INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE: VICTIMOLOGICAL PROTECTION OF JUVENILES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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Doi: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21391041

Abstract: The protection of juveniles from crime has become one of the most significant priorities of contemporary criminal policy. Modern victimology emphasizes not only the prevention of juvenile delinquency but also the protection of children who are exposed to criminal victimization. Many countries have developed comprehensive legal, institutional, and social mechanisms designed to reduce victimization risks through early intervention, multidisciplinary cooperation, and child-centered justice. This article examines the victimological protection systems implemented in several foreign countries, including Germany, Japan, Sweden, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Particular attention is devoted to preventive measures, victim support services, educational initiatives, and interagency cooperation. The analysis demonstrates that effective juvenile victimological protection depends on an integrated approach combining legal safeguards, social assistance, psychological rehabilitation, digital safety, and continuous monitoring of vulnerable children. The findings may contribute to improving victimological prevention policies and strengthening child protection mechanisms in countries seeking to modernize their juvenile justice systems.

Keywords: juvenile victimology, child protection, victimological prevention, juvenile justice, crime prevention, child victims, international experience, victim support, child-centered justice, juvenile protection.

Introduction

The protection of children from criminal victimization has become a fundamental objective of criminal justice systems worldwide. During the past decades, many countries have shifted from traditional punitive approaches toward preventive and victim-oriented policies that recognize children as one of the most vulnerable groups in society. International organizations have repeatedly emphasized that safeguarding children's rights requires not only effective criminal legislation but also coordinated preventive mechanisms involving educational institutions, social services, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, and local communities.

Juvenile victimization has become increasingly complex due to globalization, digital technologies, migration, organized crime, and online communication. Children today are exposed to numerous risks, including domestic violence, cyberbullying, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, online grooming, and financial fraud. Consequently, victimological protection can no longer be limited to post-crime assistance; instead, it requires proactive identification of risk factors and early intervention before victimization occurs. Foreign experience demonstrates that successful

victimological protection is based on multidisciplinary cooperation rather than isolated institutional responses. Countries with advanced child protection systems have established specialized juvenile courts, child advocacy centers, school-based prevention programs, crisis intervention services, and integrated databases that facilitate timely identification of vulnerable children. Such approaches significantly reduce repeated victimization while improving children's physical, psychological, and social recovery. Contemporary victimology increasingly focuses on strengthening children's resilience by improving legal awareness, digital literacy, psychological stability, and community support. These preventive strategies contribute not only to reducing crime but also to creating safer social environments in which children's rights and legitimate interests receive comprehensive protection.

Methodology

The article applies comparative legal analysis, systematic analysis, descriptive analysis, and institutional evaluation to examine victimological protection mechanisms implemented in different countries. National legislation, international legal standards, scientific literature, and policy documents concerning juvenile justice and victim protection were comparatively assessed. The analysis also incorporates best practices related to child-friendly justice, multidisciplinary cooperation, early prevention, and rehabilitation of juvenile victims. A synthesis of international experience was used to identify approaches that may enhance victimological prevention and improve child protection systems in other jurisdictions.

International Experience in Victimological Protection of Juveniles

Most developed countries no longer consider victimological protection solely as a criminal justice issue. Instead, they approach child protection through integrated social policies that combine legal intervention, education, healthcare, psychological services, and family support.

1. Germany has established a coordinated child protection framework in which youth welfare offices, educational institutions, police authorities, and family courts cooperate closely whenever a child faces potential victimization. Early identification of vulnerable families allows specialists to provide social assistance before criminal situations emerge. The German model places considerable emphasis on rehabilitation rather than merely responding after crimes have occurred.
2. The United Kingdom has developed multi-agency safeguarding partnerships that involve schools, local authorities, healthcare institutions, and police services. These partnerships exchange information regarding children exposed to violence, neglect, exploitation, or online abuse. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre has become an important institution for combating cyber-related crimes against children through education, digital monitoring, and preventive campaigns.
3. Sweden follows a child-centered welfare approach where victimological protection is considered an essential component of social policy. Schools employ psychologists, counselors, and social workers who continuously monitor children's emotional well-being and identify behavioral changes associated with victimization. Family assistance programs and community-based interventions significantly reduce children's exposure to criminal environments.
4. Japan has successfully integrated educational institutions into crime prevention strategies. Schools cooperate closely with parents, neighborhood associations, and local police through

continuous communication and preventive education. Children regularly participate in safety awareness programs covering cybercrime, bullying, personal security, and emergency response, strengthening their ability to recognize and avoid potential victimization.

5. Canada emphasizes trauma-informed services for juvenile victims. Specialized Child Advocacy Centres provide coordinated legal, psychological, and medical assistance within a single institution, minimizing repeated interviews and reducing secondary victimization. This integrated model has improved children's recovery while increasing the effectiveness of criminal investigations.

6. In the United States, multidisciplinary Child Advocacy Centers operate across numerous states, bringing together prosecutors, law enforcement officers, psychologists, physicians, and social workers. These centers ensure that children receive comprehensive protection throughout criminal proceedings while minimizing emotional distress. Furthermore, extensive community prevention initiatives focus on online safety, family education, and violence prevention.

Discussion

International practice demonstrates that the effectiveness of juvenile victimological protection depends on the coordinated functioning of legal, educational, social, and healthcare institutions rather than on the activities of a single authority. Countries with well-developed child protection systems prioritize early identification of vulnerable children, allowing preventive measures to be implemented before victimization occurs. Another common characteristic is the establishment of multidisciplinary teams that facilitate information sharing, coordinated intervention, and comprehensive support for child victims. The growing impact of digital technologies has also encouraged many governments to strengthen online safety education, improve cybercrime prevention, and introduce specialized mechanisms for protecting children from online exploitation and harassment. At the same time, psychological rehabilitation has become an essential element of victimological protection, as addressing the emotional consequences of victimization significantly contributes to children's long-term recovery and successful social reintegration. International experience further indicates that active parental involvement and continuous cooperation between schools and local communities substantially reduce victimization risks among juveniles. These practices illustrate that victimological prevention should be viewed as a continuous social process integrating legal safeguards, educational initiatives, family support, and community participation. Adapting such comprehensive approaches to national legal systems can significantly enhance juvenile protection policies while ensuring greater respect for children's rights and promoting a safer environment for their development.

Conclusion

International experience demonstrates that effective juvenile victimological protection requires an integrated system combining legal safeguards, early prevention, family support, and interagency cooperation. Comprehensive child-centered approaches significantly reduce victimization risks while improving the protection of children's rights and well-being. Strengthening preventive mechanisms, digital safety measures, and multidisciplinary collaboration can further enhance the effectiveness of victimological policies. Adapting successful international practices to national conditions will contribute to building a more efficient and sustainable system for protecting juveniles from crime.

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