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THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT ON THE FORMATION OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract: This article systematically analyzes the socio-psychological factors influencing the formation of deviant behavior during adolescence. The interaction between the individual and the social environment, psychological adaptation, and the process of internalizing social norms are considered as key mechanisms underlying deviant behavior. The study highlights the impact of family, educational institutions, peer groups, and the information environment on the behavioral characteristics of adolescents.

Keywords: deviant behavior, adolescence, social environment, psychological factors, socialization, education, communication.

Introduction

In today's era of globalization, the behavior, social values, and psychological state of young people—especially adolescents—are viewed as key factors ensuring social stability. Adolescence is a transitional stage in human development characterized by rapid physical, emotional, and social changes, during which the concept of “self” is formed. Therefore, the quality of the social environment, educational conditions, and psychological support system plays a crucial role in shaping an adolescent's behavioral model.

Main Part

Deviant behavior refers to a set of actions that deviate from, violate, or reject socially accepted norms. From a psychological perspective, deviant acts may stem from internal conflicts, difficulties in self-expression, or unmet social and emotional needs.

. The family serves as the primary agent of socialization for an adolescent. Emotional stability, warmth in parent-child relationships, and an optimal level of supervision directly influence the adolescent's emotional development. Conversely, family conflicts, violence, neglect, or excessive control may increase tendencies toward aggression, indifference, and deviant behavior.

. Educational institutions also play a vital role in adolescents' social adjustment. The social-psychological approach of school psychologists, class teachers, and educators helps shape adolescents' self-awareness and self-regulation skills. However, pedagogical indifference or unfair evaluation may undermine social trust and lead adolescents to join informal or antisocial groups.

. The peer group is one of the strongest sources of social influence during adolescence. At this stage, adolescents often value the opinions of friends over those of parents. Positive peer groups foster leadership, cooperation, and responsibility, while negative groups (e.g., those promoting substance abuse, aggression, or delinquency) increase the likelihood of deviant behavior.

. The rapid development of information technologies and mass culture also significantly affects adolescents' behavioral norms. Online communication, violent or consumerist content on the Internet negatively impacts adolescents' social values. Therefore, developing media literacy is a crucial measure in protecting adolescents' consciousness from harmful influences.

. Emotional instability, confusion in self-perception, and the search for social roles during adolescence provide a psychological basis for deviant behavior. Positive communication, psychological support, and mutual respect within the family and school environment help maintain the adolescent's inner balance.

. Empirical observations show that adolescents who feel valued and socially supported are less likely to exhibit deviant behavior. Hence, preventive measures should not focus solely on

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punishment or control but rather on socio-psychological rehabilitation, self-awareness, and the development of positive motivation.

Conclusion

The formation of deviant behavior among adolescents is a multifactorial process determined by the interaction between the social environment, psychological stability, and educational influences. It is possible to reduce deviant behavior by improving the quality of the social environment, strengthening family upbringing, and developing systems of pedagogical and psychological support.

Moreover, organizing meaningful leisure activities, involving adolescents in sports and creative pursuits, enhancing the work of psychological counseling centers, and increasing media literacy represent effective preventive strategies against deviant behavior. . Creating a healthy social environment ensures not only individual well-being but also the moral stability of society as a whole. Therefore, the psychological protection and positive socialization of adolescents require close cooperation among the state, educational institutions, and the family.