Methods and Approaches Contributing to the Prevention of Individuals from Crime

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Abstract:

This study aims to highlight the methods that contribute to protecting individuals from crime. Criminal offenders increasingly disregard punitive measures, engaging in legal and procedural violations that threaten public security. Despite formal and procedural efforts to eliminate crime methods, new techniques for committing crimes continue to emerge. Although effective measures and commitments are adopted to prevent the negative consequences of these acts and limit the spread and recurrence of crime, it remains impossible to fully grasp all aspects of this complex phenomenon due to its intricacies.

Keywords: Crime, Crime prevention, Deviance

Introduction:

As a result of the intensification of crime and deviance in Algeria, numerous forums and conferences have been held to study the dimensions and implications of this phenomenon, aiming to reduce its consequences and effects on individuals and society. Despite these efforts, criminality and deviance continue to increase whenever measures are taken to mitigate their risk and harm.

Crime is a serious social phenomenon that primarily threatens youth, the group responsible for leading society forward. Therefore, the phenomenon of crime and deviance is multi-level and multi-dimensional, as its form depends on the living conditions of each people and stems from the structure of society. This requires adopting religious, social, and psychological logic in the study of crime, rather than limiting it to narrow legal logic.

Problem Statement:

Based on the above, this study seeks to answer the following question: What are the most important mechanisms for preventing the problem of crime and deviance?

Objectives of the Study:

This study aims to highlight several objectives, summarized as follows:

- Instilling morals and principles derived from religious values as an effective means to reduce criminal behavior.
- Limiting the influence of bad companionship and negative media on individual behavior.
- Raising awareness among individuals of the importance of respecting and adhering to laws as a means of crime prevention.

Methodology of the Study:

This study relies on the descriptive-analytical method, as it is suitable for the research.

1. Concept of Crime:

1.1 Definition of Crime:

Crime is defined as an act or omission that violates a criminal rule for which the law prescribes a criminal penalty. Legislators establish behavioral rules, commanding abstention from certain acts and mandating others. These legislated provisions are usually linked to the various state systems and policies.

1.2 Crime and Deviance:

Crime is considered a specific type of deviance prohibited by a state institution recognized as legitimate. From this perspective, while all legal violations fall under behavioral deviations against the normative behavioral patterns of society, not all deviations are necessarily defined as crimes. Examples of behavioral deviations include the failure of an individual to adhere to desired or required social behaviors, which may differ across societies, customs, values, time, and place.

In short, every crime is a deviation from proper behavior, but not every deviation is a crime. The concept of deviance is broader than the narrow concept of crime as a pattern of deviance.

1.3 Social Control Theory:

This theory posits that "deviance is a phenomenon resulting from the failure of social control over individuals," raising the question: How do individuals resist deviation in the face of all these temptations?

The theory suggests that moderate behavior in a social system originates from societal control through law over interactions with others. If laws organizing social life were absent, this social

moderation would not exist, and individuals would deviate due to personal desires and impulses.

Thus, this theory sees deviance as inversely proportional to social cohesion. In a cohesive, compassionate, and loving society, deviance is low, while it is high in a disintegrated society. For example, suicide is more prevalent in societies that do not value kinship and familial relationships.

To prevent behavioral deviance, the theory identifies four elements:

1. Kinship and family: Strong social bonds reduce the likelihood of deviance.
2. Social engagement: Participation in socially positive activities that consume intellectual and physical energy, such as public speaking, writing, hobbies, and joining charitable organizations.
3. Commitment and investments: Individuals investing their money in real estate, benefits, and business interests.
4. Belief: Religions generally call adherents to uphold ethical and moral values.

Although this theory is closely aligned with social reality and analyzes social bonds' role in reducing crime, it has some shortcomings:

- It does not address deviance among wealthy capitalists who have all deviance-preventing elements yet may commit crimes such as rape, theft, drugs, murder, and conspiracy.
- How can we explain wealthy individuals deviating solely to increase wealth and control societal resources?
- Are violations of economic and political laws by the wealthy not a deviation from societal norms?

2. Methods Contributing to the Prevention of Individuals from Crime:

2.1 Role of the Individual:

Individuals must protect themselves from deviance and avoid places prone to criminal behavior. They should engage in social and economic activities, pursue hobbies, and organize their free time in ways beneficial to the public. Individuals should set modest goals according to their real capabilities to avoid frustration that may lead to deviance.

2.2 Role of the Family:

The family is the nurturing environment for youth, providing social culture that enables social maturity. Proper upbringing is the optimal means to prevent deviance. Families should strengthen relationships, avoid conflicts, and provide material, health, and educational care. Lack of material care may push youth toward illegal means to obtain necessities, health neglect

may affect physical and mental development, and educational care shapes moral values. Parents should choose morally upright and religious companions for their children, guide them away from deviant influences, and supervise their behavior consistently. Early socialization (ages 6–8) plays a decisive role in preventing crime. Government policies supporting family and social institutions are key to reducing crime rates.

2.3 Role of the School:

Schools should adapt curricula to meet students' psychological, social, and professional needs. They should provide diverse activities, hobbies, and learning opportunities to occupy students' time positively, develop their personalities, protect them from idleness, and foster self-confidence. Schools should instill values of justice, purity, responsibility, brotherhood, equality, law adherence, patriotism, tolerance, empathy, sacrifice, and prioritizing public interest. These roles apply to all educational and guidance institutions such as universities, mosques, sports and cultural clubs, and workplaces.

2.4 Role of the Media:

The media is highly influential on youth, entering homes constantly and often undermining more than it builds. Media influence on children, adolescents, and youth competes with educational institutions. Therefore, media content must align with societal values, religious beliefs, and traditions to protect youth from crime and deviance. Clear media policies should serve individuals' interests. Efforts should be unified between educational and media institutions to develop joint educational media programs promoting religious values, Islamic ethics, tolerance, citizenship, cooperation, initiative, and responsibility among youth to build a crime-free future.

There are some needs that the media must provide for our children, especially the youth, including:

- The necessity for media outlets to fulfill their role in properly guiding youth according to the teachings of our Islamic religion and its tolerant principles.

- Media institutions should pay significant attention when selecting foreign content to preserve our identity and monitor the direction of media influence that could affect our youth's culture.

- Providing youth with an appropriate amount of knowledge in modern sciences and understanding their secrets, facilitating their comprehension of the world around them.

- Instilling and deepening the principle of national loyalty in the minds of youth and encouraging them to fulfill their expected social roles.

- Developing sports and culture sections, selecting beneficial materials, and adding recreational content that nurtures youth's curiosity and desire for knowledge.
- Avoiding low-quality, morally degenerate, and aimless series that waste youth's time.
- Avoiding violent films containing aggression, criminal behaviors, or serious deviations that could lead to deviance.
- Enforcing press and publication laws and monitoring media that incite violence, discourage youth from beneficial reading, and instill rebellion, dissatisfaction, and distrust in their country and its leaders.

2.5 Role of the Police:

The police are the natural embodiment of society's authority, arising to protect it and defend it legitimately against crime, deviance, and violations of public morals and ethics. The police are a mandatory authority acting as a monitor of public behavior, striving to ensure security, promote virtue, fight vice, and combat crime and deviance. From this perspective, the police play a major role in protecting individuals and preventing deviance by maintaining public order, monitoring deviant-prone areas, and controlling access for minors, youth, or adults. The police thus impose certain restrictions on all lawbreakers, whether youth or other age groups.

At the age of eighteen, an individual becomes legally accountable, and the police must perform their role in controlling any youth attempting to violate laws, preparing them for referral to the competent authorities.

Since the police are the first institution to encounter a deviant individual, they aim to protect them from deviance. If an individual is safeguarded during adolescence and refrains from deviance at this stage, it provides protection against deviance in youth or adulthood.

Regarding the role of officials and security personnel—the gendarmerie and police in Algeria— they exert tremendous efforts in combating crime and deviance, particularly in criminal cases, drugs, and fraud, as well as moral crimes, heretical innovations in Islam, forbidden rituals, and fraudulent practitioners such as charlatans and sorcerers, including closing their establishments. Algerian security also combats intellectual and cultural deviance, as seen in the case of the Ahmadiyya sect in Algeria, which falls under ideological, cultural, and sectarian invasion. Without the Algerian state's firm measures to prevent this sect's emergence, youth would have deviated from proper Islamic values. Algerian officials and security personnel act promptly against such religious, intellectual, and sectarian deviance, under the law.

In this context, it can be said, "God disturbs with authority what the Quran cannot disturb."

2.6. Role of Society and the Surrounding Environment:

Society is responsible for preparing the minds of youth, shaping their personalities, and educating them on values and principles approved by the community, making them good citizens. Society must nurture youth's minds, train them properly, and spare no effort or resources. Measures to protect youth from crime and deviance include:

- Eliminating all forms of administrative and social corruption, large or small, as it affects individuals, especially children, adolescents, and youth, due to their limited real-world experience.

- Instilling realism in the minds of youth with high ambitions and reckless tendencies.

- Removing feelings of failure and frustration among children, adolescents, and youth, making them aware of their social importance and granting them their legitimate rights.

- Helping individuals, especially youth, achieve their goals through legitimate means to prevent crime and deviance as avenues for success or recognition.

- Reducing academic failure, expanding education, and fighting illiteracy, as psychologists agree that violence, deviance, and crime are reactions to failure and frustration.

- Instilling religious teachings in children from a young age, promoting tolerance, mercy, justice, forgiveness, honor, honesty, and avoidance of violence, crime, and deviance.

- Forming permanent committees to study adolescent and youth issues, comprising religious scholars, psychologists, educators, social workers, legal authorities, and parents.

- Eliminating unemployment to prevent youth from falling prey to it, which could lead to regret, resentment, deviance, crime, or illegal migration.

- Reducing family conflicts, separation, and disintegration, which significantly affect children's and adolescents' psychology and personality, leading potentially to deviance and crime.

A major obstacle for an individual is the surrounding environment. If the child's environment consists of modest people who treat them well, encourage them, recognize their value, and enhance their self-esteem, their reaction will be positive and peaceful when they grow up. They will be psychologically comfortable, fully productive, cooperative, active, and optimistic, without thoughts of crime or deviance.

3. Islamic Methods for Preventing Crime and Deviance:

Islamic law gives special attention to children, granting them rights that allow healthy growth physically, socially, and psychologically, in accordance with human nature. These principles include:

3.1 Proper Selection of a Spouse:

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Choose well for your offspring, for lineage is influential." This highlights the importance of selecting a righteous mother, as her virtue is an important indicator of the child's future righteousness.

3.2 Choosing a Good Name:

After the child's birth, Islam requires the father to choose a good name that instills pride and a sense of value within society. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "It is the right of the child that the parent perfects their manners and chooses a good name."

3.3 Right to Care and Maintenance:

This includes providing food, clothing, shelter, medical services, education, and other needs until the child is capable of earning. This care is obligatory on the father; if absent, heirs must provide for the child proportionally. Ensuring these basic needs prevents the child from falling into neglect or need, fostering healthy physical, mental, and social development and reducing the risk of deviance. Care also extends to orphans and abandoned children, as emphasized in the Quran: {They ask you about orphans. Say, "Improvement for them is best…."}

3.4 Right to Education:

Due to the importance of upbringing, Islam obligates parents or guardians to educate children. The Quran says: {O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from a fire…} Protecting children from the fire means teaching them ethics, morals, and shielding them from bad peers.

3.5 Right to Justice Among Siblings:

Islam requires parents to be just among children in material matters, love, and attention to prevent envy and hostility. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Fear Allah and be just among your children." Justice protects children from disturbances in personal, emotional, and social growth.

Conclusion:

In this article, we addressed the concept of crime and the difference between deviance and crime. Afterward, the most prominent mechanisms contributing to crime prevention were reviewed, and finally, the Islamic perspective on addressing crime and deviance problems was presented. This included reviewing the care that Islamic law provides for children, which guarantees all means that help them avoid deviant behavior, as well as outlining frameworks for addressing deviant behavior if committed by a minor and the connection of responsibility with awareness and understanding, as Islam approaches this gradually.

Study Results:

1. The study demonstrated that Islam establishes preventive foundations beginning with the choice of a righteous wife, as the mother's righteousness directly affects the moral, psychological, and social upbringing of the children, influencing the formation of their future personalities.

2. The study showed that providing the child's basic needs such as food, shelter, and education enhances their psychological and social stability. This support reduces the risk of deviance by ensuring a suitable environment for healthy mental and physical growth, with care extending to orphans and abandoned children.

3. The study indicated that Islam emphasizes the importance of education and upbringing as a fundamental pillar in preventing deviance, as education fosters good morals, guides behavior, and protects the child from negative societal influences.

4. Choosing a good name for the child enhances their self-respect, sense of belonging, and social value, contributing to the development of a positive identity that helps achieve psychological and social balance.

5. Ensuring justice among children in treatment and affection reduces family conflicts and prevents feelings of envy and hostility, supporting family cohesion and strengthening the emotional and psychological balance of children.

6. Islam provides a comprehensive vision for preventing deviance and crime through family and social guidance aimed at creating a complete educational environment that supports balanced growth for the individual and society.

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