

© Irina Y. BLYASOVA

*erofeeva\_shgpi@mail.ru*

UDC 37.013.42

**THE SOCIO-LEGAL AND PEDAGOGICAL PROBLEMS  
OF PREVENTING CRIMINALITY AMONG TEENAGERS**

*SUMMARY. This article is devoted to the role of the family and educational establishments in preventing delinquent behavior, measures on increase of efficiency of prevention in the struggle against criminality of teenagers are proposed.*

*KEY WORDS. Prevention, teenager, delinquent behavior, the principles of organization of prevention, special programs.*

The prevention of crimes, from the point of view of security, stability and society's very life, is the main direction of the state policy of Russia. The merit in the doctrinal elaboration of this institute belongs to a galaxy of prominent Russian scientists, including I.G. Galperin, A.A. Gertsenzon, I.I. Karpets, V.N. Kudryavtsev, G.M. Minkovsky, A.B. Sakharov, J.M. Antonjan, A.I. Dolgova and others.

The works of G.A. Avanesov, A.I. Alekseev, D.I. Aminov, J.M. Antonjan, M.M. Babayev, E.S. Zhigarev, N.I. Vetrov, A.I. Dolgova, V.D. Ermakov, G.I. Zabryansky, K.E. Igoshev, O.I. Ignatenko, N.F. Kuznetsova, V.V. Luneev, E.B. Melnikova, V.V. Pankratov, S.L. Sibiryakov, V.S. Ustinov, D.A. Shestakov, V.E. Eminov and others were specifically dedicated to the problem of juvenile crime prevention.

Despite the scientists' close attention to the prevention of juvenile crime, the given problem continues to be urgent, as a level of delinquency among children and teenagers continues to remain rather high. For this reason the preventive activity of the state now is considered as:

- one of the most effective means of social regulation of public relations;
- the cooperation of economic and social, educational and pedagogical, organizational and legal measures;
- the combination of different levels of crime prevention.

The priority of crime prevention is proved:

- the forestalling feature: it is better not to allow the evil to take place, than to punish for wrongdoings;
- efficiency: fighting specific crimes and certain types, the state and society influence their motivations, thus preventing further similar crimes;
- savings of society's resources due to the reduction of its non-productive "costs"

However, the relevant direction of state policy can have a positive effect only on condition that it combines the problem's economic, social, demographic, pedagogical and legal solutions. Thus, the main role in the prevention of any law-breaking among teenagers should be concentrated on several subjects. They are: the family, representatives of educational establishments, social care centers, public organizations, etc.

The variety of reasons causing juvenile crime requires serious methodological training in the development and implementation of the state policy of crime prevention. The first thing that is necessary for the perfect organization of the special measures of impact is a differentiated approach to minors, taking into consideration the financial and social status of their families; age; place of residence; demographic characteristics, the socio-economic and crime situation in the region, and so on.

Taking into account the importance of preventive activity in the teenage environment, it is necessary to focus strictly on certain fundamental and guiding ideas, acting in the role of certain guidelines defining the objectives and the content of preventive activities. In the law "On the Principles of Prevention and Juvenile Delinquency" № 120 of 24.06.1999. (ed. The Federal Law of 07.07.2003 № 111-FZ), the principles of law, democracy, the humane treatment of juveniles, family support and cooperation with it, an individual approach to juveniles observing the confidentiality of received information, are given.

According to the peculiarities of the deviant behaviour of children and minors, it is necessary to distinguish psychological and pedagogical principles of the organization and implementation of preventive arrangements:

- the unity of the diagnostics and correction; the complexity (the organization of impacts at different levels of the social area, the family and the individual);
- targeting (accounting for age, sex and social characteristics); useful information; understanding and compassion;
- relevant psychological and pedagogical help and support; a maximum amount of individual activity;
- aspiration for the future (assessment of the consequences of behaviour, the actualization of positive values and aims, planning of future law-abiding behaviour);
- experts' professionalism—psychologists, teachers, lawyers, doctors, etc. [1; 338].

Nowadays in our country, a two-level model of prevention dominates, and it includes the following structure elements:

- institutions providing primary, early prevention, which include preschool centres, secondary schools, establishments of additional and professional education, etc.;

---

\* For example, the warning of one murder prevents the economic damage to the amount of 1,5 million roubles. *Criminology* / V.N. Kudryavtseva and B.E. Eminova. Moscow: Yurist, 2006. 265 p.

---

— institutions performing secondary (direct) prevention, which include temporary custody centres of juvenile offenders, prisons, special schools, vocational schools, etc. [2].

Preventive influence on teenagers is usually put into practice in two cases. The first one is when there are some negative occurrences, but they are in an embryonic state. The second one is when there is likelihood for these things to occur. Primary prevention's effectiveness is linked with the prevention of juvenile disadaptation. Primary (early) prevention is aimed at prevention of any negative influence on a teenager, his upbringing and the positive development of the individual. Families and educational institutes play the main part in the primary prevention system. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs' data, 113 000 parents are preventively influenced by the police. 30% among them systematically abuse alcohol, 40% start rows and behave in an antisocial way. These things have a negative influence on their children's lives.

60% of the respondents in penal colonies have seen their parents convicted. According to other data, micro-environment full criminogenic contamination was found in 60% of juvenile delinquents. Half of this group had fathers who had been convicted. 38% of the teenagers' fathers and about 20% of their mothers had an immoral way of life. The cult of violence was established as a basic way of communication in these families.

At the end of May 2010, the President of the Russian Federation, D.A. Medvedev announced the beginning of the movement "Russia—without cruelty to children!". The head of State designated the initiative of the Fund to support children in difficult life situations as important and timely. Providing conditions aimed at the strengthening of the institution of the family, a secure childhood free from violence, is the key task of national social policy [4].

Despite the obvious importance of family education, the role of educational institutions in the development of the child's personality is no less important. The task of educational institutions, especially against a background of reduction of the family educational role (employment of parents, reluctance to be engaged in the process of education, inability to find the approach to the child), is to organize conditions in educational institutions ensuring the physical, social and intellectual development of children.

Modern educational institutions have significant preventive potential. In 1997-1999, to implement a special program "The Youth of Kurgan", the city administration introduced posts of inspectors for minors in schools in the state police department. The main objectives of the duty of "school inspectors" have become activities aimed at the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The appropriate course of activities primarily involves ensuring the safety and security of students against crime, and to help the administration of schools in the organization of the legal education of the younger generation.

The regular staff of the Juvenile Department (in educational institutions) consists of 29 officers today. Preventive measures are provided in 56 secondary schools of

Kurgan by school inspectors. On average, one inspector is responsible for 2-3 schools, which include approximately 500-1600 pupils.

The introduction of the institute of "school inspectors" in secondary schools helped improve the situation in the city schools and in the neighborhood. During 2007-2011 the amount of school crimes decreased fivefold.

Positive results prove the necessity of carrying on preventive measures and making them systematic. This can be possible only with the creation and realization of unified state juvenile policy, which includes:

- social and legal family protection (crisis, large, parent, young families);
- creation of legal, economical, financial, informational and other conditions, which promote the wellbeing of the younger generation and families;
- improvement in the life standards of minors.

A special role in preventive measures of juvenile crime is given to the youth authorities, which are organized according to the law "Principles of the system of preventive measures regarding child neglect and law violation among minors". The youth authorities provide teenagers with social and legal protection, successful integration in social, political, economical and civilized country life, involving them in social activities.

At present more than 300 state institutions of regional importance which are responsible for work with young people, and over 3,000 municipal establishments of the sphere of youth policy, are involved in this work. During their research, T.K. Rostovskaya and Y.T. Rostovskaya found out that in places where there are youth centres, leisure centres, sports clubs, the number of delinquencies decreases by 5-7 times [5; 29]. The results obtained in the course of the particular work according to this program allowed the author to come to the conclusion that the following characteristics should be analyzed as indicators of deviant behavior:

First of all, psychological factors of personal deformation:

- the distortion of the value-oriented motivation system of the person (deviant values, occasion-egocentric orientation, the frustration of needs, internal conflicts, ineffective mechanisms of psychological protection);
- cognitive distortions (dysfunctional thoughts, stereotypes of thinking, limited knowledge, myths, prejudice, inadequate aims);
- negative life experience (negative habits and skills, deviant experience, rigid behavioural stereotypes, psychological trauma, the experience of violence).

Secondly, psychological problems caused by personal deformation:

- spiritual problems (absence or loss of the meaning of life, unformed moral values and uppermost feelings, inner emptiness, blocking of self-actualization);
  - emotional problems (anxiety, depression, negative emotions, the difficulties of understanding and expressing emotions);
  - problems of self-regulation (the violation of the ability to set goals and achieve them, inadequate self-esteem, excessive or insufficient self-control, a low level of reflection, low stress management, low adaptive capacities, the lack of positive resources in the individual).
-

The analysis of the above-mentioned indicators helps define all the necessary preventive measures to use.

As a rule, in the case of deviant behaviour, there is a whole complex of psychological problems [6; 76-77].

According to the analysis, individual programs for preventive activities or overcoming deviant behaviour are made. Many centers work on programs aimed at the solution of problems connected with deviant behavior.

One of the most important aims in training teachers to work with teenagers in pedagogical universities should be the study of special elective courses with the following issues: "Children's legal defense", "The organization of prevention of deviant child behavior in Russia", "The psychological and pedagogical basis of teenagers' drug addiction prevention", "Preventive measures against teen neglect and juvenile crimes", "Formation of teenagers' world outlook in the multipolar world", "Methods of teenagers' legal education".

In the process of study of elective courses, future teachers obtain the necessary legal knowledge, understand the need to organize their own professional activity on a legal basis. This approach to students develops skills and the need to use legal knowledge in practice.

The following should be taken into account:

- creating a comfortable atmosphere for pedagogical activity in schools, developing intellectual interests and talents among teenagers;
- creating a social service in schools to provide an individual approach to teenagers with deviant behavior, helping teachers and parents to work with them;
- encouraging teachers to improve their professional skills;
- developing the extra-curricular educational system for working with children and teenagers in schools, their involvement in social activities.

Development of cooperation between family and school. Family and school should combine their efforts of educational influence on minors. According to this aim, a set of measures is required:

- the involvement of parents in the events of the class, the school;
- teachers' and psychologists' help and support of parents in educational work with children;
- tutorial workshops for parents in school (parental seminar, parental lecture centre, etc.);
- organizing educational tutorial parental organizations.

Having taken into consideration the above facts, it is clear that one of the main preventive measures of juvenile crime should be the dynamic involvement of educational establishments in legal education for children and teenagers, improving their legal consciousness and culture. Preventive measures must be taken in close cooperation with educational establishments, families, leisure activities, positively directed subcultures, different social institutions and public organizations. Teenagers should be involved in the activities of positive community centers and organizations (sport, theatre, culture, leisure, tourism, etc.). So, it will contribute to the development

of healthy interests, bettering and overcoming negative qualities, favouring self-realization.

REFERENCES

1. Levitan K.M. Legal pedagogy: Textbook. Moscow: Norma, 2008. 338 p.
2. Prokurova S.V. Psychological peculiarities of working with juveniles in detention centre of minors. Thesis. Candidate of psychology. Moscow, 2006.
3. Lelekov V.A., Kosheleva V.E. Family influence of minors' crimes // Sociological research. 2006. № 1. P. 46.
4. Bardina Z. Dmitry Medvedev joined the movement "Russia — without cruelty towards children" // Political journal URL. <http://www.politjournal.ru/index.php?action=News&tek=5417>
5. Rostovskaya T.K., Rostovskaya I.V. About the development of the defence of rights of minors and the youth // Questions of juvenile justice. 2010. № 3. P. 28-29.
6. Zmanovskaya E.V. Devianologiya (Psychology of problem behaviour): Textbook for university students. Moscow: Academia, 2003. P. 76-77.