The Role Of Victim Behavior In The Mechanism Of Domestic Crime

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Abstract

This article examines the victimological characteristics of victims in domestic crime. Particular attention is paid to the victims' socio-psychological characteristics, behavior, position, and role in conflict situations. Classifications and typologies of victims are considered, and the main types of victim behavior that influence the dynamics of domestic crime are identified. The author emphasizes the importance of considering the individual and socio-psychological characteristics of victims in developing effective victimization prevention measures. Victimization prevention is viewed as an integral part of the crime prevention system, aimed at reducing the risk of victimization and preventing domestic crime.

Keywords: Domestic crime, victim, victimology, victim behavior, prevention, socio-psychological characteristics, classification of victims.

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1. Introduction

The study of domestic crimes requires a comprehensive criminological analysis that goes beyond the perpetrator's personality. The victim's personality, socio-psychological characteristics, behavioral patterns, and position in the conflict are crucial to the development of domestic crime. The interaction between victim and offender largely determines the dynamics of domestic conflict, the formation of a criminal motive, and the onset of socially dangerous consequences.

The victimological approach allows us to consider the victim not only as the object of a criminal attack, but also as an active element in the criminal situation. In this regard, understanding the basic concept of "victim" from victimological and socio-psychological perspectives, as well as analyzing the victim's role in crimes committed in the domestic sphere, is of particular scientific and practical significance.

The concept of "victim" at the socio-psychological level is developed within the framework of role theory, the key elements of which are status, position, and role. This is greatly assisted by the study of the victim's personality in everyday life at the socio-psychological level. The concept of "victim" at the socio-psychological level can receive new impetus from role theory. The key elements of this theory are status, position, and role. A crime victim's status is determined by a set of rights and responsibilities, a range of activities within the criminal process, and, especially important for victimology, outside of it. The victim's position is defined by the characteristics of their behavior and relationship with the criminal, between "co-victims," and between them and eyewitnesses. The victim's role in a crime committed in the everyday sphere is especially significant, as it is largely determined by the victim's status and position.

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The classification of victims developed in victimology provides significant practical assistance in preventing domestic crimes. The first attempt in this direction was made by L.V. Frank [Frank L.V., 1972]. Subsequently, the classification of victims of domestic crimes was carried out on many grounds, in accordance with the various tasks set for victimological research.

Classifying victims in domestic violence based on the nature of the crimes that caused harm is crucial. This classification is based on crimes that share a common object (for example, victims of sexual crimes). Studies have also been conducted on victims of specific types of domestic violence, such as intentional homicide, grievous bodily harm, and others.

To prevent certain types of domestic crimes, it is important to classify victims based on a number of demographic characteristics, including profession, specialty, position, age, gender, and others. Studying the victimological aspects of this category of individuals can contribute to the development of scientifically based tactical, technical, and psychological measures to improve their safety, including those applicable to domestic crimes.

Of practical importance in everyday life is the grouping of victims based on the severity of the crime (for example, victims of minor crimes). Along with this basis, victims should be differentiated based on the severity of the crime's consequences.

When classifying victims (including those of domestic crimes), it's important to consider their moral and psychological characteristics. Aggression, sexual promiscuity, gullibility, greed, a tendency toward alcoholism, and other negative personality traits to some extent determine a victim's behavior, which sometimes contributes to the creation of a victim-producing environment. Traits such as moral stability, courtesy, sobriety, and good physical fitness often prevent crimes from being committed. All of this is directly related to domestic crimes, as evidenced by our research.

Other proposals regarding the basis for classifying victims have been put forward in the literature. Specifically, based on the victim's behavior - aggressive, active, proactive, passive, uncritical, and neutral. This classification emphasizes victims who, by virtue of their profession, become an obstacle to others committing a crime. Studying the behavior of this category of individuals from a victimological perspective can contribute to the development of scientifically based tactical, psychological, and sometimes technical measures to improve their safety. This, in turn, can increase the effectiveness of appropriate preventative measures.

In examining the individual victimization prevention of domestic crimes, N.S. Khruppa divides aggressive victims into two groups: those who commit violent crimes and those who provoke violent crimes. Among the latter, N.S. Khruppa includes domestic bullies, whose behavior manifests itself in insults and verbal abuse, as well as domestic tyrants, who do not use physical violence in the family but create an environment that makes cohabitation impossible [Khruppa N.S., 1981].

However, the classification of victims is only a first attempt at approaching the truth; this will subsequently enable us to move on to the next step—the creation of a typology of victims. Currently, available materials have provided the basis for identifying certain typical characteristics of victims of torture, fraud, and rape. Classification systems developed by various authors contain many common elements. However, a common drawback of all classifications is that their basic characteristics are predetermined by the researchers themselves and are largely static. Therefore, no classification fully satisfies the modern practical needs of victimological research. It is necessary to find a set of characteristics of the two types of victims (those who contribute and those who do not contribute to the crime) both for the entire population and for specific categories of victims.

Among the victims of crimes committed in the domestic sphere, it seems possible to identify several characteristic types of victims.

The first type includes victims who did not contribute to the conflict. Typically, they had no influence on the formation and development of the criminal situation and became victims of the crime solely due to an unfortunate set of circumstances.

The second type consists of victims who also did not contribute to the conflict, but, due to underestimating the reality of the threat of becoming a victim of a crime, did not initially take active steps to stop the unlawful behavior. These individuals did not perceive the offender's actions as the fulfillment of criminal intent and therefore were unprepared to resist promptly, which they did only after realizing the reality of the danger.

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The third type includes victims who, through their careless behavior, contributed to the conflict but actively attempted to prevent the criminal activity from progressing. Victimization of this category of individuals was often facilitated by shared alcohol consumption, unorganized leisure activities, participation in joint business ventures, and reckless behavior.

The fourth type consists of victims whose behavior not only contributed to the conflict but also created conditions conducive to the commission of a crime against them. Unlike the third type, these individuals deliberately provoke the situation and resist only when the conflict is already being resolved through criminal means.

In our opinion, victimological studies of victims, classified according to the identified spheres of everyday life, can have preventive value.

The analysis suggests that the victim's personality and behavioral patterns are significant elements in the mechanism of domestic crime and largely determine the development of the criminal situation. A victimological approach demonstrates that victims in domestic situations are often not only the target of criminal attacks but also an active participant in conflict interactions, whose behavior can both contribute to the emergence of a victimogenic environment and hinder the realization of criminal intent. Classification and typology of victims of domestic crimes offer significant preventative potential; however, existing scientific approaches are largely static and do not always meet modern practical needs. Considering the socio-psychological, moral, and behavioral characteristics of victims can increase the effectiveness of victimological prevention, aimed at reducing the risk of victimization and preventing domestic crimes. Therefore, victimological prevention should be considered an integral part of the overall crime prevention system, complementing traditional criminological measures and focusing on the early prevention of conflicts in domestic relationships.

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