

CRIMINOLOGICAL PROFILE OF SCHOOL-AGED OFFENDERS

A. Shermukhamedov,
Independent Researcher at the University
of Public Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract: The article examines the criminological aspects of crime among school students. It analyzes the impact of crime on youth, its social and psychological factors, and proposes preventive measures. The study highlights the importance of preventive approaches at the family and educational institution levels in reducing juvenile crime.

Keywords: School students, criminological profile, crime prevention, social and psychological factors.

Nowadays, society faces numerous problems in the spheres of social, economic, and other relations. One of such problems is the involvement of minors in criminal activities.

Considering that juvenile delinquency constitutes an integral part of the overall crime rate in the country, it is necessary to examine the specific features of juvenile crime as a criminogenic phenomenon.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 200,000 people aged between 10 and 29 are victims of homicide worldwide each year, accounting for 43% of all homicides[1]. At present, more than a quarter of adolescents aged 15 to 19 worldwide, or approximately 155 million teenagers, consume alcoholic beverages. In 2019, the estimated number of adolescents living with HIV amounted to around 1.7 million[2]. Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among children and young people aged 5 to 29. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among older adolescents aged 15 to 19[3]. Alcohol is the leading risk factor for premature death and disability among people aged 15 to 49, accounting for 10% of all deaths within this age group[4]. These figures not only demonstrate the significant role of young people in societal life but also indicate that antisocial behavior, unhealthy lifestyles, and crime among youth are among the key factors contributing to the criminalization of society.

This, in turn, highlights the relevance of criminological research on juvenile delinquency, which today is of importance not only from the perspective of legal science and legislation but also in terms of practical measures to combat crime[5].

In the 2022–2023 academic year, the total number of general education institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan amounted to 10,750.

1. **Growth compared to previous years:** While there were 10,522 institutions in the 2021–2022 academic year, the number of institutions increased by 228 in 2022–2023.

2. **Growth trend:** Since 2019, the number of general education institutions has been steadily increasing. For example, in the 2019–2020 academic year, there were 10,090 institutions, whereas by 2022–2023, this figure had reached 10,750, indicating a significant growth in the number of schools and other educational institutions across the country[6].

This growth may be associated with the government's efforts to expand access to education and improve conditions for students.

In the 2022–2023 academic year, the number of teachers working in general education institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan amounted to **541,473**.

1. **Growth trend:** In the 2021–2022 academic year, the number of teachers was **529,116**, which means that in the 2022–2023 academic year this figure increased by **12,357**. This demonstrates a consistent increase in the number of teachers in the education sector.

2. **Regional differences:** In the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the number of teachers amounted to **39,117**, while in Tashkent city it was **28,609**. These figures reflect significant differences in the number of teachers across various regions[6].

The increase in the number of teachers may be associated with state policies aimed at improving the quality of education, as well as with the growing number of students.

In the 2022–2023 academic year, the number of students in general education institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan amounted to **6,461,741**.

1. **Growth dynamics:** In the 2021–2022 academic year, the number of students was **6,304,586**, and in 2022–2023 this figure increased by **157,155**. This growth is linked to the rising demand for education and the overall population growth.

2. **Regional distribution of students:** For instance, in Andijan region, the number of students totaled **595,863**, while in Tashkent city it was **499,417**. These figures demonstrate significant regional differences in student numbers[6].

The analysis of this data allows us to draw conclusions regarding the dynamics of student numbers by region, the growing demand for education, and the overall development of students.

Types of Crimes Committed by School Students

The most common types of crimes committed by school students include:

- **Theft:** In 2023, **1,602** minors committed theft, which is **1.3%** more compared to 2022.

- **Hooliganism:** 453 cases were recorded, representing an increase of 60% compared to 2022.
- **Fraud:** 135 minors committed fraud, which is almost identical to the figure from 2022.
- **Robbery and Banditry:** In 2023, 181 cases were recorded, which is 11% more than in 2022.
- **Intentional Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury:** Crimes of this type increased by 40% compared to 2022, with 104 cases recorded.
- **Rape and Attempted Rape:** In 2023, 54 such crimes were registered, which is 20% higher than in 2022.
- **Extortion:** In 2023, 27 minors committed this type of crime, an increase of 70% compared to 2022.
- **Intentional Homicide and Attempted Homicide:** Crimes of this category increased by 20% compared to 2022, with 12 cases recorded.

The highest number of crimes committed by minors were thefts, totaling 1,602 cases (compared to 1,581 in the previous year). This situation may indicate the presence of economic problems among youth and insufficient social control.

In second place is the crime of **hooliganism**, with 453 cases, which represents an increase of 60% compared to the previous year. Such a sharp rise in hooliganism may be linked to growing aggression among young people and an increase in disorderly conduct in public spaces. In this context, it is essential to pay greater attention to educational measures and social work.

A total of 135 minors committed **fraud** (compared to 134 the previous year). The number of minors involved in **robbery and banditry** reached 181, an increase of 11% over the previous year. The growth of such crimes may reflect the involvement of minors in criminal groups and a high level of violence.

Additionally, 104 minors committed **intentional infliction of serious bodily injury** (74 in the previous year, a 40% increase), which is associated with heightened aggression and conflicts among youth.

There were 54 cases of **rape and attempted rape** (46 in the previous year, a 20% increase), 27 cases of **extortion** (16, a 70% increase), and 12 cases of **intentional homicide and attempted homicide** (10, a 20% increase).

Furthermore, **57** minors committed crimes related to the **production or distribution of narcotic drugs**, and **121** minors were involved in crimes such as **non-lethal traffic accidents**[6].

The Share of Offenders Aged 13–15 in the Total Number of Criminal Offenders

General situation in Uzbekistan:

In 2010, the proportion of offenders aged 13–15 in relation to the total number of offenders was **0.5%**. By 2023, this figure had increased to **0.8%**, indicating a rise in the share of juvenile delinquency within the overall crime structure.

Trends:

Between 2010 and 2017, the indicators remained around **0.5%**. Starting from 2018, the figures declined to **0.4%**. However, since 2021, the rates have begun to increase again, reaching **0.8%** in **2022–2023**[7].

The proportion of juvenile delinquency in relation to overall crime has been increasing in recent years. This situation highlights the necessity of strengthening crime prevention and implementing more effective preventive measures.

These data are of great importance for the development of strategic decisions aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency in the future.

The Share of Offenders Aged 16–17 in the Total Number of Criminal Offenders

General situation in Uzbekistan:

In 2010, the proportion of offenders aged 16–17 in relation to the total number of offenders was **2.3%**. By 2023, this figure had risen to **3.2%**, indicating an increase in the share of juvenile delinquency within the overall crime structure.

Trends:

Between 2010 and 2017, the indicator remained stable at approximately **1.7%**. However, from 2020 onwards, the figures began to increase. The highest rate was recorded in **2023**, reaching **3.2%**[8].

The proportion of juvenile delinquency among adolescents aged 16–17 has increased in recent years. This confirms the need to strengthen crime prevention measures and enhance proactive efforts.

By age group, **744** minors were aged **13–15**, while the number of offenders aged **16–17** was significantly higher, reaching **2,855** individuals. This indicates that criminal behavior is more prevalent among older adolescents, highlighting the age-related characteristics of the problem.

In total, **744** offenders were between the ages of **13–15**, and **2,855** were aged **16–17**. The share of female offenders amounted to **8.7%**, or **314** individuals.

An analysis of juvenile delinquency shows that the crime rate among children aged 13–15 is relatively lower, which may be associated with their lower inclination toward criminal behavior. However, among those aged 16–17, criminal offenses are more frequent, indicating an increase in criminal activity within this age group.

These data are of significant importance for the development of strategic decisions aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency in the future.

According to our analysis and research, the majority of juvenile crimes by region (61.8%) are concentrated in five regions of the republic: Fergana (4,125 cases), Tashkent city (3,562 cases), Tashkent region (2,215 cases), Surkhandarya (1,489 cases), and Namangan (1,539 cases).

According to the Department of Public Safety of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as reported by UzA, juvenile crimes involved 1,424 school students, 291 students of academic lyceums and vocational education institutions, 142 unemployed minors (graduates who are not engaged in work or study), and 264 employed minors[9].

According to the information provided by the Department of Public Safety of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the social status of minors involved in crimes is also of great significance. These circumstances demonstrate that juvenile delinquency is closely linked to socio-economic factors and the education system.

Analysis of the Data:

1. **School students – 1,424 individuals.**

This figure indicates that crimes are being committed during the school stage, highlighting the need for stricter control and enhanced moral and educational processes within educational institutions. The increase in cases of violence and legal violations among students reflects existing problems in youth education.

2. **Academic lyceum and vocational education students – 291 individuals.**

Although the level of crime among this group has somewhat decreased, offenses committed by these students point to insufficient family and social support, as well as a lack of adequate educational guidance and counseling.

3. **Unemployed minors (graduates not engaged in work or study) – 142 individuals.**

The occurrence of crimes among young people who have completed their studies but have not entered the workforce demonstrates their need for social support. For this group, idleness, lack of future plans, and inactivity are among the key factors leading to criminal behavior.

4. Working minors – 264 individuals.

The fact that crimes are also committed by employed youth suggests that, in the employment process, sufficient attention has not been given to discipline and educational guidance in the workplace.

This analysis clearly demonstrates that juvenile delinquency is closely interconnected with social and economic factors. In order to protect young people from engaging in criminal activity, it is necessary to strengthen efforts in areas such as schools, lyceums, vocational education, and employment support. Moreover, regular organization of moral, legal, and psycho-social counseling for youth is essential.

Recent years' analysis has revealed that the majority of crimes committed by students occur **after school hours or in the evening**, and these offenses are predominantly committed by **children from disadvantaged families**[10].

This situation indicates the growing tendency among youth toward ineffective use of free time, lack of supervision, and an increased inclination toward criminal behavior. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that most crimes are committed by children from dysfunctional families, as the negative influence of the family environment is emerging as one of the key factors leading to delinquency.

An analysis of juvenile offenders in **2023** shows that the largest category (**2,730 individuals**) consisted of **students**. This demonstrates the connection between juvenile delinquency and the education system, as well as the widespread occurrence of criminal behavior among school-aged youth. This highlights the need to strengthen preventive and educational work in educational institutions. Effectively implementing crime prevention measures in schools and ensuring the social and psychological support of students is of particular importance.

A comprehensive approach suggests that, in order to prevent juvenile delinquency, it is necessary to consider both factors — the **socio-family environment** and **personal psychological dynamics**. Moreover, these two factors are interrelated, as they can either reinforce or weaken each other. The most effective preventive measures should cover both aspects simultaneously.

In order to prevent juvenile delinquency, it is necessary to enhance the **positive influence of the family environment** and strengthen **moral and educational processes** within educational institutions. In particular, **social support** and the expansion of **preventive measures** play a crucial role in crime prevention.

Based on this analysis, reducing juvenile delinquency in society requires reinforcing supervision both at educational institutions and within families, as well as ensuring that young people are provided with appropriate **socio-economic conditions**.

In order to improve the juvenile crime prevention system, the following measures are proposed:

1. Enhancing the effectiveness of moral and educational work in educational institutions:

It is necessary to regularly conduct moral, legal, and crime prevention discussions with students in schools and lyceums, explaining the negative consequences of criminal behavior. In this regard, strengthening cooperation between teachers and psychologists in educational institutions is advisable.

2. Strengthening family supervision and support:

It is essential to distribute educational materials to parents of minors and develop their communication skills with their children. Providing parents with knowledge of the basic principles of moral education and youth psychology can increase their ability to supervise and support their children effectively.

3. Organizing productive use of free time:

Young people should be actively involved in sports, arts, cultural, and social activities to make effective use of their free time. Developing youth centers, sports clubs, and creative circles, and simplifying the registration process will expand opportunities for meaningful leisure time for young people.

4. Developing psychological support services:

Professional psychologists should be engaged in schools, lyceums, and community centers to conduct individual and group counseling with youth. Through the identification of problems and assessment of their emotional state, it will be possible to detect inclinations toward criminal behavior at early stages.

5. Providing students with legal knowledge:

To increase legal literacy among young people, educational programs should include legal education. Providing accurate and objective information about crime, its consequences, and criminal penalties can help reshape young people's attitudes toward criminal behavior.

6. Expanding cooperation with local community organizations:

Cooperation with local community organizations in preventing juvenile delinquency should be

strengthened, organizing additional preventive activities for youth with their support. By enhancing activities through neighborhood councils, sports, and youth organizations, it is possible to cultivate responsible behavior among young people.

The implementation of these measures will contribute to reducing juvenile delinquency and support the social adaptation of young people.

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