

To the Question of Social and Psychological Features of Crime Groupings

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Abstract—The article reveals the potential of implementation of different theories in the process of creation of the complex methodology of the research of social and pedagogical features of the members of teenager-youth street crime groupings (gangs). The author creates the design of indicative model allowing to notice the condition of social and adaptive potential of the personality of teenage youth: motivation for behavior and actions, reflexive abilities, value- meaning sphere and the level of the behaviour aggression. The author concludes that there is a necessity to determine subjective potential of the teenage youth personality, who are the members of gangs for designing the system of preventive measures against involvement them in the gangs and further successful social adaptation and socialization after quitting the gang. It should be pointed out that the specific feature of motivation for teenage youth is prevailing of financial, social motives (inclusion into social communities and gangs) and motive for being recognized and respected. It is stated that the motivation for escape misfortune is more typical for such teenagers that motivation on determination to the success. The author concludes that the obtained data can be the basis for the development of preventive measures in the process of working with the teenagers from the risk group.

Keywords—*social and psychological features; juvenile delinquency; social and adaptive potential of the personality of a teenager; socialization; social adaptation; social and psychological research.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the modern Russian society, a number of negative social phenomena are caused by socio-economic, spiritual and moral changes. One of the most serious problems is the growth of juvenile delinquency. A strong ambition and desire to increase status in the micro-social environment along with social ill-being stimulate involvement of teenage youth in the street criminal groupings (gangs). The involvement of teenage youth in such non-formal groupings, in its turn, leads to a violation of the normative nature of their social adaptation and contributes to the formation of their "criminal career". In this regard, an in-depth and comprehensive study of the socio-psychological features of teenage youth involved in the street criminal groupings (gangs) is an important factor for the prevention of disadaptation and the development of further social deviations of members of youth street crime groupings.

According to the author's opinion, the specific feature of the studied problem is that, on the one hand, there are many separate studies on the problems of criminalization of the teenage youth environment; on the other hand, it should be noticed that there is lack of a unified, complex conception in this theoretical field of the research.

At this stage of the research, we have made an attempt to develop a methodology for the study of socio-psychological characteristics of members of groupings: basic theoretical approaches, criteria and factors of participation of teenage youth in groupings are defined, methodological tools and research procedure are developed. As the main groups of factors influencing the involvement of teenage youth in groupings, we consider objective (the impact of the environment and micro-environments) and subjective (personal characteristics). Both groups are closely inter-related: external conditions form personal characteristics in the process of socialization of teenage youth, but a number of qualities are inherent in the personality.

Mentioned above characteristics of groupings correspond to their special systems, functioning on the principles of the systems, while the relationship between their members is determined due to the socio-psychological mechanisms of these systems development. This implies a systematic analysis of groupings. The purpose of this analysis is the search for a set of indicators (psycho-markers) for the members of groupings in order to build an effective model of preventive measures through the impact on the process of socialization of teenage youth. Our scientific opinion is based on several macro-indicators of features of teenage youth-members of groupings: they are first of all, value and semantic orientation and factors of social relations; secondly, social and adaptive potential; thirdly, the subjective characteristics of the personality of teenage youth (the degree of development of the criteria "motivation of achievement"); fourthly, reflective characteristics of teenage youth.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Approaches to the study of social and psychological features of teenage youth street criminal groupings (first "concentric circle»):

- system approach (A. G. Asmolov, 2004). The system approach allows to study the phenomenon as an integral socio-psychological phenomenon, accentuating on its individual, inter-related elements. Such elements may be, for example, socio-psychological indicators (markers), or individual stages of the psychological process development. The system approach allows taking into account the dynamic principle of personality development, namely the dialectics of external conditions and internal factors.

- individually-oriented approach (S. L. Rubinstein, 2002), which allows to work with juvenile criminals on the basis of their individual personal characteristics. The general methodological principle of the research is also a subjective approach in Psychology (B. G. Ananiev, 1968), while the members of the groupings are treated as individuals, actors of their own life path, choosing the vector of their development at a certain degree of independence. An example of this approach is the conceptual ideas on self-determination of personality behavior (G. M. Andreeva, 1999; O. A. Tikhomandritskiy, 1988). The idea of interaction in the context of interpersonal relations in micro-groups is based on the intersection of systemic and subjective approaches (V. M. Myasishchev, 1998; K. K. Platonov, 1972).

- phenomenological approach (A. Schutz, 2001) or interpretative approach (P. Berger, T. Lukman, 1995) implies facing with social constructionism, which allows to notice that the formation of the individual is realized via interaction with surroundings. All "agents" of socialization – family, school, close friends, peers (through the assertion or denial of one's personal identity) to a certain degree influence the process of becoming a member of a crime grouping of a teenager. Consequently, corrector work should be based on the principle of maximum consideration of the social environment. Approximately the same interpretation of the situation is observed in the theory of stigmatization ("labeling" (Tannenbaum, 1953), which implies that a teenager is what his surrounding considers about him; primary deviation is proved by the secondary, if the society considers a teenager as a deviant.

Psychological "middle-level theories" (second "concentric circle»):

- specific theories of deviant and delinquent behavior (V. D. Mendelevich, 2001). The most General theories of the middle level are the sociology and psychology of deviant behavior (for example, the theory of social tension of R. Merton (1996), the sub-cultural theory of A. Cohen (1955)), as well as the Sociology and Psychology of small groups. The concepts of internal and socio-personal conflicts have a significant role as precondition for the development of deviations of teenagers (P. p. Blonsky, 1964), the theory of identity crisis (I. O. Kon, 2004), theories of mental States of teenager personality as a function of protective mechanisms (R. M. Granovskaya, 1999). Summing up, the whole range of theories of deviant and delinquent personality can be classified into three main approaches: biological, psychological and social.

-biological approach focuses on the psychobiological preconditions for the formation of anti-social behavior of the

individual (V. A. Guriev, 1998). The psychological approach is realized in the research of S. A. Belicheva (1993), G. K. Valitskas (1989), A. I. Dolgova (1980), T. N. Kurbatova (1995), who studied the psychological determinants of deviant behavior. Thus, in accordance with the theory of frustration teenage group crime can be studied through the prism of concepts of aggression, its psychological functions (Z. Freud, 1991). In particular, the conceptual bases explaining teenage aggression are the conceptions of aggressive readiness of the teenage personality (A. Bandura, 2000), individual psychological conditioning of aggressive social behavior (D. Richardson, 1999), situational determination of aggression (K. Dodge and N. Crick, 1990).

- the theory of psychic anomalies of the individual teenager (McCarthy, 1978; Rainfeld, 1999), specifically, the conception of accentuations of character in adolescents (A. A. Vdovichenko, 1976). In accordance with this conception, the accentuation of the character of a teenager is considered the main factor of his involvement and participation in criminal groupings.

Private research on certain aspects and the identification of individual psychological and socio-psychological characteristics of the personality of adolescent criminals (third "concentric circle»)

The following main directions of the research can be noticed: the level of anxiety, aggression and locus of control (A. A. Rean, 1994, 1996); motivation and self-consciousness of delinquents (S. A. Belicheva, 1993); value-semantic sphere (Y. G. Pilipeichenko, 1984). To the following research field can be added peculiar conceptions and methodologies on providing socio-psychological assistance to juvenile delinquency (S. Villani, 1999; Goldstein, 1995; H. Reiting, 1996), wide-spread abroad.

The theoretical analysis of the research works allows us to conclude that in the research field actually a socio-psychological portrait of the personality of a juvenile delinquency who is a member of a street crime grouping is not presented, and in the study of juvenile delinquency, as a rule, isn't reflected the group aspect of belonging to juvenile crime. In fact, the first attempt to study this phenomenon in Russian science and practice was the research of L. Ageeva, I. Karpets, L. Prozumentova, S. L. Salagaeva, who actualized the problem of youth street criminal groupings for the first time. In the study of youth street crime groupings, it is necessary to identify both social (socio-cultural) and socio-psychological factors and features that contribute to the involvement of teenagers in the criminal environment, factors of adaptation to it, the potential of inclusion of teenage youth – members of criminal groupings in the regulatory environment.

The study of the problem, first of all, must reflect a set of typical character traits and behaviors of the youth street gang members; and secondly, to over-estimate this problem through the prism of the society attitudes, in general, and of the close social environment, in particular. Socio-psychological features of teenagers are refracted in the stereotypes of perception of the social environment, that is, overcoming stereotypes is a significant factor determining the success or failure of further socialization and social adaptation of teenagers who once

found themselves in a criminal grouping. It is important to analyze the factor of typicality - relating both to the members of teenage and youth street crime groupings, and to the surrounding micro-society as well. Typical perception, acceptance and behavioral attitude of the social environment of the teenagers – members of crime groupings and within the groupings in the conditions of modern society and is, respectively, considered a problem field of the research in Social Psychology. Consequently, the study of socio-psychological features of teenage youth street crime groupings members is caused by the study of the social and micro-social environment. This shows the need to use a systematic approach in the analysis of the problem.

Summing up the results of the conducted analysis, the following positions should be pointed out: firstly, the problem field of socio-psychological features of members of teenage youth street criminal groupings needs to be updated from the scientific vision of Social Psychology. Secondly, it is necessary to implement an integrated methodology, including a systematic approach. This problem has a multi-paradigmatic character, which is one of its features. Thirdly, an important task is the search for adequate macro-and micro-indicators reflecting the complex nature of the problem. Actually, the construction of such an optimal system of indicators is the next step towards achieving the goal of the study – the construction of a model of preventive factors and measures aimed at preventing the involvement of teenage youth in criminal street groupings.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The problem of the conducted research is typical for a number of the research "fields" within which certain socio-psychological characteristics of the declared target group can be studied. Accentuating on the most fundamental research, it should be noticed that the study of socio-psychological features of members of teenage youth street criminal groupings is a field of the research of general Psychology, Social Psychology, Sociology, Pedagogy, Deviantology, Criminology, Cultural studies and some other Sciences and disciplines, and possesses multi-disciplinary nature . Respectively, it is possible to identify several "concentric circles" with different degrees of generalization, within which the conducted research problem is placed.

Practical significance

Experimental part of our research was carried out in the period from 2013 to 2019 in the State government special educational institution for students with deviant behavior of the closed type "Republican special secondary school. N. Ah. Gallyamova» and MBEI "Secondary school №98 (Tatar-Russian)" of Vakhitovsky district of Kazan. 214 schoolchildren took part in the experiment.

IV. RESULTS

Analysis of the data on the method of Mehrabian showed that among the total number of teenage youth surveyed, being members crime grouping, only 16 % have a strong motivation for achievement, or determination for success. 45

%respondents have a strong motivation to escape misfortune; 39 % – do not have a strong motivation, both trends can be traced (see table. 1).

TABLE I. RESULTS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY BY THE METHOD OF A. MEHRABIAN (N=95)

Motivation tendencies	Number of surveyed people	Percentage of surveyed people to the total number
Prevailing of the motivation on success	15	16
Prevailing of the motivation of escaping misfortune	43	45
Both tendencies can be traced	37	39
Total	95	100

Summing up, the active is the sixth part of all teenagers – members of groupings, they can be considered individuals with a pronounced subjectivity (with a negative (anti-social) vector). It is obvious that this group of teenagers under certain conditions can show leadership qualities and lead others. The opposite group of teenagers, as well as a group of teenage youth who do not have a pronounced tendency of motivation, is guided (led), under certain conditions ready to follow the leaders. It should be stated that the experimental data obtained by other authors in the study of juvenile delinquency who are not members of groupings partially differs from the data obtained in our research of teenage groupings. Thus, in the research of O.L. Panchenko there is a conclusion about the predominance of rather leadership qualities or elements in the examined array of adolescent offenders serving sentences in specialized institutions. Table 2 shows the relevant data.

TABLE II. CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS ON THE QUESTION: "WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS ARE CLOSER TO YOU?" (158 PEOPLE WERE SURVIED, IN % TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS)

Answer variants	Percentage of surveyed
I'm always struggling to be the first in everything	63,3
I prefer to follow the leader	36,7
All respondents	100,0

The research of the author shows that the paternalistic attitudes ("success does not depend on me") are expressed only by 18 % of teenagers; most respondents rely on their own strength, which also influence on formation of elements of leadership qualities to a certain extent. Thus, our research has shown that there are some motivational differences between teenage youth grouping members and teenagers who are not in groupings. Apparently, this is due to the inclusion of teenagers in groupings: collective actions in them smooth out the motivation to escape misfortune, teenagers with this type of motivation acquire a sense of security, permissiveness, which plunges them into group crimes. This fact is confirmed by the

results of the analysis of the biographies of former members of the organized crime grouping. In in-depth interviews, respondents emphasized the group nature of the crimes they committed earlier, citing criminal acts as a sense of security: "When we went to "work", we were as an integral part. We knew we were a band. We had a... you know, a sense of responsibility for each other or something, and we followed the elders, and they led us, and we weren't scared. We weren't. Although, now I think it is unlikely that we could go alone... the Spirit (courage) is not enough" (Andrew, 38 years old, former member of the OPG); "No, I'm not the leader and I never considered being the leader myself. We had leaders in the group. They led us along. Our task was to strictly obey and listen to the "elders". There was a range of tasks– who is responsible for what. I do not remember, if someone ever disobeyed" (Ildar, former a member of organized crime groups, 45 years).

The prevalence of the motivation of escaping misfortune among teenage youth members of groupings over the motivation of success is accompanied by the prevalence of two basic groups of needs, as well as needs for recognition and respect, according to the theory of needs of A. Maslow. According to the results of the method of M. Rogov – A. Gryaznov among the surveyed revealed the predominance of the values of recognition and respect (together – a high rate observed in 44 % of respondents), social values (friendship, family – together a high rate observed in 38 %) and financial values (together a high rate recorded in 36 %). The data are shown in table 3.

TABLE III. INDICATORS ON BLOCKS OF VALUE AND SEMANTIC ORIENTATIONS IN THE GROUP OF TEENAGE YOUTH – MEMBERS OF GROUPS (BY THE METHOD OF M. ROGOV – A. GRYAZNOV, ADAPTED VERSION; NUMBER OF SURVEYED – 65 PEOPLE.)

Blocks of values	Low indicator	Middle indicator	High indicator
Human values	16 %	46 %	38 %
Social values	46 %	42 %	12 %
Values of recognition and respect	27 %	29 %	44 %
Financial values	22 %	42 %	36 %
General indicator of value and semantic orientations	28 %	40 %	32 %

Among the mentioned above blocks of values for teenagers, the most important values are friendship (5.6 %), family (20.3 %), communication among peers (11.9 %), recognition, respect among peers (12.6 %), high financial prosperity (14 %), financial prosperity of the family (20.3 %). At the same time, such values as "interesting work" or "self-development, education" occupy low positions in the hierarchy of values of teenage youth (they were chosen as significant only by less than 1 % of the surveyed); social values in general have the least value and are practically not chosen by the surveyed.

According to the results of in-depth interviews, respondents also stressed the importance of social motives and

motives of recognition and respect: "What factors motivated me on participation in groupings (thinks)? I wanted to be "cool", probably (laughs) I like it when school peers look at me with respect, even sometimes with fear!"(Igor, a former member of the organized crime group, 46 years); "The main thing I wanted and achieved – is to be better than others of those who were with me. In the group I succeeded. Did I have a need the money we had from the raids? I doubt that now. Money gave me a sense of power, opportunity, some kind of recognition, or... That was a thrill!" (Andrew, 38 years old, a former member of the organized crime group). The conducted analysis of the importance of values showed that the motives of recognition and respect among teenage group members prevail over the actual financial motives. Money and financial values are important from the point of view of the means of realization of these motives. At the same time, it is important to note that money also serves as a means of providing their families, relatives, and much less – for their own (personal) needs (the results of the survey of the surveyed by the method of Rogov-Gryaznov).

Thus, summarizing the results of the research in the field of motivational factors of participation of teenagers in groupings, several important factors should be pointed out:

First: the motivation of misfortune escape prevailed among teenagers-groupers ; motivation of determination for success is peculiar to only a sixth part of the surveyed. This distinguishes them from juvenile delinquency, who are not members of groupings, since the latter, when committing an offence alone, subjectively to a greater extent note the presence of leadership qualities.

The second: in the hierarchy of needs according to the theory of A. Maslow, financial motives, social motives (involvement in social ties and relations), status motives (motives of recognition and respect) are actualized among teenagers-groupers.

Third: financial motives are for teenagers – members of groups, rather instrumental value, since they serve as an element of enhancing personal status.

Fourth: other groups of motives (education, self-development, status in society, interesting work, public affairs) are of little importance for teenage group members, their role is not practically traced.

It can be concluded that, having a similar model of motivation with a predominance of selected groups of motives, as well as the desire to escape misfortune instead of a pronounced determination on success, teenagers become easily led and involved in groupings. Their subjectivity is revealed weak. At the same time, in groupings, they acquire a sense of missing personal qualities, as well as the recognition and respect they require, which may have been lacking in the family and the immediate social environment. This premise should be the basis for the organization of preventive work with children and teenagers of the risk group.

V. DISCUSSION

Criminal behavior of under-aged has traditionally been the subject of research by foreign authors, at least in foreign socio-psychological sources, attempts have been made to theorize and conceptualize this problem (D. A. Andrews, J. D.). Bonta, R. D. Hoge (Andrews, Bonta, Hoge, 1990); C. De Coster, K. Hamer, C. M. Witrock (De Coster, Heimer, and Wittrock, 2006); S. Demuth, S. L. brown (Demuth, Browns, 2004), which is caused, for the most part, by the implementation of juvenile approach towards working with juveniles and the need for its justification. Thus, the actual directions of conceptualization of the problem were the problems of adolescent violence (De Coster, Heimer, Wittrock, 2006), work with the immediate environment of adolescents (primarily with the family (Demuth, Browns, 2004; Holzman, 1996), the problems of socialization of under-aged (Osgood, 2004). In the Russian Social Psychology the study of crime behavior of under-aged has some specific features. Thus, the problems of individual characteristics of the minor's personality, influencing the criminalization of his behavior, as well as external conditions and factors influencing the choice of the juvenile criminal strategy in specific situations, are actualized. The special importance is given to the family of a juvenile delinquency (Ermakov, 2011, p. 203). In general, it is worth emphasizing that in the Russian psychological science since its Soviet period, a large scale of research is devoted to the problems of criminalization of adolescent behavior (the development of these problems were engaged in psychologists, starting with D. A. drill and A. F. Lazursky), which indicates, perhaps, a greater degree of fundamental research in this field of psychology of Russian scientists, in comparison with foreign colleagues. Sufficiently developed is the problem of typology and classification of the personality of juvenile delinquency, their subjectivity and the influence of the family environment. In addition, in the Russian psychological science there is a strong tendency to attempt to create a holistic concept of socio-psychological characteristics of the personality of a minor offender (criminal), which has its origins in the Soviet period of Social Psychology (Hippenreiter, 1989; Lichko, 1999;) and continued in modern research (Zmanovskaya, 2004).

VI. CONCLUSION

The development of organized juvenile delinquency is putting an increasing number of adolescents at risk of becoming involved in the grouping. The confrontation of such danger can be possible only on the condition of a clear understanding of the nature of teenage and youth street crime groupings, its structure, functions, and, most importantly, the socio-psychological characteristics of its members. In this case, it is possible to develop a set of measures to prevent the involvement of teenagers in groupings and to further their rehabilitation and re-adaptation who have been already involved in the group. Inclusion in the group involves the adoption of a specific subculture that is semi-criminal (synthesizing elements of a teenage subculture and elements of a criminal subculture) and criminal in nature. Continued development of a criminal career teenagers effectively closed to them, the possibility of exit from the community and

subsequently, after the Commission of the offence or offences they be labeled as criminals, which actually makes it impossible for them to join the path of recovery. In this regard, it is a set of preventive measures aimed at preventing the involvement of teenagers in groupings, and measures to facilitate their exit from the group at the initial stage, even before the crime (offense), is the only possible way of psychological and pedagogical work with minors in this area.

The conducted research has allowed us to come to the following conclusion: social and psychological features of teenagers consisting in groups, are caused by violation of processes of normative socialization, on the one hand, and influence of group as specific closed system, - on the other hand. In turn, the involvement of teenage youth in the group causes a further violation of the process of socialization, leading to deviations in the formation of personal structures.

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