

MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN THE DETERMINATIVE SYSTEM OF CRIME IN TOURISM SECTOR

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Annotation. The article examines the moral and psychological determinants of criminal behavior within the tourism sector in the context of contemporary criminological theory. Based on classical and modern criminological concepts, as well as interdisciplinary research in moral psychology, the study analyzes the interaction between socio-economic, legal, and ethical factors in the formation of criminal motivation. Particular attention is paid to the role of moral emotions (shame, guilt, empathy), value orientations, and individual psychological characteristics that influence a person's readiness to engage in unlawful conduct.

The research emphasizes the specific nature of tourism as a social sphere characterized by increased victim vulnerability due to psychological states associated with leisure, reduced critical perception, and heightened trust. Simultaneously, the moral deformation of offenders, including the erosion of social responsibility and the prioritization of material gain, creates favorable conditions for economically motivated and violent crimes within tourism.

Drawing on contemporary international studies on morality and crime, as well as criminological theories of situational action and victimology, the article substantiates the systemic role of moral and psychological factors in the mechanism of crime determination. It argues that effective crime prevention in the tourism sector requires not only legal and organizational measures but also the development of moral culture, ethical standards in business practices, and victimological awareness among tourists.

The paper concludes by highlighting the need for an integrative criminological model that incorporates moral-psychological, socio-economic, and victimological components in order to enhance preventive strategies at both national and international levels, particularly in the context of globalization and transnational security challenges in tourism.

Key words: criminology, crime behaviour, tourism sector, moral psychology, crime prevention, victimology, criminal motivation, moral emotions, transnational crime.

1. Introduction.

In criminology, it is widely recognized that the issue of crime determination occupies a central place among other scientific problems examined by criminologists, since their comprehensive analysis constitutes a necessary prerequisite for effective counteraction to and prevention of crime.

Within the mechanism of crime causality, a cause generates crime as its consequence, whereas conditions do not directly produce this phenomenon but facilitate the emergence and spread of criminal manifestations in society. At the same time, it is always a matter of their joint action and the necessary interconnection between them as elements of a unified system [1, p. 57; 2, p. 45; 3, pp. 8, 19].

The aggregate of causes and conditions whose interaction results in such consequences as crime in general and individual criminal offenses is commonly defined in criminological science as criminogenic

determinants. At the same time, scholarly sources substantiate that limiting the process of crime determination exclusively to causes and conditions is methodologically incorrect. The system of criminogenic determination also encompasses correlation relationships, functional dependencies, state-based connections, and other forms of interdependence among social phenomena.

In the contemporary context of the intensive development of tourism, the issue of the criminogenic influence of moral and psychological factors acquires particular relevance. The determination of crime in the tourism sector is not limited to economic or organizational-legal aspects; it also encompasses subjective components, namely the moral, ethical, and psychological characteristics of potential offenders.

2. The state of development of the problem.

The problem of crime determination in criminology has attracted considerable scholarly attention in both domestic and foreign academic discourse. This issue has been explored by such Ukrainian and international scholars as Shakun V. I., Holovkin B. M., Kostenko O. M., Naden O. V., Orlean A. M., as well as foreign researchers including Kaiser G., Schneider G. J., Sutherland E. H., Hirschi T., Merton R. K., Christie N., etc.

Their works reveal the theoretical and methodological foundations of criminogenic determination, including the role of social and moral-psychological factors in the formation of criminal behavior, as well as the interrelationship between individual and social determinants of crime.

The relevance of further research into moral and psychological factors within the system of crime determination in this sphere is justified both from a theoretical and methodological perspective - in order to deepen the understanding of the mechanism of criminogenic determination - and from a practical perspective - with a view to developing effective and systemic measures for the prevention of crime in the field of tourism.

3. Purpose of the article.

Taking into account the above, the purpose of this article is to analyze moral and psychological factors as a key element within the system of crime determination in the tourism sphere and to define their influence on the formation of criminal behavior among potential offenders.

4. Presentation of the main material.

In our opinion, the determinants of crime in the sphere of tourism may be classified into socio-economic, moral and psychological, legal, and organizational-managerial categories. Taken together, these determinants form a cause-and-effect complex of this particular type of crime and serve as a basis for the further development of measures aimed at preventing the acts under consideration.

Among the socio-economic determinants of crime in the sphere of tourism, which in our view are decisive, it is necessary to include the ongoing economic crisis in Ukraine and the resulting impoverishment of a significant part of the population, the expansion of the shadow economy, and shortcomings in tax policy, among other factors.

Moral and psychological determinants play a significant role in shaping subjects of criminal behavior within the sphere under consideration. These include the deformation of moral values in society (primarily the professional and moral deformation of individuals employed in the tourism sector), acquisitiveness and the cult of money in society, as well as a decline in the level of social responsibility.

The legal determinants of criminal offenses in the field of tourism consist of the imperfection and instability of the regulatory framework governing tourism activities, as well as deficiencies in criminal legislation aimed at counteracting offenses committed in this sphere.

Organizational and managerial determinants include the imperfect organization of governance in the tourism sector (instability in the activities of agencies entrusted with relevant functions, lack of transparency in personnel policy within the sphere, corruption among officials), as well as shortcomings in the activities of law enforcement agencies (corruption, low levels of professionalism, etc.).

In our opinion, it is necessary to proceed from the premise that the most immediate cause of crime lies in socio-psychological factors, that is, in defects of social consciousness and morality [4, p. 224].

This refers to the subjective dimension - the imperfection of human nature and its value orientations. It is evident that such deformations do not arise in isolation; rather, they are derivative of the contradictions and negative phenomena existing within society and the state - including socio-economic, political, organizational-managerial, and legal factors, among others.

This well-substantiated position, shared by many leading criminologists, appears to us the most convincing, as it allows external factors to be regarded specifically as conditions for crime rather than its direct causes. Indeed, if, for example, economic hardships were considered a cause of crime, the question arises: why do some individuals engage in unlawful behavior under identical circumstances, while others refrain from it even in extremely difficult life situations?

Contemporary research indicates the necessity of including morality as a separate factor in criminological models of crime causation. For instance, in the context of Ukraine, studies examining the direct relationship between individual morality and criminal behavior have shown that a low level of moral emotions associated with adherence to principles of integrity is significantly correlated with a higher frequency of offenses, particularly corruption-related and economic crimes [5].

Moral and psychological determinants occupy a significant place in criminological science, as they represent stable emotional and value-based orientations of the individual that shape the formation of unlawful motivation, the level of empathy, the ability to anticipate the consequences of one's actions, and the capacity for self-control. Within criminological research, moral motivation is understood not only as an individual psychological characteristic but also as a socially conditioned element, shaped under the influence of cultural norms, legal regulation, and the specific features of the social environment.

Attention should also be paid to foreign criminological studies on the relationship between morality and crime. According to the SAT theory, the emotions relevant for explaining decisions to commit a crime are shame and guilt, as these moral emotions are widely recognized as being associated with moral behavior [6; 7; 8].

Guilt is defined as a negative experience that typically arises as a result of a particular action and is directed inward toward oneself [9]. The feeling of guilt can be anticipated even at the stage of considering an action and is measured along a continuum: a strong sense of guilt indicates significant concern about a potential violation of a moral norm, whereas a weak sense reflects minimal concern about a possible breach of a moral rule.

Anticipated shame is understood as a negative experience that does not necessarily arise from a specific action but is associated with the presence of, or the expectation of, evaluation by others [9]. The level of shame is also assessed on a scale: strong shame reflects the perception that others are seriously concerned about a potential violation of a moral norm, while weak shame indicates that the social environment attaches little significance to it.

Empathy is defined both as an emotional process and as a stable personality trait (as opposed to a temporary state or situational emotion). It is assumed that a high level of empathy increases the likelihood of experiencing shame and guilt when making a decision to commit a crime. Conversely, a low level of empathy is likely to reduce an individual's propensity to experience shame and guilt in the course of such a decision [5].

Researchers Trivedi-Bateman N., Markovska A., and Serdiuk O. hypothesize that the higher the level of internalized moral norms, as well as the intensity of experienced shame, guilt, and empathy, the lower the likelihood that individuals will engage in acts of corruption, theft, or violent offenses [5].

Thus, one of the significant determinants shaping the personality of an offender is the substantial degradation of moral and spiritual values in contemporary society. For a considerable portion of the population in Ukraine, the loss of socially approved orientations has become characteristic, while the pursuit of material gain increasingly dominates behavioral motives.

In this regard, the scholar V. I. Shakun convincingly emphasizes that “the change in the political and socio-economic system in Ukraine has contributed to a certain shift in the consciousness of its citizens, whereby the possession of money has become decisive, displacing other values, primarily moral ones, with which several generations of Ukrainians were born and raised” [6, p. 376].

In conclusion, a defining feature of contemporary society is the hypertrophied focus on material enrichment—the pursuit of maximum profit with minimal effort and expenditure, even at the expense of deceiving others. Undoubtedly, the position of Professor B. M. Holovkin is relevant here, who notes that the consciousness of individuals with stable legal sources of income is no less susceptible to the temptation of wealth accumulation and enrichment than that of ordinary lumpen or socially marginalized elements [4, p. 249].

We are convinced that contemporary social conditions indicate the presence of a conducive environment for the formation of corresponding deformations in social consciousness, much of which is, to a significant extent, created by the state itself. The consequence of this is the devaluation of basic social and moral orientations, the erosion of ethical foundations, the intensification of the spiritual crisis, and the expansion of the spectrum of social pathologies.

In this context, the founder of the “naturalistic” approach in criminology, O. M. Kostenko, emphasizes that the existing crime in Ukraine, particularly corruption and pseudo-entrepreneurship, is a symptom of the prevalence of the phenomenon of social pathologization of the individual in our society. According to the scholar, the basis of a sociopathic personality lies in the inconsistency of an individual’s will and consciousness with the natural laws of social life [7, p. 149], which, in his view, constitutes a key obstacle to the process of national revival in Ukraine.

The degradation of moral and ethical orientations among a significant portion of the population, and their replacement by the pursuit of easy profit, is one of the key factors of crime in the context under consideration. For some, the absence of these values becomes a basis for unlawful enrichment, while others - as rightly noted by O. V. Naden [8, p. 39] and A. M. Orlean [9, p. 35] - deprived of stable moral principles, are willing to obtain profit by any means, even through prostitution, thereby creating a pool of “live commodities” from which human traffickers select their victims.

Both foreign and domestic scholars note that, during travel, individuals often tend to underestimate the level of potential threats. This is due to a psychological orientation toward relaxation and positive emotions, a certain degree of trustfulness, and a focus on the enjoyable aspects of being in a new environment - particularly on experiencing new impressions and establishing social contacts. Such a behavioral pattern creates additional opportunities for offenders, who rely on the fact that tourists generally do not anticipate the emergence of unlawful situations and, therefore, act with less caution.

During their vacations, tourists constitute a high-risk group for becoming victims of offenses. This is explained by the specific psychological state associated with leisure: a focus on relaxation and positive emotions, a reduction in critical perception, decreased caution, and a greater tendency to trust unfamiliar social surroundings. This perspective is also reflected in foreign criminological studies, which emphasize the heightened victim vulnerability of tourists to unlawful acts. In particular, the section “Tourist and Visitor Crime,” published by Cambridge University Press, provides a comprehensive analysis of the characteristics of crimes against visitors and the behavioral factors that contribute to the emergence of such situations in various countries around the world [14].

According to research by security expert Peter Dolamore of S-R, crime remains one of the most serious threats to travelers and the hospitality sector in many areas of activity [15]. He notes that in numerous tourist centers around the world, tourists are deliberately targeted for petty crimes, including pickpocketing

and fraud. An analytical review of this phenomenon highlights typical behavioral patterns: professional fraudsters and con artists who exploit tourists' psychological trust; thefts carried out through distraction (typical pickpocketing schemes) in popular tourist areas; the sale of counterfeit tickets and accommodation bookings; and "guide" vendors who conceal payment conditions.

Popular tourist cities, such as Bangkok (Thailand), are recognized among the leaders in reports of theft and fraud targeting tourists. Bangkok ranks first as the world's most pickpocket- and fraud-prone city in 2025, with a record 9.82 reports per 1,000 tourist reviews. This figure is striking, considering that Thailand was previously known as a relatively safe destination [16]. These data indicate that psychosocial factors - such as tourists' expectations of safety and trust - can be exploited by offenders for criminal purposes.

5. Conclusions.

Thus, the conducted research confirms that socio-economic, legal, and organizational-managerial factors create the general conditions of the criminogenic environment in the field of tourism. At the same time, it is precisely the moral and psychological deformations of the individual - such as a reduced sense of social responsibility, the establishment of self-serving orientations, weakened moral emotions of shame and guilt, and a deficit of empathy - that play a decisive role in transforming these conditions into concrete unlawful behavior.

These factors act as direct determinants of criminal motivation and behavior, as they define an individual's psychological readiness to violate legal norms and implement unlawful intentions.

We are convinced that effective crime prevention in the tourism sector is impossible without a comprehensive consideration of moral and psychological factors. They determine the subjective readiness of a potential offender to act illegally and correlate with the frequency of criminal offenses. Contemporary criminological approaches indicate the necessity of integrating psychological, ethical, and socio-economic determinants into a unified system, which allows for more accurate prediction of unlawful behavior and the development of effective preventive measures.

A distinctive feature of the tourism sector is the combination of two interconnected processes: the formation of an offender against the backdrop of moral devaluation of values and a hypertrophied orientation toward material gain; and the heightened victim vulnerability of travelers, which is caused by the psychological state associated with leisure, decreased critical perception, trustfulness, and orientation toward positive experiences.

International research confirms that crime in the tourism sector often exploits the psychological characteristics of travelers' behavior. This emphasizes the need to account for the victimological aspect when analyzing criminal risks, alongside the characteristics of the offender.

Thus, an effective system for preventing crime in the tourism sector should combine several directions: the improvement of legal and regulatory frameworks and the organizational support of the tourism industry; the enhancement of legal culture and the cultivation of moral responsibility among tourism sector employees; and the development of empathy and ethical values in society as a whole.

A promising avenue for further research is the development of an integrative criminological model of crime determination in the tourism sector, which would combine moral-psychological, socio-economic, and victimological components, taking into account globalization trends and transnational security challenges in tourism. Such an approach would contribute to a more systematic understanding of the causes of crime and improve the effectiveness of preventive and protective measures at both national and international levels.

We believe that further investigation of this issue should be aimed at creating a comprehensive criminological model of crime determination in tourism, integrating moral-psychological, socio-economic, and victimological factors, while considering contemporary globalization trends and transnational security

challenges in the tourism sector. This model will allow for a deeper and more systematic analysis of the causes of crime and enhance the effectiveness of preventive and protective measures at both national and international levels.

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