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PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF VICTIMIZATION OF UKRAINIANS UNDER THE MARTIAL LAW IN UKRAINE

ПСИХОЛОГІЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ВІКТИМІЗАЦІЇ УКРАЇНЦІВ ПІД ЧАС ВІЙСЬКОВОГО СТАНУ В УКРАЇНІ

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The relevance of studying victim behavior in the context of martial law in Ukraine is indisputable and represents a significant scientific interest in light of unprecedented historical conditions for such research. The crisis in the conceptual framework of victimology in Ukraine, which is fundamentally based primarily on Soviet-era literature, requires new international knowledge to understand its role as an independent scientific discipline.

Victim behavior within the framework of victimology, social psychology, personality psychology, criminology, and other scientific fields is transforming. The lack of clear definitions in the interpretation of the elements of the victimological conceptual framework explains the divergence of views among specialists from different fields regarding the system of victimological methods.

Victimization as a concept refers to the socio-functional and existential vulnerability of an individual; a combination of objective and subjective conditions that cause a person to become a victim; the potential ability of an

individual to fall into the role of a victim and attract dangerous situations; a pattern of actions or inaction that results in a person becoming a victim

Our study of Ukrainians behavior under the martial law illuminates few critical phenomena within victimology theory basics.

Classic ideal victim is a young helpless unprotected lady attacked by a stranger. However, the urgent current issue for the stereotyping is anyone can become a military aggression victim under the martial law. A proper attention to the secondary victims can prevent the common victimization.

United Nations High Commissioner for human rights identified around 38 thousands (37916) civil persons suffered for the period from February 24, 2022 till October 11, 2024 in Ukraine. Statistics shows up 40% are man, 28% are woman, 3% are boys, 2% are girls, 25% are not identified yet.

A person is considered as victim regardless of offender being arrested, convicted, regardless of relative connections between the offender and the victim. The term victim can be also applied to the close relatives or dependants directly to the victim in the aims of prevention.

Insofar, any Ukrainian can be classified as primary or secondary victim under the martial law. The primary victims had faced some criminal act or consequences. The secondary victims were not engaged directly but had been inflicted harm as family or partners.

Theoretically, everyone living in Ukraine during martial law is at risk of becoming a victim of a war crime to some extent, and thus automatically becomes a carrier of potential victimization. In order to transform the hypothetical threat of widespread harm to the rights and interests of citizens into real criminal consequences, it is necessary to activate the victimogenic potential of society and its social groups. This human resource contains victimogenic distortions of consciousness and deviations from norms of safe behavior. Such potential is formed from individuals who make up the group at risk of victimization, as well as from the pool of victims, both registered and latent.

We may define the following structural victim components as victim personality, social and psychological deformations, biological and physical qualities, victim behavior, interaction between the violence author and the specific victim circumstances.

Personality and victim behavior are strongly connected. The personality and psychological features have historical background and the result of activity. Inner psychological state of behavior under specific circumstances is strongly important as tend to become a relatively persistent command. Victimity means ability to become a victim within the situation and updates through provocative behavior of potential victim. The behavior activity leads the partner to violence interaction, mainly unconsciously.

However, Key human rights developments from 1 of June to 31 of August 2024, during which civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure increased significantly. So, there was 45 per cent increase in casualties on the previous three months. This increase was due to the 8 July large-scale coordinated attack by the Russian Federation against targets across Ukraine, continued missile, drone and aerial bomb strikes, and continuing assaults by Russian armed forces.

There is no direct interaction between the violence author and the victims in Ukraine. As world leaders gather for NATO's 75th anniversary summit in Washington, Russia launched 40 missiles at Ukraine on July 8th. This horrific attack killed over 40 people, wounded more than 150, and hit Ukraine's largest children's hospital. Surely, there was no provoking direct contact between children in Ukraine's largest oncological facility and Russian Federation.

Victim behavior can differentiate by meaning to pose a risk to health, life and property. We can identify individual, group or mass victimity. Not all of the people suffered from violence possess victimity.

We had conducted a research among Ukrainians during the last 2 years to investigate the personal victimity under the martial law. The analysis covers testing by locus of control, anxiety, interpersonal victimity as well as unique questionnaire.

The Ukrainians victimity level is from 15 to 80%. Ukrainians living out of borders showed up the higher level of anxiety including those who never seen military aggression personally.

The methods used and the author's survey confirmed the hypotheses:

- Depending on the level of interpersonal victimization, anxiety, and the individual's locus of control, Ukrainians adjust their behavior under martial law, which can theoretically be defined as either victimizing or not.
- Those with a high internal locus of control believe they are capable of overcoming difficulties and typically do not suffer from the long-term effects of victimization.

Following the questionnaire only 5% of respondents realise themselves as a true war victim. 25% consider themselves as war victim but recognise there are people in worse situation. 70% of Ukrainian under the study do not identify themselves as a victim of war or circumstances. The weighted average of interpersonal victimization among Ukrainians is 40%, which is undoubtedly an interesting result and requires further in-depth research.

Among the variety of manifestations of victim behavior, it is more common among Ukrainians during martial law to observe careless or socially beneficial victim behavior in specific life situations, while provocative and unlawful behavior is much rarer.

At the highest level of theoretical generalization, it is important to emphasize the institutionalization of victimhood in society, which results from the widespread disregard for basic personal and property safety rules in everyday life. This, in turn, creates conditions for the increase in the number of victims of military aggression, both registered and latent.

Therefore, the issue of reducing the risk of macro-victimization, correction, and prevention of victim behavior is a crucial component of modern psycho-correction and working with the population during martial law at the general social, specialized, and individual levels. The main directions of victimological prevention during martial law are: 1) general victimological prevention aimed at identifying and correcting victim behavior among Ukrainians; 2) individual victimological prevention, which involves identifying potential victims, training and protecting them, as well as correcting the behavior of actual crime victims; 3) prevention of specific types of crimes, using victimological information and tactical opportunities to prevent certain types of crimes, taking into account their victimological characteristics.

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