

Victimization as a human trait that defines the behavior

Olga Barabash

Abstract – the analysis of scientific literature allows confirming a significant diversity of views on the nature of the phenomenon of "victimization". Basically, the phenomenon of "victimization" is disclosed as a human trait, determined by internal and external factors. There are also polar views on the nature of victimization occurrence. The aim of the article is to study the concept of "victimization", to define the most appropriate in the meaning concept that reveals the essence of the phenomenon, which is referred to as "victimization", to determine the victimization types and means of its prevention.

Index Terms - victimization, human behavior, victimization behavior, property, victimization types, victimologic warning.



1. Introduction

Often the behavior of crime victims is immoral or illegal. This behavior should be regarded as a circumstance that mitigates responsibility, but this role cannot be hyperbolized, actually justifying an offender [1]. Research of the nature of the relationship "offender-victim" is necessary in almost all cases where they may be the key to exposing an offender and motives of a crime. Based on the analysis of these relationships it can often be set in detail how an offender and his victim behaved and reconstruct a crime and its environment. Taking into consideration the relationship "offender-victim", the evidence of a victim can be objectively evaluated because we cannot exclude the deliberate truth distorting by a victim, wanting to help an offender or, on the contrary, worsening his or her condition [2]. Therefore, the phenomenon of victimization and victimization behavior needs to be researched.

2. General characteristics of the victimization as a property that determines human behavior

2.1. The concept of human victimization

In order to refer to a certain type of behavior during the crime or during the period preceding the committing a crime, the term "victimization behavior" is used. The concept of "victimization behavior" is closely linked to the concept of "victimization" which is decisive in relation to it. Regarding the phenomenon of victimization and determining its concepts in scientific literature there is some pluralism. L.V. Frank believes that the victimization is the increased human capacity, taking a note of a number of spiritual and physical qualities under certain objective circumstances to

become a "target" of a criminal assault [3]. V.P. Konovalov under the victimization understands the increased human capacity through, first, social role or status, secondly, a number of spiritual and physical properties under certain objective circumstances to become a victim" [4]. L.V. Ilyina defines the victimization as "a special property of a crime victim that is an ability to be under certain circumstances a victim of a crime" [5]. The wider definition is the one of D.V. Rivman, who understands the victimization as "objectively inherent for a human (both embodied in a criminal act, or left in potency), but not a fatal ability, "tendency" under certain circumstances to become a victim of a crime or inability to confront an offender, a set of factors that makes this inability objective (because doesn't depend on a victim) or leaves it at the level of subjective "unwillingness or inability" [6]. V.O. Tuliakov defines the victimization as, above all, the deviation from the norms of safe behavior, which embodies in a set of social, psychological and moral implications. In this regard, the victimization as the ability of the subject to become a victim of a socially dangerous manifestation, serves as the social and mental and moral phenomenon [7].

Before specifying an attitude to the concept of "victimization" and revealing its content, one needs to give some factors that influence its occurrence and development.

As for the moment and causes of the occurrence of "victimization" we'll give some scientific positions. D.V. Rivman believes that an individual does not acquire the victimization, and simply cannot be a victim, because he or she lives in a society where crime is not eliminated, so there is always an objective opportunity to be a victim. "In fact, how it could be otherwise, when crime and victimization are different sides of one social phenomenon," - he writes. [6]. So victimization is inherent to any

person regardless of personal characteristics, social roles and functions and other characteristics. In other words, "victimization" is understood as an objective social category as "deepening" of any human in a stable victim condition which is caused by objective circumstances.

The opposite position is expressed by a German scientist H. Schneider, who noted that there are no "innate victims" or "victims of nature." It all depends on the acquired by a person during a life physical, mental and social ones (enshrined by education in the socialization process) Fig. [8]. A Bulgarian scientist B. Stankov also notes the role of a specific life situation in the development of illegal actions, the need to study the specific features of psychological behavior of a victim as a result of violence [9]. A Japanese researcher J. Miyadzawa has distinguished the general victimization as one that depends on age, sex, occupation, social status, and specific, depending on the mental, psychological and emotional instability. The analysis of the connection between each of these two types and the crime has led scientist to the statement that because of the superimposition of these two types the degree of victimization increases significantly [9]. We agree with the opinion of the latter researchers, who think that the victimization of a person is caused by external and internal personal factors. Regarding the position of D.V. Rivman, we support the criticism expressed by O.V. Yurchenko, who notes that the statement of the author (D.V. Rivman) may be called controversial, because the author believes that victimization is a quality inherent to all people without exception and any person may become a victim of a crime. However, we can only speak about the victimization in case of the presence of personality qualities and traits that lead to his or her falling into the category of a victim. It is wrong to talk about the victimization, for example, when people have to go back every day late home from work and constantly are exposed to the risk of becoming a victim of robbers or vandals. Here we can speak about a risk or danger, but not about victimization [10].

As rightly pointed L.V. Frank, the victimization is not a fatal property of individuals. "Basically the victimization of any person can be reduced to zero, and then almost in any dangerous situation a person will be able to choose the most correct way of behavior [3]".

We believe that the concept of victimization was the most fully disclosed by O.U. Yurchenko, who defined the victimization as a set of congenital and

socially acquired biophysical, psychological, social, personality traits, which interacting with the external conditions increase the likelihood of becoming a victim of a crime [10].

The victimization is a certain person's ability to become the object of a criminal assault that may form during the life or amplify depending on a number of objective and subjective causes and conditions that appear in a particular situation. The victimization of a person is a dynamic concept: it is not an innate human trait, it can evolve throughout life and depends on various factors, and above all - on its carrier. The victimization is a concept that is relative, because it is always realized in a situation that is sufficient for this implementation. The same individual properties may lead to different consequences depending on a specific situation (external circumstances, offender's characteristics, etc.). A victim with his or her way of life may contribute to the commission of a crime, wittingly or unwittingly create conditions for committing criminal acts against him or her. But to talk about the behavior of these categories of people as victims would be wrong. It is necessary to define the limits of victimization. The use of this term is appropriate in cases where a person deliberately behaves the way that promotes, provokes the commission concerning themselves socially dangerous acts [10].

2.2 Victimization and victimization behavior

The behavior of the victim during a crime as the human behavior in general, is based on two categories of factors:

- 1) the external environment, in this case a criminal offense or other effects;
- 2) individual personality traits that provide criminal response to external influence and behavior of a victim as a result [11].

That's why the victimization of a person is a complex property, a person who finds these characteristics in behavior, his or her actions, words, can provoke people around to aggressive behavior towards themselves. If to consider that the victimization feature is the victimization of a person, so a set of traits (aggressiveness, anxiety, suggestibility) – the manifestation of these qualities in behavior can provoke others to aggression against a carrier of this feature. Thus, the victimization behavior is the activity aimed at provoking a possible aggressor [12]. So the victimization behavior and victimization are two sides of one phenomenon.

2.3 Types of victimization

V.A. Rybalska, whose idea we support, defines the following types of the victimization:

- a) victimization as a set of social and psychological personality traits that are associated with socialization features of the latter (personality victimologic deformation);
- b) victimization as an exceptional social, impersonal property of the individual associated with the performance of certain social functions (professional, role);
- c) victimization as a biophysical property of an individual (age victimization);
- d) victimization as a result of a pathological condition of an individual. [13].

2.4 Victimologic warning as a means of preventing victimization

As rightly noted by some authors the victimization is an "assistant", "co-author" [9] of a crime; thus, the study of this phenomenon, adjusting the victimization behavior should help reduce the number of victims of severe violent crimes against life and health. Classifying the forms of victim's behaviors, V.S. Minska says that in most cases of violent crimes the victim's behavior was essentially a provocation of these crimes. As a result of numerous studies it was found that immediately before committing a crime in 95% there was a conflict between a victim and an offender [14].

To reduce the victimization and displays of the victimization behavior O.U. Yurchenko suggests using the victimologic warning. In her opinion, the victimologic prevention is the work of various government, public and private agencies and organizations, which aims to neutralize, as far as possible and eliminate the factors that shape victim's behavior, facilitate the commission of crimes and protect citizens from criminal attacks by reducing the personality, role, social or status victimization. The content of the victimologic prevention is to prevent the possibility of being in the role of a victim. From the perspective of victimization it means to lower the victimization and the victimization of certain segments of the population, to limit the effect the victimization factors and the emergence of the victimization situations. The victimization aspect of prevention is aimed at identifying potential victims of crimes and performing actions relevant to them [10, p. 99]. The strength of the victimization recommendations is that they orient the practice on the unused

reserves as for the study and use of the victimization factor in the prevention of a crime. The study of the causes of crime in the context of a territorial section excluding the abovementioned factor seems to be one-sided, and theoretical and practical conclusions to be incomplete [15].

3. Conclusions

Thus, considering the abovementioned opinions the victimization is a human trait, the formation of which is effected by a significant number of factors (directly related to the human nature (biological and psychological) and those caused by human habitat (sociological)). The victimization as a trait of a person directly influences the choice (conscious or unconscious) of way of behavior of such a person. The primary means of prevention of the victimization and therefore the victimization behavior is the victimologic warning.

4. References:

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