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CRIMINOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CRIMES WITHIN THE FAMILY AND MEASURES FOR THEIR PREVENTION

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Abstract

Crimes committed within the family environment represent a significant challenge for modern criminology due to their latent nature, emotional complexity, and long-term social consequences. Such crimes violate fundamental human rights, undermine family stability, and contribute to the reproduction of violent behavior across generations. This article examines the criminological characteristics of family-related crimes, focusing on their causes, conditions, structural features, and victimological aspects. The study is based on an integrated criminological approach that combines theoretical analysis, systematic interpretation, and logical generalization of scientific concepts. The results reveal that domestic crime develops gradually through persistent interpersonal conflict, psychological dependence, and weakened informal social control. Particular attention is given to the limitations of traditional legal responses and the necessity of comprehensive preventive measures. The findings emphasize that effective prevention requires coordinated interaction between legal institutions, social services, educational mechanisms, and psychological support systems. The study concludes that strengthening early prevention and improving social awareness are essential for reducing domestic crime and ensuring long-term social stability.

Keywords

domestic crime, family violence, criminological analysis, victimology, crime prevention, social protection, family relations

Introduction

In contemporary society, the family is universally recognized as one of the most fundamental social institutions, playing a decisive role in the formation of personality, transmission of moral values, and maintenance of social stability. As a primary environment of socialization, the family is expected to ensure emotional security, mutual respect, and protection of individual rights. However, empirical criminological research demonstrates that the family sphere is not always a zone of safety; on the contrary, it may become a setting for persistent forms of criminal behavior that pose serious threats to both individual well-being and public order. Crimes committed within the family occupy a special place in the general structure of criminality due to their specific social, psychological, and moral dimensions. Unlike conventional crimes occurring in public spaces, domestic crimes develop in a closed social environment characterized by long-term interpersonal relationships, emotional dependence, and unequal power dynamics. These features significantly complicate their detection, legal assessment, and prevention, making family-related crime one of the most complex phenomena in modern criminology.

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From a theoretical standpoint, family crime represents a multidimensional social deviation arising at the intersection of legal, psychological, economic, and cultural factors. Criminological science increasingly emphasizes that domestic violence and related offenses cannot be explained solely through individual pathology. Instead, they must be analyzed within a broader system of social determinants, including socio-economic instability, transformation of family roles, erosion of traditional value systems, insufficient legal awareness, and ineffective mechanisms of social control. A distinctive characteristic of crimes within the family is their high degree of latency. Victims often avoid reporting criminal acts due to fear of retaliation, emotional attachment to the offender, economic dependence, social stigma, or concern for preserving family unity. As a result, official crime statistics reflect only a limited portion of real incidents, creating a significant gap between registered crime and actual victimization. This latent nature not only distorts criminological analysis but also weakens preventive and protective measures. In the context of globalization and rapid social change, traditional family structures are undergoing profound transformation. Shifts in gender roles, migration processes, economic inequality, and digital influence have altered interpersonal dynamics within households. While these changes may promote individual autonomy, they may also generate conflicts, identity crises, and stress factors that increase criminogenic risks. Consequently, the prevention of crimes within the family requires not only legal regulation but also comprehensive socio-criminological strategies. Given these circumstances, the study of criminological characteristics of family-related crimes is of particular scientific and practical importance. A thorough understanding of their causes, conditions, offender and victim profiles, and developmental mechanisms is essential for designing effective prevention models. This article aims to provide a comprehensive criminological analysis of crimes occurring within the family sphere and to substantiate evidence-based measures for their prevention through coordinated legal, social, and institutional interventions.

The methodological basis of this research is founded on a comprehensive criminological analysis of crimes committed within the family environment, considering their social, psychological, and legal dimensions as an interconnected system. The study proceeds from the understanding that domestic crime cannot be adequately explained through a single theoretical model, as it emerges from the interaction of individual behavior, family relations, social conditions, and institutional mechanisms. Therefore, an integrated methodological approach is applied to ensure scientific objectivity and analytical depth. The research is primarily theoretical in nature and is conducted through the analysis, interpretation, and generalization of criminological concepts, scientific views, and doctrinal approaches developed in contemporary legal and social sciences. Special attention is paid to the systematic study of domestic crime as a specific form of criminality characterized by stability, repetition, and a high degree of latency. This approach makes it possible to reveal internal causal links between conflict situations in the family, behavioral deviations, and the escalation of unlawful acts. Within the framework of the study, the phenomenon of family-related crime is examined using a system-structural perspective, which allows the identification of its main elements, including the offender, the victim, the criminogenic environment, and the surrounding social context. The interaction between these elements is analyzed as a dynamic process, in which prolonged interpersonal conflict, emotional dependence, and imbalance of power gradually form conditions favorable for criminal behavior. Such an approach ensures a deeper understanding of the mechanisms through which violence becomes normalized within family relations. The methodology also relies on a comparative criminological analysis, enabling the identification of general patterns

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in the development and prevention of domestic crimes. By comparing different scientific positions and normative approaches, the study evaluates the effectiveness of existing preventive models and determines their limitations. This method contributes to the formulation of scientifically grounded recommendations aimed at improving preventive strategies.

In addition, logical and analytical methods are applied to examine the causal relationships between socio-economic instability, moral disorientation, alcohol abuse, psychological stress, and the emergence of violent behavior within the household. Through theoretical abstraction and synthesis, the research identifies key criminogenic factors that influence both the formation and persistence of domestic crime. This analytical process supports the development of a conceptual model explaining domestic criminality as a socially conditioned and reproducible phenomenon. Victimological analysis occupies a central place in the methodological structure of the research. The study examines victim behavior not as a cause of crime, but as a condition shaped by dependence, fear, and long-term psychological pressure. This approach allows the identification of mechanisms of repeated victimization and explains why victims often remain within abusive relationships, thereby contributing to the hidden nature of domestic crime.

Results

The results of the criminological analysis demonstrate that crimes committed within the family environment constitute a stable and socially conditioned form of criminal behavior characterized by continuity, recurrence, and strong emotional dependency between the offender and the victim. The study reveals that domestic crime does not arise spontaneously; rather, it develops gradually through prolonged interpersonal conflicts, accumulation of psychological tension, and the normalization of aggressive behavior within everyday family interactions.

Conclusion

The conducted criminological analysis confirms that crimes committed within the family represent one of the most complex and socially dangerous forms of criminal behavior. Their specificity lies not only in the legal nature of the acts but also in the emotional, psychological, and moral relationships between the offender and the victim. Unlike conventional criminality, domestic crime develops in a closed social environment where long-term interaction, dependence, and imbalance of power create favorable conditions for repeated unlawful behavior.

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