

**INTEGRATED MECHANISMS OF YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION: LAW,
PSYCHOLOGY AND MORAL VALUES**

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Abstract: This article analyzes the legal and psychological mechanisms of crime prevention among young people in Uzbekistan. The aim of the study is to study complex mechanisms that contribute to the reduction of offenses among young people and the development of legal culture in society. Both foreign and national experience, as well as the results of scientific research, are considered. It is shown that legal mechanisms (prevention inspectors, family control, legal education in educational institutions) and psychological mechanisms (psychological trainings, work with deviant behavior, rehabilitation centers) effectively interact.

Keywords: youth, crime prevention, legal mechanism, psychological mechanism, deviant behavior, rehabilitation.

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Abstract: This article analyzes the legal and psychological mechanisms for preventing youth crime in Uzbekistan. The aim of the study is to examine comprehensive mechanisms that contribute to reducing youth delinquency and promoting legal culture in society. Both international and national experiences, as well as the results of scientific research, are considered. It is demonstrated that legal mechanisms (prevention inspectors, family supervision, legal education in educational institutions) and psychological mechanisms (psychological training, working with deviant behavior, rehabilitation centers) interact effectively.

Keywords: youth, crime prevention, legal mechanism, psychological mechanism, deviant behavior, rehabilitation.

Introduction: Prevention of youth crime is a multidimensional process that combines legal, psychological, and moral and ethical measures. In Uzbekistan, the prevention of delinquency among young people depends not only on the activities of law enforcement agencies, but also on the influence of society, families, educational institutions and public organizations. Modern reforms have strengthened preventive services, improved the technical and material base, and increased the effectiveness of measures. The combination of legal, psychological and moral mechanisms ensures the comprehensive development of young people and the formation of respect for the law.

Legal and psychological mechanisms of crime prevention among young people are closely interrelated not only with the activities of law enforcement agencies, but also with the socio-educational and psychological systems of society's influence. From this point of view, the reforms carried out by the internal affairs bodies in the field of combating crime and its prevention have been reorganized to meet modern requirements. In particular, the system of crime prevention services was improved, their material and technical base was updated in accordance with modern standards, which significantly increased the effectiveness of crime prevention among young people and the formation of their law-abiding behavior.

In modern conditions, the prevention of crime among young people is one of the most urgent tasks. In Uzbekistan, the implementation of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy and a set of reforms creates key legal and institutional foundations in this area. One of the important areas of the strategy is ensuring the rule of law in society, protecting the rights and interests of young people, as well as effective implementation of preventive measures through democratization and liberalization of the judicial and legal system¹.

Legal and psychological factors of youth crime are studied, and prevention activities are based on the principle of individual approach and integrated measures. In this process, legal mechanisms are associated with ensuring the rule of law and monitoring the execution of sentences, while psychological mechanisms are associated with influencing personal and moral values, social activity of young people and strengthening their law — abiding behavior.

Currently, effective prevention of youth crime requires the joint work of legal and psychological mechanisms. This is realized not only through the activities of the internal affairs bodies and the judicial and legal system, but also through the participation of families, educational institutions, NGOs and broad public institutions. Thus, improving the legal literacy and psychological stability of young people contributes to the formation of respect for the law and respect for individual rights.

As a result, legal and psychological mechanisms for preventing crime among young people play a key role in ensuring the rule of law and the security of society, create a favorable environment for the personal and social development of young people and contribute to the sustainable development of a modern democratic, legal and liberal state of Uzbekistan. The article discusses in detail the legal and psychological aspects of the topic, analyzes foreign and national experience, and offers practical solutions.

Literature analysis: The problem of youth crime is one of the factors that directly affect the stability of modern society, the level of legal culture and social security. With insufficient social and legal education of young people who actively participate in the life of the state and society, deviant behavior and a tendency to delinquency may increase [8]. Therefore, prevention of youth crime as a scientifically based target system, provided with legal and psychological mechanisms, is of great importance.

Scientific research on the problem of youth crime is focused on various areas. Thus, T. Moffitt (1993) identifies two types of behavior: "offenses characteristic of adolescence" and "deviant behavior that continues throughout life" [13]. Hirschi (1969), through the theory of social control, showed that one of the main factors of juvenile delinquency is the weakening of ties with society [14]. In the psychological sphere, Bandura (1977), based on the theory of social learning, emphasized the role of the environment in shaping the behavior of young people [15].

Local scientists, such as B. Samoilov, study trends in youth crime, in particular the influence of the Internet and social groups [4]. He recommends using cyber courses, rehabilitation programs, and legal precedents for prevention. A. Қ.К. alandarov emphasizes the importance of psychological factors, pointing out socio-psychological instability, emotional impulsivity, and low level of legal culture as the main reasons for the tendency to crime among young people [5]. S. G.ulomov analyzes socio-economic factors and the influence of the family environment,

¹ Ш.М. Мирзиёев. Стратегия развития Нового Узбекистана: Обращение депутатов Законодательной палаты Олий Мажлиса Республики Узбекистан и народа Республики Узбекистан. — Ташкент: «Узбекистан», декабрь 2022 года.

emphasizing the need for an individual approach, personal rehabilitation plans and cooperation with mahallas [6].

Industry experts note that the prevention of crime among young people should be solved through the interaction of the family, educational institutions and law enforcement agencies.

Degree of knowledge of the problem: Youth crime is widely studied abroad, and many studies emphasize the effectiveness of legal control, community participation, and psychological rehabilitation. For example, in the United States, Community Policing programs provide preventive interaction with young people [11, 12]. In EU countries, Youth Justice System models apply educational legal measures to adolescents.

In Uzbekistan, the legislative framework has been formed: the Law "On Crime Prevention", the Law "On Youth Policy" and a number of resolutions play an important role[2]. Research highlights improving the legal culture of young people, strengthening the family environment, and improving the activities of prevention inspectors as key areas.

According to the Statistical Office of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the number of crimes among young people in 2021-2023 decreased: from more than 14 thousand cases in 2021 to about 11 thousand in 2023 [3]. This indicates the growing effectiveness of preventive measures.

The dynamics of delinquency among young people in Uzbekistan is directly related to the socio-economic situation, the Internet environment, psychological pressure and family control. In recent years:

- The work of prevention inspectors has been strengthened.
- electronic administrative control systems have been implemented.
- the number of legal literacy classes in educational institutions has been increased.

However, Internet content with negative influence, lack of family upbringing, and peer pressure in some regions keep teenagers prone to delinquency.

Legal and psychological mechanisms:

To reduce youth crime, legal and psychological mechanisms must work together.

Legal mechanisms:

- expanding the powers of prevention inspectors;
- maintaining electronic records of young people who are prone to delinquency;
- strengthening the legal responsibility of parents;
- introduction of compulsory legal education classes in schools;
- widespread use of educational punishments by courts.

2. Psychological mechanisms:

- stress management trainings;

- individual work with teenagers with signs of deviant behavior;
- aggression control programs;
- activities of social adaptation and rehabilitation centers [9].

Integrated approach:

The joint work of legal and psychological mechanisms makes it possible to effectively manage the behavior of young people and reduce the tendency to delinquency.

Solutions and recommendations:

Introduction of a unified training program for prevention inspectors and psychologists.

Creation of a "Parents' School " in mahallas to improve the quality of family education.

Introduction of special legal and psychological courses on Internet security.

Expand sports, cultural and educational projects to create a healthy environment for young people.

Introduction of the subject "Legal culture of youth" in educational institutions.

Strengthening the rehabilitation of youth who have committed offenses and programs for their social adaptation [10].

Moral and ethical mechanisms:

- Formation of moral values and civil responsibility;
- Community-based programs that promote ethical behavior.
- Inclusion of ethics in school curricula;
- Popularization of positive role models and mentoring.

Integrated approach:

The simultaneous use of legal, psychological, and moral and ethical mechanisms can effectively prevent youth crime, create an environment conducive to law-abiding behavior, moral development, and social integration.

Solutions and recommendations:

Unified training programs for prevention inspectors and psychologists;

Organization of "Parent Schools" in communities;

Courses on legal and psychological security on the Internet;

Expansion of sports, cultural and educational initiatives for young people;

Introduction of the school course "Legal and moral culture of youth";

Strengthening rehabilitation programs for offenders.

Conclusion: Youth crime is an important factor for the security, stability and future development of society. The analysis shows that prevention should not be limited to legal or psychological methods only. A comprehensive approach covering legal, educational, psychological, social and Internet aspects ensures the expected positive result.

The reforms implemented in Uzbekistan, including cooperation between the Agency for Youth Affairs, prevention inspectors and educational institutions, show positive trends. However, taking into account digitalization and Internet threats, prevention should be organized in more modern forms.

The comprehensive system of youth crime prevention, which includes legal and psychological mechanisms, based on foreign experience and national legislation, shows positive results. To increase efficiency, it is necessary to strengthen the interaction of families, schools, mahallas and law enforcement agencies, improve the legal culture of young people and expand psychological rehabilitation programs.

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