

SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE MOTIVES OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND MINORS

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Annotation. *The study of motives is necessary for revealing the psychological nature of human actions in general and criminal acts in particular. Specifying a motive for a crime means specifying the reason for a subject to commit a socially dangerous act and the psychological basis of the crime, which internally pushes the person to commit it. From a psychological point of view, a criminal act is a specific form of a particular action or activity. In order to understand what precedes antisocial action, first of all, it is necessary to analyze the needs and motives that push the personality to take action. The psychological characteristics of wrongdoing differ depending on the actions by which these acts are committed.*

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Comparison of the structures of motives for criminal activity committed by young people and juveniles makes it possible to identify trends in the development of crime motives depending on the age of criminals. The comparison made it possible, first of all, to establish those changes in the structure of motivation of criminal wrongdoings, which are directly related to the age-related development of the individual and, to some extent, express the features of this development. Three groups of changes are the most revealing here.

Firstly, the general structure of motivation of the studied category excludes innocent childish motives inherent in juveniles: 'adventurous motive,' 'desire to seem brave.' The exclusion of this sort of motivation is a natural consequence of those general changes in the motivational sphere that occur in the transformation process from adolescence to a young age. With the accumulation of life experience and knowledge, the young man gradually abandons the juvenile motives of activity, and his actions become increasingly motivated and independent.

Secondly, among young people (compared to juveniles), the prevalence of motives chosen due to a self-made decision is increasing. Accordingly, the number of motives that arose due to mimetic response is sharply reduced (more than six times). Self-esteem, already formed by this age (overestimated, as a rule), becomes more significant than such a motive as 'respect and street credibility.' Having committed criminal wrongdoing and giving preference to one or another motive, a young man, unlike a juvenile, focuses on personally significant goals and his own inner experiences but external opinions and judgments about him.

Thirdly, among young people, the share of motives that express a conscious conflict between the subject of the crime and the surrounding people and society is significantly increasing. The motive of 'revenge and anger' is observed in this group six times more often than among juveniles. This is due to the peculiarities of

developmental psychology and a subject's particular position. A young person experiences acute conflicts caused by the need for life self-determination, difficulties of adaptation, and overcoming the contradictions between the ideal and reality, which is natural for this period of life. The psychological reaction to these contradictions is the motives mentioned above.

There is a certain continuity in the structure of motives for criminal doings committed by juveniles and young people. This is expressed in the preservation of a significant degree of self-interested motives, in a reasonably high (despite a sharp reduction) frequency of prevalence of an age-specific motivation - 'respect and street credibility'- and in mimetic response elements.

It should also be noted that the dominant motive must be clearly defined among juveniles and young people. Moreover, the number of 'motiveless' crimes committed by young people (as compared to juveniles) is increasing significantly, i.e., the share of crimes committed accidentally is increasing.

Studying the motivation structure for criminal wrongdoings is essential for solving practical problems of educating young people and preventing socially dangerous acts. This is primarily because the motivational sphere determines the essence of the subject's actions and deeds. Therefore, the educator, influencing the offender's inner motives, influences his spiritual world and behaviour.

Among the problems of educating young people and preventing crimes, an important place is occupied by the problem of forming moral motives in young people, which determine the correct assessment of acts and their consequences. In practice, it is essential to form in young people, first of all, such motives as the moral need for actions based on a socially conscious goal, high moral prestige among others, the desire for self-assertion, etc.

No less critical in educating young people and preventing crimes is to form motives of a material sphere. Material possessions can become a strong irritant for mercenary crimes if they are associated with the desire to enrich oneself, obtain unearned income, etc. Therefore, in educating young people, special attention should be paid to shaping solid connections between the motives of the material sphere and the moral factor. It is necessary to ensure that one's material motives, before they are objectified in acts, are subjected to internal 'selection' based on high moral evaluations. This is of particular importance in neutralizing such motives of criminal activity as greed, the desire to save up material wealth, and benefit.

In educating young people, age-related changes in the field of motivation, which naturally manifest themselves in the motivation of crime, should be taken into account. The educator needs to know which motives of criminal wrongdoings determine behaviour less and less while aging and which, on the contrary, are fixed or transformed into other motives. Because of this, the educator should look for new methods and means of influencing the personality of the young wrongdoer and the motives of his behaviour. It is essential to consider such changes for the organization of preventive measures.

Thus, emphasizing the regular changes in the motivational sphere and highlighting the features of developmental psychology, it should be taken into account, on the one hand, that the changes do not cancel the general social content of

the motivation for criminal wrongdoings. They mainly affect the form of its organization, i.e., its structure. On the other hand, when the motivational sphere changes, there is a continuity in the development of both individual motives and the structure of motivation. Therefore, when analyzing the motivation of criminal wrongdoings and the practical use of results, it is necessary to consider both the general antisocial content of motivation and the features of developmental psychology, which are reflected in the motives of specific types of criminal wrongdoings.

The dependence of the motives of criminal wrongdoings on the environment stipulates a factor analysis of motivation. The essence of such an analysis lies in the researcher establishing the set of environmental components and how they influence the formation of motives for criminal behaviour.

The motives of criminal activity, as well as the personality as a whole, are significantly influenced by the conditions of family upbringing. This includes a significant group of factors: the composition of the family where this person was brought up, the material and housing security of the family, parents' level of education and culture, relations within the family, psychological climate, family's attitude to people around them, etc. The absence of one or both parents and deviations from the norm in the behaviour of family members have the most significant impact on the motivation for criminal wrongdoings.