

CAUSES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND METHODS OF PREVENTION

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Abstract

Juvenile delinquency is a serious social problem that affects the stability and safety of society. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, there is a worrying trend of increasing crimes committed by minors. To effectively counteract juvenile delinquency, it is necessary to study its causes in detail and develop effective prevention methods, considering the peculiarities of national legislation and international experience.

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

Socio-economic factors: A low standard of living, unemployment among parents, and limited access to quality education can contribute to adolescents becoming involved in criminal activity. In conditions of economic instability, youth may seek alternative ways to earn money, including illegal ones.

Family circumstances: Dysfunctional families, where violence, alcoholism, or drug addiction are present, have a negative impact on the development of a teenager's personality. A lack of proper attention and support from parents often leads to deviant behavior in children.

Peer influence: Adolescents surrounded by peers with anti-social tendencies are more likely to commit crimes. The desire to be accepted into the group may push them to engage in unlawful acts.

Lack of leisure activities and opportunities for self-realization: A shortage of sports clubs, interest groups, and other opportunities for positive self-expression may lead adolescents to seek excitement in unlawful activities.

Insufficient control from parents and educational institutions: The lack of adequate supervision and attention from adults may leave adolescents to their own devices, increasing the risk of their involvement in criminal activities.

Statistical Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency in Uzbekistan

An analysis of statistical data shows an increase in juvenile crime in Uzbekistan. In 2020, the total number of crimes increased by 34.7% compared to the previous year, with a significant portion of offenses committed by young people. Particularly concerning is the fact that most law violations were committed by schoolchildren. The most common crimes among youth are theft, fraud, and hooliganism.

Legislative Measures to Prevent Juvenile Delinquency in Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has taken significant steps to combat crimes committed by minors. In 2010, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Prevention of Juvenile Neglect and Offenses" was adopted, which defines the main approaches to preventing offenses among individuals under the age of 18. The basic principles for preventing neglect and delinquency among minors include legality, humanity, a systematic approach, family support, and an individual approach to raising minors in socially dangerous situations.

Additionally, in 2021, amendments were made to the Criminal Code to strengthen the protection of children's rights. The "Law on the Prevention of Offenses" was also adopted, aimed at preventing crime among minors. Individual prevention of offenses is determined based on the characteristics of the individual's personality, their social environment, living conditions, lifestyle, and other factors that characterize anti-social behavior, the individual's tendency to commit offenses, as well as the level of public danger of the committed offense.

International Experience in Preventing Juvenile Delinquency

Studying international experience shows that a comprehensive approach to preventing juvenile delinquency includes the following measures:

Early intervention and family support: In some countries, early intervention programs are implemented to support dysfunctional families and prevent the development of deviant behavior in children.

Educational programs and youth employment: Creating opportunities for education and employment for adolescents reduces the risk of their involvement in criminal activity.

Social services and rehabilitation programs: The functioning of specialized social services that provide support and rehabilitation programs for juvenile offenders helps with their reintegration and prevents recidivism.

Cooperation between state and public organizations: Effective prevention of juvenile delinquency requires close cooperation between government institutions, educational organizations, and public associations.

Recommendations for Improving the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency in Uzbekistan

Strengthening family policies: It is necessary to develop and implement programs that support families in difficult life situations to create favorable conditions for raising children.

Developing additional education and leisure systems: Creating and supporting clubs, sections, and other forms of engagement for adolescents will help channel their energy in a positive direction, encouraging the development of skills and preventing involvement in criminal activity.

Increasing legal literacy: Conducting regular activities aimed at informing adolescents about their rights and responsibilities, as well as the consequences of unlawful actions, will contribute to the formation of law-abiding behavior.

Conclusion

Juvenile delinquency remains one of the significant social problems in Uzbekistan. Its causes are multifaceted and include economic difficulties, unfavorable family situations, peer influence, lack of control from parents, and insufficient opportunities for self-realization. Statistical data indicates an increase in the number of crimes committed by minors, which requires immediate measures from both the state and society.

Uzbekistan's legislation aims to prevent juvenile crime, but effective solutions require a comprehensive approach. It is important to strengthen family policies, develop additional education and leisure systems, and increase the legal literacy of adolescents. International experience shows that effective prevention of juvenile crime is only possible through close cooperation between government bodies, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, and public organizations.

Thus, in order to reduce juvenile delinquency in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to continue improving legislation, developing preventive measures, and creating conditions under which youth can realize their potential in a lawful and safe manner.

Sources

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4. "Why is crime increasing among youth?"
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