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## DEVIANT BEHAVIOR OF MINORS (MORAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS)

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### **Koval I.M. Deviant behavior of minors (moral and ethical aspect).**

The article is devoted to the moral and ethical aspects of deviant behavior of minors, which is formed under the influence of external and internal factors, such as deformed socialization of the person. During martial law in Ukraine, juvenile prevention bodies, services for working with minors, educational institutions must conduct preventive work with minors to prevent the development of deviant behavior, which can manifest itself as both psychological and emotional and physical deviations from the socially acceptable norm.

It is emphasized that it is important to provide psychological and legal assistance to minors who have been directly affected by military actions (lived in temporarily occupied territories or zones of active hostilities, suffered the loss of loved ones, belong to the category of internally displaced persons, etc.).

It was found that each person has his own level and indicator of acceptable behavior in society, but general moral and ethical norms require compliance with the standards of coexistence of individuals in society based on respect for the rights and freedoms of each member of society. It is necessary to form moral and ethical values from early childhood. Such an approach will contribute to the value socialization of minors and their further lawful development.

Attention is focused on the fact that conformism, innovation, ritualism, escapism (retreatism), rebellion (radicalism) as the main types of deviant behavior do not exist separately from the others. As a rule, manifestations of each type are observed in a person, but one of them prevails. The absence of social and value guidelines, passive social behavior contributes to the development of unlawful manifestations of a person's life.

It is noted that during military operations, the problem of maintaining a stable psychological and moral state of minors is very relevant. The influence of hostile propaganda services through virtual networks can lead to asocial behavior. Today, social services and law enforcement agencies must actively work to prevent the negative impact of all resources on the consciousness and behavior of children. Constant stress from the realities of military operations (air raids, shelling, deaths) provokes self-destructive behavior of a person. A minor may choose the wrong path to overcome psycho-emotional stress through the use of prohibited substances, gambling, suicide.

**Key words:** deviant behavior, minor, moral and ethical norms, value orientations, destructive behavior, self-destructive behavior, psychological and legal support.

### **Коваль І.М. Девіантна поведінка неповнолітніх (морально-етичний аспект).**

Стаття присвячена морально-етичним аспектам девіантної поведінки неповнолітніх, що формується під впливом зовнішніх і внутрішніх чинників, як деформована соціалізація особи. Під час воєнного стану в Україні органи ювенальної превенції, служби по роботі з неповнолітніми, освітні заклади повинні проводити профілактичну роботу з неповнолітніми для не допущення розвитку девіантної поведінки, що може проявлятися як психологічно-емоційними, так і фізичними відхиленнями від соціально допустимої норми.

Наголошено, що важливо надавати психологічно-правову допомогу неповнолітнім особам, що зазнали прямого впливу воєнних дій (проживали на тимчасово окупованих територіях чи зонах активних бойових дій, зазнали втрати близьких людей, належать до категорії внутрішньо переміщених осіб тощо).

З'ясовано, що для кожної людини є свій рівень і показник допустимої поведінки в суспільстві, але загальні морально-етичні норми вимагають дотримання стандартів співіснування осіб в соціумі на основі поваги до прав і свобод кожного члена суспільства. Формувати ціннісні морально-етичні установки необхідно з раннього дитинства. Такий підхід сприятиме ціннісній соціалізації неповнолітніх і їх подальшого правомірного розвитку.

Акцентовано увагу на тому, що конформізм, інноваційність, ритуалізм, ескейпізм (ретритизм), бунт (радикалізм) як основні типи девіантної поведінки не існують відокремлено від інших. Як правило, в особи спостерігаються прояви кожного типу, але переважає один з них. Відсутність соціально-ціннісних орієнтирів, пасивна соціальна поведінка сприяє розвитку неправомірних проявів життєдіяльності особи.

Зазначено, що під час воєнних дій проблема збереження стійкого психологічно-морального стану неповнолітніх осіб є дуже актуальною. Вплив ворожих пропагандистських служб через віртуальні мережі може призводити до асоціальної поведінки. Сьогодні соціальні служби і правоохоронні органи повинні проводити активну роботу по запобіганню негативного впливу усіх ресурсів на свідомість і поведінку дітей. Постійний стрес від реалій воєнних дій (повітряні тривоги, обстріли, загибель людей) провокує саморуйнівну поведінку особи. Неповнолітня особа може обрати хибний шлях подолання психоемоційного напруження через вживання заборонених речовин, азартні ігри, суїцид.

**Ключові слова:** девіантна поведінка, неповнолітня особа, морально-етичні норми, ціннісні установки, деструктивна поведінка, саморуйнівна поведінка, психологічно-правова підтримка.

**Problem statement.** The future of Ukrainian society depends on how developed morally, psychologically and physically stable today's youth is. The tragic realities of the war prove that the younger generation of Ukrainians is nationally conscious and ready to live and work for the good of their state.

Despite this, today the problem of forming the lawful behavior of youth, preventing deviant behavior, various manifestations of deviant behavior is relevant. It is important that value-legal orientations are formed in minors based on social norms of morality, because such individuals will be able to consciously choose active socially useful behavior.

**The status of the development of this issue.** For a comprehensive analysis and understanding of the above issues, it is advisable to rely on the theoretical and methodological potential of the works of domestic and foreign legal scholars and teachers of different periods.

Modern scientists who have paid significant attention to the problems of deviant behavior of a person in social and psychological aspects are: A. Andreycheva, N. Gutsulyak, M. Yenin, V. Korolchuk, O. Makarenko, V. Tymoshenko.

Deviant behavior of minors was studied by the following scientists: R. Andrusyshyn, L. Hachak-Velychko, V. Golovko, R. Kozubovsky, A. Kom'yaga L. Volnova, T. Ryabkina.

The scientific concepts of the above authors contribute to the formation of a new approach to understanding the moral and ethical aspects of deviant behavior of minors in accordance with the modern realities of social development.

**The purpose of the article** is to deepen the study of the moral and ethical aspects of deviant behavior of minors.

**Presentation of the main material.** Prevention and overcoming of deviant behavior of minors during military operations in Ukraine is an important task of the competent authorities and society. In wartime conditions, the number of internally displaced persons, persons living in temporarily occupied territories, in regions of active hostilities has increased. Such a situation negatively affects the unformed psyche of children and can be the cause of illegal or deviant behavior.

There is a widespread understanding of the norm as the absence of noticeable pathological signs. However, such an approach, at best, only outlines the general framework for searching for the essence of the norm, but does not define it precisely. Many psychologists continue to consider the norm as something typical, established or as the most adapted state to the environment. The cultural-relativist approach, which defines the norm through the compliance of human behavior with cultural rules and norms, also does not solve this problem [1, p. 107–111].

Of course, each person has their own level and indicator of acceptable behavior in society, but general moral and ethical norms require compliance with the standards of coexistence of individuals in society based on respect for the rights and freedoms of each member of society.

It is necessary to form moral and ethical values from early childhood. Such an approach will contribute to the value socialization of minors and their further legitimate development.

Understanding deviant behavior of an individual requires awareness of it as a multifaceted social form, which is determined by a complex of interrelated factors, and not by one separate factor. The main drivers of deviant behavior among minors are both external and internal influences, in particular: biological characteristics, social environment, pedagogical aspects, socio-psychological dynamics and individual-psychological (intrapersonal) prerequisites [2, p. 39–44].

Deviant behavior is characterized by the fact that a person does not follow social norms, choosing an alternative course of action in certain circumstances. This leads to a violation of harmonious interaction

between the individual and society. Mostly, the basis of such deviations is a conflict of interests and values, differences in needs, distortion of ways to satisfy them, shortcomings in upbringing, as well as life failures or miscalculations. A problem situation, when an individual cannot solve it for various reasons, plays a key role in the emergence of social deviations. A problem situation becomes especially tense as a result of conflict [3, p. 13–19].

As for minors, shortcomings in upbringing are very often the cause of not only deviant behavior, but also unlawful behavior in adulthood. A dangerous situation is when a person consciously chooses the path of unlawful self-realization. It is important in childhood to form in a person responsibility for their actions and understanding that for society each individual is valuable and deserves respect for their honor and dignity. Deviant behavior remains a relevant socio-psychological problem of modern society, which requires further research and theoretical understanding. Each observed deviation in behavior has a dynamic, not a static structure. On the one hand, deviant behavior is a consequence of a failure in the process of socialization of the individual, and on the other hand, it is caused by broader social phenomena. Accordingly, psychological and pedagogical support for individuals with deviant behavior should be comprehensive, combining socio-psychological and pedagogical interventions aimed at identifying and correcting factors that contribute to the development of deviant behavior in adolescents [4, p. 202–206].

Today, Ukraine has a wide network of psychological and legal support for people who have been and are being negatively affected by hostilities. In particular, active work is being carried out with youth and children, the purpose of which is to stabilize life in the new conditions of today. The juvenile police also carry out measures to prevent manifestations of deviant behavior in children.

Deviant behavior involves the presence of three necessary components. First, it is a person who demonstrates this type of behavior. Second, it is norms or social expectations that serve as a criterion for assessing behavior as a deviation. Third, it is bodies or individuals who analyze this behavior, determine its compliance with norms and, in case of deviation, apply appropriate sanctions. Since deviant behavior does not comply with group norms, it can lead to such consequences as isolation, medical intervention, legal liability or public condemnation [5, p. 74–76].

It is important not to immediately apply punishment to a person, but to try to direct the development of the minor's behavior in a lawful direction through persuasion, social examples, and psychological practices.

It should be noted that the influence of the environment on a person is important. If a minor is negatively influenced by relatives and friends, it will be quite difficult to form lawful behavior and prevent deviations. It is necessary to minimize the negative influence of such individuals. This is done by children's services, juvenile police, teachers, etc.

Scientists note, that R. Merton identified the following main types of deviant behavior: conformism, innovation, ritualism, escapism (retreatism), and rebellion (radicalism) [6, p. 61–64]:

- Conformism means the individual's full acceptance of both social goals and generally accepted ways to achieve them.
- Innovation is manifested when a person shares social goals, but chooses new, unconventional means to achieve them (for example, racketeering, theft, abuse).
- Ritualism is characterized by the rejection of social goals and values, while the individual strictly adheres to the established «rules of the game» and generally accepted methods of achieving goals.
- Escapism (retreatism) is a complete departure of a person from social reality, the denial of both social goals and the means of achieving them (as in cases of anarchy, drug addiction, vagrancy).
- Rebellion (radicalism) involves the active rejection and opposition to existing social values, goals and means of achieving them, with the desire to replace them with new ones (for example, terrorism, radicalism).

We emphasize that each of these types of deviant behavior does not exist separately from the others. As a rule, a person exhibits manifestations of each type, but one of them predominates. We also note that conformism is mistakenly considered a manifestation of deviant behavior that does not harm society, but, in fact, this phenomenon is quite dangerous, especially for a minor. The absence of social and value guidelines, passive social behavior contributes to the development of unlawful manifestations of a person's life.

According to the specified criteria, deviations in behavior can be classified into the following groups:

- immoral behavior (asocial, externally destructive, marginal, borderline): these are actions that violate moral and ethical norms and directly threaten the well-being of interpersonal relationships;
- delinquent behavior (antisocial, misbehavior-destructive, illegal): such behavior contradicts legal norms, poses a threat to social order and the well-being of other people. It includes any actions or inaction prohibited by law, including anti-disciplinary, illegal and anti-social acts;
- self-destructive behavior (dissocial,

auto-destructive): this form of behavior deviates from medical and psychological norms, jeopardizing the integrity and development of the personality itself.

Minors do not have formed value systems and, due to lack of life experience, can determine anti-value social and legal attitudes. Such individuals are easily influenced by leaders who can incite to illegal behavior. The temptations of the modern world and an unfavorable environment are the reason why minors strive to obtain all the benefits, despite the fact that the method of achieving the desired result may violate social norms of morality and the law.

Self-destructive behavior can manifest itself in the following main forms: – suicidal behavior (suicide attempts); – addictive behavior (addictions): includes food addiction, chemical addictions (abuse of psychoactive substances), as well as non-chemical addictions (for example, sexual addictions, gaming, computer, Internet addiction); – overvalued psychological hobbies: these include robotoholism, gambling, «health paranoia», collecting, religious, sports, musical fanaticism, etc.; – autistic behavior: choosing loneliness, asceticism, hermitism; – victim behavior: behavior of the victim; activities with a pronounced risk to life: for example, extreme sports, significant speeding when driving a car, prostitution [7, p. 15–17].

It should be noted that during military operations, the problem of maintaining a stable psychological and moral state of minors is very relevant. The influence of enemy propaganda services through virtual networks can lead to asocial behavior. Today, social services and law enforcement agencies must actively work to prevent the negative impact of all resources on the consciousness and behavior of children. Constant stress from the realities of military operations (air raids, shelling, deaths) provokes self-destructive behavior of a person. A minor may choose the wrong path to overcome psycho-emotional stress through the use of prohibited substances, gambling, suicide.

To counteract the spread of destructive and deviant behavior, the following measures are necessary [8]:

- Providing legal chances: increasing opportunities for achieving success and advancement in society by legal means;
- Ensuring equality before the law: strict adherence to the principle of social equality in the legal sphere;
- Modernization of legislation: continuous improvement of legal norms to meet new social conditions;
- Establishing fair punishment: striving for a balance between the severity of the crime and the severity of the punishment.

We agree with the opinion of scientists that the most effective and rational way to reduce the level of crime in the short term is to neutralize the mechanisms of delinquent behavior through preventive socio-legal influence on the main risk groups. The main efforts of preventive work should be focused on educational conditions that are unfavorable for minors and on neutralizing the negative influence of the immediate environment.

The stability of the system of value orientations also plays an extremely important role, especially their correspondence to ideas about justice and reality. This determines the motivation, intentions and behavior of people of all age groups. In modern society, social injustice remains one of the key causes of deviant behavior. Strategies for restoring justice depend not only on the psychological characteristics of the individual and society, but also on the political regime, the effectiveness of current legislation and the effectiveness of the fight against corruption [9, p. 73–78].

Undoubtedly, today in Ukraine the most important issue is ensuring the physical safety of minors, but no less attention should be paid to the psychological stability of the individual. It is worth carrying out socio-legal measures to prevent the formation of destructive manifestations of behavior in minors.

Educational institutions should conduct socio-cultural events, as well as involve representatives of the juvenile police to familiarize minors with their rights, obligations and prevention of illegal behavior.

Adolescents with deviant behavior often have violations in the emotional-volitional sphere. This is manifested in imbalance, irritability, impulsivity, frequent mood swings and emotional instability. Such characterological instability negatively affects relationships in the family, with peers and adults, causing frequent conflicts.

In Ukraine, there is a system of social institutions that are engaged in the prevention of deviations in the behavior of children and adolescents. Each type of behavioral deviations has its own specific institutions that prevent their further development. At the level of deviant behavior, the preventive function is performed by the family and school (represented by parents, teachers, social workers and school psychologists), as well as the system of extracurricular leisure facilities (clubs, sports sections, etc.).

The essence of preventive activities at this stage is to create conditions and opportunities for children and adolescents, on the one hand, to satisfy their own needs in socially positive ways, and on the other

hand, to provide timely qualified assistance in difficult life situations that can develop into risky and provoke behavioral deviations [10, p. 118–122].

**Conclusions.** Deviant behavior of minors is a complex socio-psychological phenomenon that requires a comprehensive approach to its study and overcoming. Its moral and ethical aspects are inextricably linked with the formation of a teenager's worldview, his assimilation of social norms, values, and models of behavior. Violation of these norms is often due to a combination of external and internal factors: an unfavorable family environment, a lack of moral and ethical education, the influence of asocial groups, as well as an identity crisis characteristic of adolescence. The moral component of the problem is manifested in the loss or distortion of ideas about goodness, justice, respect for the rights and dignity of other people. The ethical aspect is manifested in the violation of established social rules and the unwillingness to accept responsibility for one's own actions. Thus, deviant behavior of minors is not only a crime or immoral actions, but also a symptom of deeper spiritual and moral problems in society.

Effective prevention and correction of such behavior should be based on a combination of legal, pedagogical, psychological and ethical methods. A special role is played by moral education, which should form in a young person an internal system of values, stable ideas about what is proper and improper, the ability to empathy, tolerance and social responsibility.

Therefore, overcoming deviant behavior of minors is possible only under the condition of a holistic approach, where legal regulation and social programs will be supplemented by deep moral and ethical work aimed at the formation of a mature, responsible and humane personality. This task is strategic for the future of society, because it is the youth of today who determine the moral and cultural potential of tomorrow.

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