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CHILDREN’S RISK GROUPS IN UKRAINE: CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

An attempt has been made to distinguish the main groups of children of risk today in the world and in modern Ukrainian society. Children of the risk group are the category of children who, due to the certain circumstances of their lives, have been

exposed to negative external influences of the society and its criminal elements, and we consider it in two aspects: the risk for a society which is made up by such children, that is, in the context of the priority of public interests, and the risk that the juvenile faces himself, in particular, the loss of chance for the normal future.

The children of the “risk zone” traditionally include: minors with manifestations of social desadaptation, inclined to deviant, delinquent, addictive and risky behavior, vagrancy, handicapped children, and others. The main reason for children to be at risk is family trouble. It is this that generates numerous problems in the behavior of children, their development, lifestyle and leads to a violation of value orientations. Accordingly, the emergence of different groups of children at risk is necessarily correlated with the types of families of social risk – those having difficult problems that limit their ability to create favorable living conditions and proper upbringing of kids. Such problems can usually be arisen in connection with the stage of the formation of a family, their development and disintegration (for example, an incomplete family, a large family, a family with a disability); with the influence of conditions prevailing in the state and society (low-income families, families with poor housing conditions, with members–refugees, military personnel, unemployed people); with the influence of internal conditions, conditioned by the asocial behavior of members. In modern Ukraine the following families should be considered first of all: as families of refugees and internally displaced persons, families with an asocial large number, single-parent families, etc.

The isolation of minors’ risk groups in the study is carried out in view of the organization and functioning of society as a whole (macro level), in particular, of socio-economic, political, socio-cultural, moral and legal determinants of this phenomenon. These include, in particular, the following: the war in the East of Ukraine, the massive poverty of the population, the growth of the number of single-parent families, and social multiplicity. It is also taken into account that the teenager himself, due to his psychological characteristics, is in the risk zone, often falls into the social reality, which prompts him to desire to change the situation.

An elimination of risk groups should help to assess objectively the situation of each “child of risk” and identify ways to help and support the minor, his parents; to move from the intuitive search for the exit from difficult situations to meaningful construction of behavioral patterns for children.

Keywords: risk, risk group, family risk, risky behavior, teenager, macro level.

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