Peculiarities of Psychological Support of Minor Pupils of Penitentiaries in Their Rehabilitation and Re-Socialization for Outside Life

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Abstract: This article presents the problem of re-socialization, rehabilitation and preadaptation of juveniles in places of social isolation. Details of creating and improving the special system for minor inmates incarcerated in penitentiary facilities were recognized, which will protect the rights and correct deviant personality of the adolescent. Presented research was based on the psychological and educational correctional work in the prisons of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Key words: Humanization • Juvenile offenders • Juvenile justice • Offenders • Subcultural groups • Penitentiaries • Prevention and intervention • Re-socialization and rehabilitation

INTRODUCTION

The humanization of society as a whole of the penal system, in particular, dictates the need for conversion measures in penitentiaries. In the Republic of Kazakhstan in order to ensure correction and uniform of application of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, a special attention has been paid to the practical implementation of the project "Juvenile Justice in Kazakhstan" [1] and the "Concepts of the juvenile justice system development in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2009-2011" [2], implemented jointly with government bodies and educational institutions.

The President of the Constitutional Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan Rogov I.I. considers that "the humanistic potential of Kazakhstan's legislation is far from being exhausted. The main goal today-is to ensure the effectiveness of the existing penal legislation. However, the punishment should apply only to imprisonment and nor to other rights of citizens. One can not deprive a person of constitutional rights and the development of legislation and practices should move in this direction" – the legal scholar stated in his speech [3].

Radical changes in the penitentiaries due to changes in the penal system of Kazakhstan impose brand new demands towards juvenile offenders. International organizations on criminal policy humanization welcome the current positive changes in Kazakhstan. For several years, psycho-educational experimental work has been conducted in Auezov district of Almaty and Karasai district of Almaty region.

Currently Kazakhstan is facing another historical era specific for the global crisis which significantly impact on the social, political and economic situation of the state. In particular, these trends most acutely affect the development of the younger generation. Amid the economic and social deprivation minors increasingly get involved into the criminal underworld. A widespread demoralization has such features as rapid growth of alcoholism, drug addiction, vagrancy, vandalism, theft, brigandism, prostitution, suicide, an increase of subcultural groups and associations, etc. [4].

Currently, in all civilized countries, including the Republic of Kazakhstan, the tendency of preventive practices humanization has been outlined in order to prevent crime and other forms of deviant behavior. However, the general trend of preventive practices, i.e. aimed at preventing crime and other forms of deviations, has the so called guarding-protective character.

No penitentiary system can be reformed in a vacuum. The reform must be associated with the development of other elements of the criminal justice system as well. One of the solutions to the problems of juvenile delinquency is the juvenile justice which aims to create...
and improve a specific system for minors, designed to maximally protect the young generation from attacks on their rights and legitimate interests.

The effectiveness of the juvenile justice will be higher if one doesn’t focus on the enforcement to the fulfillment of a legal obligation, but on the importance of taken efforts by the minor himself to correct the situation, through the awakening of consciousness in relation to his/her offense", "inclusion" of teen motivation and incentive for him/her to emotional experience. Herewith it is necessary to take into account problems of pedagogical neglect, individual psychological characteristics and personality characteristics of a prisoner, as well as the nature of the offense. In a vocabulary of terms on protection of the children’s rights the following explanation is given to the "juvenile justice": a system of laws regulating relations in the field of execution of justice towards minors, the mechanism of protection and respect for the rights of juveniles during the preliminary investigation and trial. The basis of the juvenile justice system are juvenile or teen courts, which shall apply not only punitive measures, but primarily, a preventive work and rehabilitation of adolescents [5].

In foreign countries (the 1960s in USA) a big role was assigned to activities of judges of minors and juvenile courts. Back in those days the children's courts were operating and in those countries where they didn’t exist (Norway, Sweden, Finland) cases of offences and crimes were considered in ordinary courts taking into account the age peculiarities of offenders or were transferred to special administrative childhood protection authorities. They usually presided in composition of three judges—a chairman and two associate judges. The judges were selected and appointed on the basis of experience of suitability to consider cases of juvenile offenders. In children’s (juvenile) courts cases were being considered behind the closed doors and separately from trials carried out for adult criminals. In the courtroom only witnesses, parents, foster parents and representatives of children's institutions, etc were allowed [4].

Every year juveniles commit such crimes as hooliganism, robbery, rape, brigandry, infliction of serious bodily harm, etc. Since 2006, the research team of 7 people (Ph.D.candidate, post-graduate students, master’s student, diploma students of the Specialized Department of Theoretical and Applied Psychology of Kazakhstan State Women Pedagogical University) according to the Memorandum concluded with the Department of CPS of Almaty and Almaty region, has been conducted psychological and correctional work in the colony LA-155/6 and LA-155/4.

A psycho-pedagogical work with minors in penitentiaries, aimed at preventing them from committing new crimes, is an important direction of preventive activities. Our group is engaged in psychological support for those who are being prepared for parole. The main task is to solve problems of re-socialization and reintegration of pupils for outside life.

Psychological support has two major areas: psychological prevention (preventive measures, prophylactic treatment) and psychological intervention (overcoming, correction, rehabilitation). Penitentiary psychotherapy in conditions of liberty deprivation is an important, though poorly developed form of intervention [6].

Generalization of experience from foreign and domestic penitentiaries convinces in the need for special work on psycho-pedagogical support of juvenile offenders in social isolation conditions. This work lies in activation of mentality, attitude of mind, habits, mental states and in formation of attitude toward a proper behavior in conditions of freedom. With the help of targeted mental effects aimed at pupils of closed institutions it is possible to achieve formation of readiness to engage in a social environment without additional energy costs to overcome internal resistance and strain [4]. We’ve become convinced in this while working with officers and psychologists of the pre-trial detention center and prison colony LA-155/6, LA-155/4 in Almaty and Almaty region. The practice of correctional educational institutions shows that the rehabilitation and re-socialization problems depend on the degree of criminal and moral neglect of a convicted person which is expressed in perverted needs, interests and motives of behavior which are an internal incentive and a source of activity of the person. Therefore it is necessary, first of all, to impact on those internal subjective factors and mechanisms that led the juvenile to commit illegal (delinquent behavior). The re-socialization and rehabilitation of persons in detention centers are a complex and multifaceted process. Persons, who have been in prisons for a long time, are not ready to overcome difficulties and challenges awaiting for them outside and they often follow a path of the least resistance, i.e. the criminal path. Most often the category of such persons is filled with minors without parents, orphanages, drug addicts, alcoholics and persons released from imprisonment [4].

A psycho-pedagogical assistance as one of the levels of the considered system plays a connecting role in it and differs by the expressed humanistic orientation. This fact was reflected in the principles of psychological work such as confidentiality, voluntariness and personal
Table 1: Types of psycho-correctional trainings and forms of their realization in the colony in LA-155/6, LA-155/4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of psycho-correctional trainings</th>
<th>Purpose of training</th>
<th>Form of realization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group training</td>
<td>Group cohesion, removing barriers in communication,</td>
<td>Exercise-workout, outdoor games, stories, situations, parables,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>discovery of the ability to communicate freely</td>
<td>interviews-confessions, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play therapy</td>
<td>Personal development, formation of human values,</td>
<td>Role and business games, workouts, training exercises,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>correction of deviant behavior</td>
<td>game interactions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair therapy</td>
<td>Activation of internal resources, creativity discovery and harmonization of personality</td>
<td>Mini-essays, narration of fairy tale, discussion and writing fairy tales, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meditation</td>
<td>Accumulation of experience, release of mental and emotional stress, creation of positive relationships, development of personal potential</td>
<td>Meditative exercises and relaxation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art therapy, Holotropic Breathwork</td>
<td>Release of mental and emotional stress, relief from negative stereotyping, revelation of unconscious destructive types of behavior</td>
<td>Drawing techniques (projective tests, collective picture, etc.), Mandalas and their discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychological consulting</td>
<td>Psychological interviews to help identify internal states and strengthen internal positive attitude, create a constructive life perspective</td>
<td>Individual and group consultation, work in small groups</td>
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concernment, sincerity, acceptance by a human of responsibility for his life, mutual trust, support and respect for the individual and his or her individuality. Certainly, every psychologist-practitioner knows these rules firsthand, but we'll let recall about them, because results of the training will be effective only when such principles as "here and now", confidentiality will be strictly observed.

A psychological adjustment has a particular impact on pupils in order to change and bring their behavioral abnormalities to an appropriate rate, as well as adopt social and moral foundations of society by them. Psychological and educational support (impact) in this case requires an application of a complex system of measures and methods to deal with delinquents in social isolation conditions. To solve the set tasks we developed a Program that includes "Stages and content of psycho-pedagogical correctional work on rehabilitation and re-socialization of pupils of penitentiaries for outside life " [4].

One of the leading methods of correction and rehabilitation is a variety of social and psychological trainings. Here we are talking primarily about the methods of the group correctional work with communicative disorders, emotional and volition disturbance, inadequate self-estimation, characteristic for maladaptive persons. In addition, social and psychological trainings effectively form non-aggressive communication skills in order to help minors for better understanding, assess themselves, their personality, to gain experience of reflection and self-examination of their behavior. Besides, the arsenal of psychological and pedagogical tools includes a variety of techniques and methods: study of biographical data (anamnesis), individual interviews, systematic observations, natural experiment, study through a team, personal contact, correspondence with relatives, etc. The study of personality characteristics and their influence on behavior will help to better understand the problems of each of the prisoners with a view to successful solution of tasks faced by the juvenile justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan. For example, an anamnestic work carried out in the colony indicates that 80% of people are from dysfunctional single-parent families whose living standards are below the average, have an incomplete education and some are not even able to write and read according to their age. A significant number of minors, having embarked on a criminal path, had parents who had been convicted for violation of law even before their children reached adolescence. The evidence of it is proved by destinies of children who have committed murders, they are similar to crimes of their fathers.

In order to explore the emotional and mental state and individual personality characteristics of juvenile offenders, the following techniques have been used: Spielberger-Hanin (personal and situational anxiety) [7], M. Lüscher’s color test (mental condition)[8], a PNA technique (picture of nonexistent animal), H. Eysenck (anxiety, frustration, aggression, rigidity) [9], author's technique of Akazhanova A.T. helped to identify the main types of delinquent behavior (aggressive, criminal and delinquent, addictive, suicidal) and the test of
K. Leonhard-N. Shmishek helped to identify the relationship and influence of types of accentuation on the manifestation of the basic types of wrongful behavior [10].

Our experience in colonies showed that for successful research of a convicted person it is necessary to remove his / her psychological barrier, i.e. to convince him/her that psycho-pedagogical work is carried out for research purposes and will allow him to better understand himself. Each session requires careful preparation and various approaches to suit the purpose and objectives of the study. In the table below are designated types and forms of our studies with the formulation of various purposes.

The rehabilitation of teenagers in detention facilities, aimed at preventing them from committing new crimes, is an important preventive work. In the process of psycho-pedagogical work with juvenile pupils of closed institutions, we have become convinced that prolonged stay of children in isolation leads to deep personality disorder. This may subsequently deeply affect both the personality itself and the environment in which he /she will have to live in future and engage in any activity. While organizing psychological and educational support for such categories of persons, it is necessary to become familiar with specifics of such penitentiaries and, in close cooperation with their employees, strive for fulfillment of the set tasks. Up to day, psychological support of pupils of penitentiaries aimed at re-adaptation, re-socialization and rehabilitation requires further improvement. To our view, it is possible in cooperation with those foreign countries where special attention is paid to the problems of psycho-pedagogical correction of juvenile delinquency. [11].

Thus, while carrying out psycho-pedagogical support of juveniles for their re-socialization and re-adaptation to outside life, it is not enough to know their negative qualities, it is necessary to take into account the identity and development of some of the individual personality features, characteristics of the nervous system organization, having a significant impact on the psychological characteristics of personality and consequently, on commitment of unlawful acts by them.

REFERENCES