative framework that allows for effective work on the prevention of youth delinquency. In particular, the subjects of prevention were identified, the main directions of their activities, the order of interaction with public authorities were outlined.

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