

## **STUDYING VICTIM BEHAVIOUR OBSERVED AMONG FORCED MIGRANT CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS**

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At the modern stage of social development, the experts at the educational institutions have to deal with a new category of forced migrant children and teenagers moving to Russia with their families for permanent residence. Migration is a drastic experience for both adults and children. Migrant families belong to diverse nationalities and countries with different cultural backgrounds and social characteristics, which may entail many social-pedagogical and psychological challenges. The experience gained by educators and educational psychologists allows identifying certain problems in this field. The dominant one is socio-psychological adaptation of migrant children and teenagers to new conditions of living and learning. Adaptation is a complex and often a lasting process. We shall consider a particular aspect of this problem and study victim behavior among forced migrant adolescents.

Modern world is full of threats and hazards that require children and adolescents to be vigilant, diligent and reasonably careful. They should have certain personal qualities allowing them to effectively adapt and fulfill their potential in community. Therefore, the point is in developing certain personal traits enabling a child or a teenager to solve the problems of social and psychological adaptation. If such personal qualities remain undeveloped, both resident and forced migrant children and teenagers living in the same territory might show maladaptive behaviors, including low resiliency, high aggressiveness, severe social victimization, low socio-psychological adaptation, etc. Moreover, forced migrant adolescents will show more severe maladaptive behaviors. As a consequence, it is particularly important to find the ways of providing harmonious adaptation of such children to a new cultural, language, learning environment in order to ensure their conflict-free coexistence with local children.

Considering the problem of victim behavior among forced migrant children and teenagers, we have based our study on the classification proposed by A.V. Mudrik. This researcher distinguishes certain victimization groups and includes refugees and migrant (moving to other countries, region, place) into one of these groups (potential type of victims). We also used the concepts of “victimhood”, which is a person’s predisposition to become a victim of certain circumstances, and “victimization”,

which us the process when a person becomes a victim of unfavorable socialization conditions, as well as the result of such process [4].

Few Russian experimental studies are devoted to the problem of victim behavior. There are only several works exploring the psychological features of children and adolescents based on the psychiatric and forensic data (E.A. Burelov, 1991; I.G. Morozova, 1992; I.V. Kuznetsov, 1994; M.A. Dogadina, L.O. Perezhugin, I.A. Kudryavtsev, 1988; V.L. Vasiliev, I.I. Mamaychuk). However, there is an increasing need for such studies, particularly in terms of practical research (V.A. Gurieva, 1991). Despite the fact that victimization was initially described in works on criminal victimology, the focus of the study should be shifted to the area of general and developmental psychology. In this context, it is important to consider age characteristics of victimization and victim behavior among adolescents presenting the most vulnerable group. There is little research on such issues as the genesis of victim behavior, the factors determining its occurrence, special features of victimization patterns among those teenagers who are actually not criminal victims, and virtually no satisfactory diagnostic reference material allowing experts to identify potential victimization of teenagers. Moreover, there is no elaborated system of measures aimed at preventing the victim-building potential in the form of rigid patterns of victim behavior. [2].

Understanding that a personality strain of victimization among adolescents, including forced migrant adolescents, is a wide spread phenomenon, we see that it is essential to study the issue in order to solve various problems of applied psychology, educational psychology, criminology, and prevention. Therefore, we are interested in studying victimization in the context of preventing maladaptive behavior among younger forced migrant teenagers (at the age of 11-14). This category of teenagers have the lowest ability to understand the danger limits and the need to counter it, so they have poor defensive skills and are potentially vulnerable (to victimization). Adolescence is a transition age, both from the biological (age of puberty, when biological body systems are fully developed) and social points of view. Increased victimization of younger teenagers is conditioned by mental and physical qualities, social roles and the place of children in the social relations system, the position in the family and community. Thus, the question of victimological prevention and correction among local and migrant children and teenagers residing in the same territory is very serious.

Based on the theoretical analysis, we have elaborated a program for experimental study of victimization among two categories of younger teenagers: local children and teenagers and forced migrants residing in the same territory. We have used the methods of "Studying the aptitude towards victim behavior" (proposed by O.O. Andronnikova) [1]. We plan to group the psychological characteristics of victimization and describe the profiles of victim behavior of local younger teenagers and forced migrant children residing in the same territory, which will help to prevent victim behavior among different categories of adolescents, as well as successfully integrate forced migrant younger teenagers into the host community.

In the long view, we plan to include this study in our master's thesis on the issue of "Resiliency as a condition for preventing victim behavior among forced migrant younger teenagers."

## References:

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