

Mechanisms for the Prevention and Prevention of the Crime of Involving Minors in Sexual Contact

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Abstract: In this thesis, it is stated that the crime of involving minors in sexual relations is not only a legal, but also a social, psychological, and moral problem, and the mechanisms for preventing this crime are analyzed; legislation, family, school, and mahalla activities, psychological measures, digital security tools, and the experience of the CIS countries are studied. The purpose of the article is to provide effective measures and scientific recommendations for the protection of children from crime.

Keywords: minors, sex, prevention, legislation, psychological measures, digital security.



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Involving minors in sexual relations is not only a crime, but also a problem related to the spiritual and social environment of society.

Considering that the protection of children's rights and interests is a priority of state policy today, it is certainly possible to understand the necessity of timely elimination of legal problems that may arise in this area [1. 7 p].

Throughout the world, the main standards related to the protection of children from sexual exploitation are defined by the UN Convention on the Protection of Minors (1989), and also in the CIS countries, this document serves as the main criterion for preventive measures in legislation [2. 15 p].

In the process of crime prevention, the application of legislation alone is not enough, but family, school, mahalla, psychological, and technical measures are also important. Therefore, the main focus is on preventing children from being prone to delinquency through a systematic approach [3. 22 p].

Article 128 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan defines sexual intercourse with minors or their involvement in it as a crime. [4. 45 p.]

Minors are persons under the age of 16. The article clearly indicates the subject, object, subjective and objective aspects of the crime.

Currently, crimes committed through the internet and social networks are increasing. Therefore, the clarity of the norms covering actions committed in the online environment is also relevant in the legislation.

Protection of children from sexual exploitation; Determination of the mechanism for applying punishment to persons who have committed crimes; Such actions as ensuring preventive measures on a legal basis are defined as the main tasks of the legislation.

Ensuring the uniform application of these norms in judicial and investigative practice is an important factor in reducing the proportion of crimes.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the legislation of the CIS countries also studies the norms aimed at protecting children from sexual exploitation as a separate institution.

Analyzing these legislative acts, we can see that each of them has various achievements and shortcomings in terms of crime prevention and punishment mechanism. In particular,

Russian Federation. Article 134 of the Criminal Code establishes liability for involvement in sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 16 [5. 56 p]. At the same time, it can be observed that according to the legislation of Russia, based on the circumstances of the commission of this crime, separate norms are distinguished for online and offline crimes.

Republic of Kazakhstan. Article 122 of the Criminal Code provides for punishment for attempting to involve children in sexual relations [6. 61 p]. At the same time, through the "Cybersecurity - 2022" program, it is planned to prevent Internet risks (i.e., the promotion of sexual situations related to children is also highlighted within it). It was through this program that special modules on information security and personal protection were introduced in schools [12. 61 p.], which serves as an effective tool in protecting children from online and offline crime.

Kyrgyz Republic. The Criminal Code also maintains the 16-year age norm, and the continuous implementation of preventive measures in mahallas and schools in this regard is a norm supported by legislation [7. 48 p].

As noted by the Uzbek scientist Sh. Alimov, these norms are an important step in protecting children from sexual exploitation and serve to expand the possibilities of prevention on a legal basis [8. 22 p].

Analysis of the research work shows the need to pay attention to the following issues in the legislation:

- There is a lack of norms for the full regulation of cases related to online crimes, and the legal procedures for actions committed via the Internet are not fully indicated;
- Incomplete provision of preventive measures on a legal basis: legal mechanisms for prevention in schools, mahallas, and families are often applied formally;
- The presence of different views and expressions in judicial and investigative practice: lack of clarity of legislation leads to inconsistencies in application [9. 79 p.]. Therefore, improving legislation taking into account the digital environment and expanding preventive mechanisms is an urgent task.

In conclusion, clarity and comprehensiveness of legislation is one of the main conditions for protecting children from sexual exploitation. The experience of Uzbekistan and the CIS countries shows that prevention is not only a measure based on legislation, but also effective when applied in conjunction with family, school, mahalla, and technical mechanisms.

Speaking about the role of the family in prevention, it is necessary to pay special attention to the fact that the family is the first social environment of the child's personality and is one of the most important aspects in protecting them from crime. Extensive research shows that shortcomings in

child-rearing, lack of parental supervision, and insufficient attention to needs increase the propensity for crime.

Family prevention in Uzbekistan may include the following measures:

- mandatory seminars and trainings for parents (provides information about children's rights and online safety rules);
- Psychological counseling and activities aimed at improving family relationships;
- effective methods of family control, for example, monitoring children's online activities.

Russian sociologist S. Borodin emphasizes that the active participation of parents and school psychologists significantly reduces children's predisposition to delinquency [10. 73 p].

The school is undoubtedly a unit that occupies one of the main places in the social and spiritual development of children. Therefore, preventive measures implemented in schools also require special approaches and uniqueness. In most cases, these measures should consist of:

Personal safety education: teaching children the rules of communication with strangers, safety skills on the Internet;

Psychological programs and consultations: formation of skills that influence the psycho-emotional development of children;

Effective use of theory: teachers and psychologists can reduce children's susceptibility to delinquency through preventive conversations [11. 52 p].

The mahalla and the general public are important structures in any type of prevention. They act as a structure that supports children in the social environment and protects them from threats.

- The community reduce the inclination of children to delinquency through psychological counseling, preventive conversations and educational activities;
- Involving the public in prevention is an effective mechanism for the countries of Central Asia;
- Community-school cooperation provides social support for children and protects them from Internet risks.

At the same time, the interaction of the public and the mahalla with the state in the prevention process will only serve to improve the situation. In a word, a systematic approach to the protection of children's sexual rights will be ensured.

In conclusion, family, school, and community are the most effective sets in prevention. Their joint activities serve to protect children from crime, reduce the inclination towards offenses, and stabilize the social environment.

Psychological measures are also important in reducing the psycho-emotional development of children and their propensity for delinquency.

So, what can psychological prevention in this area consist of:

firstly, personal safety education: children are taught personal space, rules for communicating with strangers, and internet safety skills;

secondly, psychological counseling and training: school and community psychologists develop children's self-defense skills, stress management, and aggression management;

thirdly, emotional stability and social skills: children develop the ability to understand their feelings and act correctly in problem situations.

Studies conducted in Russia have shown that psychological training and personal safety classes can reduce children's predisposition to delinquency by 35-40% [13. 90 p.].

Prevention should cover not only children, but also individuals prone to committing crimes.

Psychocorrection in this regard can usually be divided into the following areas:

Psychological diagnostics: in which a person's propensity to commit crimes and the degree of psychopathology are determined;

Psychotherapy and individual correction: reduction of impulsivity, aggression, and pedophilic tendencies;

Socialization programs: formation of social skills and a sense of responsibility.

According to V. Yegorova, psychocorrection programs reduce the likelihood of committing a crime by up to 40% [14. 112 p] Also, psychocorrection and rehabilitation measures are an effective tool for preventing crimes against children.

When discussing effective tools in this regard, it is advisable to first consider the main goals of psychological prevention.

- protection of children from offenses;
- analysis and work with persons prone to committing crimes;
- the development of psycho-emotional stability is the main goal of the psychological prevention of the crime of involving minors in sexual intercourse.

Therefore, the effectiveness of prevention increases when psychological measures are applied comprehensively. The most effective results will be achieved if these measures are carried out in cooperation with the family, school, and mahalla.

Psychological and psychocorrective measures play an important role in protecting minors from crime and in the upbringing of individuals prone to committing crimes. Psychological prevention reduces children's predisposition to delinquency, and psychocorrection reduces the likelihood of committing a crime. [15. 125 p.]

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