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Life Strategies of Minors (Conditionally Condemned and Law Abiding Minors)

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Abstract

The aim of the research is to create the psychological and pedagogical program of the formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors and to use this program in the experimental work. According to the aim the research work deals with the phenomenology of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors; with objective conditions (serving a criminal sentence; macro- and microenvironment; dynamics of adaptation to conditional sentence) and with subjective intrapsychic features (life-purpose orientation and value system, time orientation, level of moral and legal reliability, locus of control). All of them provide the efficiency of the formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors. It is presented the component structure of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors (personal and behavioral component, time oriented component, moral and legal component). This structure causes their typology ("the situational consumer", "the infantile consumer", and "the self-sufficient altruist") which was revealed with the author's express method. The authors present the program which allows forming the life strategies of conditionally condemned minors step by step (diagnostic, forming, and control stages) through development and correction of structural components of strategy in the conditions of serving sentence without isolation from society. The program comprises informational and theoretical, skilled and practical methods and also psycho technologies which are selected taking into account age and psychological features of conditionally condemned minors. The program was tested on 198 conditionally condemned minors staying on the registry in penal inspection centers of the Directorate of the FPS of Russia of Ryazan region, of Moscow region, of Orenburg region, of Tambov region, of Moscow and also on 70 law abiding peers studying at the comprehensive school No. 68 of Ryazan. The materials of the research work can be used in the activity of penal inspection centers, in educational process of higher educational institutions.

Keywords: components of life strategy of conditionally condemned minors, conditionally condemned minors, external and internal conditions of formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors, program of formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors, psychological and pedagogical technologies of formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors, types of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors, life strategy.

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Introduction

Recently there were considerable changes in processes of the individualization. They are the socialization of children and teenagers which are shown in negative dynamics of their value system, risk behavior, self-positioning through informal groups, etc. These phenomena are especially expressed at conditionally condemned minors staying on the registry in penal inspection centers.

Process of correction of convicts is based on updating and development of socially important personal characteristics which are the basis of the formation of life strategies. Conditionally condemned minors have an urgent problem of self-perception and perception of the future, of their outlook of life.

The insufficient formation of life strategies of minors affects negatively on the correction process; it increases probability of the recurrence of criminal behavior. It is caused by the fact that life strategy is one of the main sources of value system, needs, life attitudes and purposes of his/her future for the personality.

Purpose and objectives of the study

The aim of this research is to develop the psychological and pedagogical program for the formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors on the basis of studying of life strategies and to approve it during the experimental work.

The object of the research is life strategies of conditionally condemned minors.

The subject of the research is objective conditions (serving a criminal sentence; macro- and microenvironment; dynamics of adaptation to conditional sentence) and intrapsychic features of formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors (life-purpose orientation and value system, time orientation, level of moral and legal reliability, and locus of control).

The hypothesis of the research is as follows: process of the formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors can be qualitatively reformed by forming such components as time oriented, personal and behavioral, moral and legal with taking into account external (environmental) conditions and internal (psychological) features of the personality using different psychological and pedagogical techniques.

Literature review

The category "life strategies" and its various aspects are widely presented in philosophical, psychological, sociological and pedagogical researches.

In foreign philosophical doctrines the problem of formation and choice of life strategies reveals through knowledge of life purpose of person, his/her value system, and correlation with the development of the personality and civilization (Sartre, 1989; Skirbekk, 2000, etc.).

In the general psychology the research of life strategies is carried out in the context of studying of the subject of life activities (Abulkhanova-Slavskaya, 1991; Rubinstein, 2000, etc.), of analysis of personality life (Ananyev, 2001; Kronik, 1987; Bilde, 2011; Cottle, 1974; Lens, 2012, etc.), of motivation of its behavior (Aseev, 1976; Husman, 2008, etc.), of mechanisms of life goal-setting (Kon, 1984; Naumova, 1995; Prenda, 2001; Zimbardo, 1998, etc.).

The next researches are devoted to consideration of separate psychological features of the condemned persons staying on the registry in penal inspection centers: (Chistotina, 2005; Rybak, 2001; Dyadchenko, 2014; Kozhevnikova, Aksenova & Kirillova, 2017).

Methodology

198 conditionally condemned minors staying on the registry in penal inspection centers of the Directorate of the FPS of Russia of Ryazan region, of Moscow region, of Orenburg region, of Tambov region, of Moscow and 70 law abiding peers studying at the comprehensive school No. 68 of Ryazan were participants of the research.

48 convicts participated in the forming experiment (eight convicts as a part of three experimental and three control groups). 30 experts, employees of Directorate of the FPS of Russia of Ryazan region and of

Moscow, were interviewed to define the efficiency of this program of the formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors.

For the solution of aims the following methods have been used: observation, structured conversation, content analysis, expert questionnaire of employees; forming experiment and also the following psycho diagnostic techniques: "Level of subjective control" (Bazhin, Golyunkina & Etkind, 1984), "Life-purpose orientations" (Leontyev, 2000), "Value system" (Rockich, 1973), personal questionnaire of moral and legal reliability (Strizhov, 2009), author's express method of studying of the level of development of strategic spheres of life "Life spheres of minors" (Kozhevnikova, 2017).

Processing of the obtained data was carried out with use of the mathematical statistics (factorial, cluster analyses), and computer program Statistica 8.0 and Psychometric Expert 8.7.0.

Results

The comparative and psychological research of law abiding and conditionally condemned minors has shown the existence of significant differences in the intrapsychic structure of their personality.

It is established that conditionally condemned minors, in comparison with law abiding teenagers, have less expressed tendency to goal-setting directed to realization in the future; they don't believe in their abilities, in the possibility of self control over emotional and behavioral aspects of their personality; they have dissatisfaction with life, they find it monotonous and uninteresting. "Life wisdom", "active life", "beauty of the nature and art", "public acceptance", "pleasure", "financially secure life", "interesting work", "good and true friends" take the first place among their values in their hierarchy; in instrumental purposes – "good breeding", "accuracy", "cheerfulness", "independence".

Conditionally condemned minors have lower level of self control; they are focused on the future in a less degree, live for the moment, trying not to think of the past. They have underdeveloped moral and legal awareness.

Three profiles of the personality of conditionally condemned minors reflecting typological features of their life strategies (Figure 1) are presented and their characteristics is given as a result of the factorial analysis and of the cluster analysis of the obtained empirical data.



Figure 1. Typology of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors as results of clustering of the factorial decision

Specification:

Cluster 1 – "Situational and consumer type",

Cluster 2 – "Infantile and consumer type",

Cluster 3 – "Self-sufficient and altruistic type".

For conditionally condemned minors of "Situational and consumer type" (Cluster 1) following psychological features are characteristic:

- situational orientation in space and time;
- orientation to the principle "here and now" in behavior and activity;
- lack of the formed ability to future planning, to goal-setting and determination of own time prospect;
- tendency to understanding and observance of standards in behavior (not expressed criminals trends);
- weak motivation to training;
- consumers' attitude;
- low support on using one's own resources in problems solving.

Taking into account psychological features of this group we can assume that the organization of psychological and pedagogical maintenance with this category has to be aimed at the development of a reflexive position with the development of the adequate attitude towards itself and other persons; study of difficult life situations of the past and readiness of independent overcoming probable life obstacles in the future; formation of future time perspective, development of ability to goal-setting and planning.

For conditionally condemned minors of “Infantile and consumer type” (Cluster 2) following psychological features are characteristic:

- low orientation in the present;
- ability to planning and goal-setting;
- tendency to violation of the rules and bans (expressiveness of criminal trends);
- weak motivation to training;
- orientation to satisfaction of personal needs and purposes at the expense of others;
- consumers' attitude.

Law knowledge, work on understanding and acceptance of a relevant life situation, including understanding of committed crime and need of a responsible attitude to it, also the formation of real prospects and purposes has to become the main focus in work on psychological follow-up of this group; on development of the adequate attitude towards themselves and to others.

For conditionally condemned minors of “Self-sufficient and altruistic type” (Cluster 3) following psychological features are characteristic:

- orientation on the future in behavior and activity;
- understanding of need of observance of standards and rules;
- ability to planning of the future, goal-setting;
- low motivation to training;
- orientation on assistance to others (altruism).

According to characteristics of this group we can assume that the principal directions and the development of the available positive psychological features of the personality taking into account the purposes and problems of complex corrective work has to become the main directions of their psychological

maintenance. The main focus in the work has to be directed to the formation of motivation to training and to the development of a reflection as abilities of an exit from a rigid state of self-sufficiency.

The program of the formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors was developed and approved on the basis of the theoretical analysis of this problem taking into account data of the empirical research.

The program was implemented within the developed model, it included the blocks made according to components of life strategies and methods selected taking into account age and psychological features of conditionally condemned minors.

Each block of the presented program contains two sections.

The first section is the information-theoretical section. It consists of transfer of new knowledge to condemned minors by means of lectures, conversations, discussions, consultations and it is directed to the formation and the development of cognitive processes of the personality.

The second section is the practical section. It is directed to the formation and the development of the certain personal qualities determining the development of strategic spheres by means of the active solution of various tasks, of exercises, creative tasks in specially organized conditions.

Lectures, conversations, group discussions, "case" situation, art methods, role-playing games, relaxations, diary entries, viewing and the analysis of movies were used in the implementation of psychological and pedagogical programs. The program of the formation of life strategies of condemned minors serving sentences without isolation from society includes blocks which content corresponds to components and demands forming and correctional influence.

So the personal and behavioral component of this program is directed to perception that a person is a condemned person, to the formation of the adequate attitude towards her/himself, revaluation of the self-conception; of receptions of self-control; development and support of volitional powers; formation of adequate and constructive life-purpose orientation and of value system; expansion of communicative space, acquisition of skills of communication and overcoming difficult life situations.

The time oriented component of the program is directed to sensibleness of own life orientation in a continuum; study of the relation to own past; formation of the adequate relation to the present with emphasis on the social rights and restrictions of the personality taking into account conditional sentence; orientation of the personality on the future.

The moral and legal component of the program is directed to the formation of legal consciousness (knowledge of social ethical standards, laws and instructions); understanding of consequences of own behavior and analysis of acts of others persons; formation of strategic thinking and training of skills of planning; comprehension of the concept "life strategy", statement of the adequate, realistic purposes, tasks; estimation of problem situations, and search of ways of prevention of their repetition in the future.

Discussions

The repeated psycho diagnostics of strategic components of the personality of conditionally condemned minors was carried out at the final stage of the experiment. Results proved that implementation of the psychological and pedagogical program promotes the formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors. In experimental and control groups measurements of indicators of scales on the corrected types of life strategies of the personality have been carried out (Table 1, 2, 3).

Table 1. Indicators of mean values of condemned minors with the type strategy "situational consumer" according to the questionnaire "Life spheres of minors" of the experimental group

Components of life strategy	Name of scale	Experimental group	
		Before correction	After correction
Personal and behavioral	Relevant time orientation – the present	3,75	4,0
	Probability of violations	2,12	2,12
	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – development	0,87	3,12*
Time oriented	Relevant temporary orientation – the future	1,37	5,0*
	Relevant temporary orientation – the past	3,12	1,37*
	General strategic orientation of life – planning	0,37	3,12*

Components of life strategy	Name of scale	Experimental group	
		Before correction	After correction
Moral and infantile	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – consumerism	2,12	2,12
	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – altruism	1,0	2,0**

Specification:

*: – statistical significance (by Student's t-criterion) at $p \leq 0,01$

** – statistical significance (by Student's t-criterion) at $p \leq 0,05$

The results presented in table 1 prove existence of significant changes of components structure at the level $p \leq 0,01$ and $p \leq 0,05$ at the experimental group with type of life strategy "situational consumer" after implementation of this program. The tendency to formation of a subject position, to development of logical relation between purposes and planning of own future was noted by experts (in 6 months). It shows existence of changes in the time oriented component. It was also noted changes in moral and legal component of strategy due to formation of the adequate self-conception, due to increase in altruistic orientation of the personality and orientation to satisfaction of needs due to activation of own resources.

Table 2. Indicators of convicts with type of life strategy "infantile consumer" by the technique of "Life spheres of minors" of the experimental group

Components of life strategy	Name of scale	Experimental group	
		Before correction	After correction
Personal and behavioral	Relevant temporary orientation – the present	2,37	4,87*
	Probability of violations	2,87	0,71**
	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – development	0,12	2,88*
Time oriented	Relevant time orientation – the future	3,0	4,26**

Components of life strategy	Name of scale	Experimental group	
		Before correction	After correction
Moral and infantile	Relevant time orientation – the past	3,87	3,0**
	General strategic orientation of life – planning	2,87	3,0
	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – consumerism	3,62	1,87*
	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – altruism	1,87	2,87*

Specification:

*: – statistical significance (by Student's t-criterion) at $p \leq 0,01$

** – statistical significance (by Student's t-criterion) at $p \leq 0,05$

There were significant positive changes in personal and behavioral, moral and legal components in the structure of life strategy of minors of experimental group with type "Infantile consumer". The obtained data are confirmed also by opinions of the experts who have noted positive changes of behavior of condemned persons visiting (registering) penal inspection centers. Besides, growth of personal resources of condemned persons; ability to hope for themselves in satisfaction of personal needs; altruistic orientation; increase in sense of duty and self-checking are noted.

Table 3. Indicators of convicts with type of life strategy "self-sufficient altruist" by the technique "Life spheres of minors" of the experimental group

Components of life strategy	Name of scale	Experimental group	
		Before correction	After correction
Personal and behavioral	Relevant time orientation – the present	4,50	3,0**
	Probability of violations	1,0	1,0
	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – development	3,87	3,0**
Time oriented	Relevant time orientation – the future	4,50	5,21**

Components of life strategy	Name of scale	Experimental group	
		Before correction	After correction
	Relevant time orientation – the past	2,37	5,21*
	General strategic orientation of life – planning	3,87	4,87**
Moral and infantile	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – consumerism	2,37	2,25
	Degree of the strategic sphere of life – altruism	1,87	1,0**

Specification:

*: – statistical significance (by Student's t-criterion) at $p \leq 0,01$

** – statistical significance (by Student's t-criterion) at $p \leq 0,05$

Data of table 3 reflect efficiency of impact on some components of life strategies of minors with the strategy type "self-sufficient altruist". So, the most significant changes have been found in the time oriented component where positive dynamics in development of ability to planning is noted. In the personal and behavioral component increase of ability to orientation in the present, objectivity of perception of reality, the adequate analysis of own resources and opportunities is noted. Significant changes of component structures of life strategies were not revealed in control groups.

Results of the conducted questionnaire of experts, employees of penal inspection centers, demonstrate change of the attitude of minors from the experimental groups to performance of duties assigned by court to employees of penal inspection centers, to themselves and educational activity.

Conclusion

1. The life strategy of a conditionally condemned minor represents an indicator of the formation of his/her personality determined by a conscious, purposeful, active and responsible attitude to own future, with a support on the last experience and the analysis of the present, of the system of norms, values, purposes and prospects which are shown in his/her behavior and activity.

2. Application of the specialized express-method has allowed to evaluate the development of relevant strategic spheres of life of conditionally condemned minors (relevant time orientation to the present, to the

past or to the future; probability of assumption of violations; altruistic or consumers' attitude; ability to planning and development) and also to define the component structure of their life strategy (personal and behavioral, time oriented, moral and legal).

3. Depending on degree of formation of component structure of life strategies the following types of conditionally condemned minors are distinguished: "situational consumer", "infantile consumer", and "self-sufficient altruist". The most problem group is conditionally condemned minors with type of their life strategy "infantile consumer" who more need psychological and pedagogical maintenance.

4. Identification of types of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors allows to improve their differentiation in aspect of penitentiary risk and to carry out with them the psychological and pedagogical work.

5. Results of experimental work confirm that application of the psychological and pedagogical program which has a stage-by-stage realization (diagnostic, developing and control stages) promotes the effective formation of life strategies of conditionally condemned minors due to development and correction of structural components of strategies in the conditions of serving of criminal penalty without isolation from society.

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