



## Challenges And Strategies In Preventing Neglect, Homelessness, And Deviant Behaviour Among Minors

**Kuldashev Abdumalik Ustayevich**

Independent researcher (PhD)

Institute for Advanced Studies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**Abstract:** This article explores the multifaceted issues surrounding minors experiencing neglect, homelessness, and deviant behaviours, including drug and alcohol abuse. It highlights the critical role of personalized approaches in prevention, considering social, biological, and psychological factors. The paper emphasizes the necessity of collaboration between law enforcement, educational institutions, medical organizations, and psychological services to rehabilitate affected minors and reintegrate them into society. Additionally, it examines the rising prevalence of adolescent substance abuse and its societal impact, the challenges of rehabilitation in correctional institutions, and the vital importance of preventive measures in fostering positive behavioural changes.

**Keywords:** minors, prevention strategies, neglect, homelessness, substance abuse, deviant behavior, adolescent rehabilitation, socio-pedagogical measures, correctional institutions, law enforcement, education, societal integration.

Several groups of minors necessitate the development of unique and tailored prevention strategies. Given the variability of family issues and the distinct characteristics of individuals, it is essential to approach each case on a personalized basis.

Inspectors play a crucial role in identifying adolescents involved in drug use and formulating strategies to address their needs. In contemporary society, adolescent drug addiction has emerged as a critical social issue, posing significant risks to the healthy development of future generations.

When analysing the causes of adolescent drug addiction, inspectors must consider the interplay of social, biological, and psychological factors. Addressing drug use or distribution among minors requires collaboration with medical institutions and psychological support services. High levels of dependency often result in repetitive behavior patterns, making it challenging to rehabilitate adolescents and help them reintegrate into society.

Drug addiction is one of the most pervasive and hazardous forms of social deviance. In recent years, the societal demand for drugs has surged, elevating drug use among minors to a pressing state concern. This rising trend is not merely an alarming statistic but a substantial threat to societal stability. Drug addiction undermines public health, erodes the wellbeing of youth, and jeopardizes the future of upcoming generations. Drug users are more vulnerable to severe health conditions such as AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis, and other diseases.

Adolescents are often drawn to drug use out of a desire for novel experiences and heightened sensations. Peer influence, imitation of idols, and the aspiration to gain acceptance within a group often play a pivotal role in initiating drug use. Over time, this can lead to repeated consumption, dependency, and subsequent involvement in criminal activities.

Several factors contribute to the global increase in drug addiction:



- The decreasing cost of drugs;
- The rapid proliferation of synthetic drugs and the introduction of new substances, which delay their classification as prohibited substances;
- The ease of purchasing drugs online;
- Challenges faced by law enforcement in apprehending drug dealers;
- Difficulties in tracking drug distribution routes and detecting related illegal activities;
- The tendency to use drugs as an escape mechanism during periods of heightened stress or adversity.

Underage alcohol consumption also constitutes a significant risk factor. Alcohol abuse is a prevalent form of deviance, exacerbated by the widespread availability of alcoholic beverages in stores and markets. Alarmingly, minors often obtain alcohol without proper age verification, as merchants frequently fail to check identification. Teenagers may appear older than their actual age, enabling them to purchase alcohol freely. This behavior is often linked to their attempts to assert independence and adulthood. Such practices frequently lead to public drinking in streets, parks, and other communal spaces, further compounding the problem.

Alcoholic beverages have swiftly integrated into daily life, becoming an inseparable part of everyday events and, in some cases, a means of escaping personal problems. Adolescents often turn to alcohol consumption as a response to family issues, misunderstandings with loved ones, or the influence of antisocial groups, which can eventually lead to alcoholism.

According to statistical data, more than half of crimes and administrative offenses are committed by individuals under the influence of alcohol. In nearly 50% of cases involving broken families, one of the spouses is intoxicated, and in many instances, both are. Today, alcoholism is not only associated with adults but is also increasingly linked to complex behaviors among adolescents.

Alcohol negatively impacts the nervous system and brain function, diminishing cognitive performance while harming overall health. It contributes to liver dysfunction, disrupts protein and carbohydrate metabolism, causes digestive system disorders, leads to pancreatitis and diabetes, and adversely affects the reproductive system. These factors have severe implications for the health of younger generations.

Working with minors, particularly in cases involving sexual misconduct, presents significant challenges for professionals. Adolescents often aspire to grow up quickly, but this desire does not always yield positive outcomes. Teen pregnancies have become prevalent in the 21st century, raising questions about responsibility. In many cases, the blame lies with negligent parents, inadequate school education, and insufficient teacher training.

Preventive measures should not be the sole responsibility of state agencies and professionals but also involve schools, vocational institutions, and parents. Many young girls resort to prostitution due to financial or emotional dissatisfaction. This problem, existing since ancient times, persists today, with some individuals choosing this path for quick financial gain. In some cases, youth are coerced into prostitution through manipulation and deception. These individuals often do not enter the profession willingly but become victims, finding themselves with no other perceived options.

The issue of child homelessness and neglect is closely tied to the breakdown of familial and social environments. This situation entails the complete disconnection of minors from their families, resulting in the loss of a stable residence and career direction. The most severe form of neglect occurs



when parents, guardians, or other responsible individuals fail to provide adequate care and educational guidance to minors. In such cases, there is often a lack of supervision over entertainment, relationships, behavior, and other critical aspects of development.

Homelessness and neglect disrupt the proper formation of children's and adolescents' personalities, fostering the development of negative social behaviors and actions inappropriate for their age. These issues can ultimately lead to a loss of factors essential for their social integration and successful future lives.

An analysis of the rising levels of neglect among children and adolescents reveals that the root causes often lie within the family environment. These include immoral family settings, substance abuse, conflicts, and prolonged neglect of the growing child's needs and concerns. In some cases, minors are introduced to alcohol, drugs, and other harmful habits by those within their social or family circles. Preventive measures organized and implemented by educational and social institutions within the minors' living environment play a crucial role in addressing these issues.

Neglected children and adolescents require special attention and care, which extends beyond temporary isolation and rehabilitation facilities within the Ministry of Internal Affairs system. They also need access to social and educational shelters, as well as institutions offering long-term care and counseling. These facilities should be staffed by professionals who can provide education, vocational training, leisure activities, and other necessary services to ensure the holistic development and reintegration of these children into society.

Street children or adolescents often exhibit characteristics that set them apart from their peers, including a heightened self-preservation instinct, a strong sense of justice, emotional openness, restlessness, and a tendency to isolate themselves from groups. These traits are frequently accompanied by issues such as early sexual activity, sexual disorders, low awareness, and challenges in upbringing.

Preventing neglect, homelessness, delinquency, and antisocial behavior among minors requires identifying and addressing the underlying causes and conditions of these issues. It also necessitates protecting their rights and interests, providing socio-pedagogical rehabilitation, and detecting and suppressing attempts to involve them in criminal activities.

Adolescents serving sentences in educational colonies often fail to fully comprehend the nature of their crimes and lack a sense of guilt during the process. While the primary goal of sentencing is rehabilitation, its effectiveness in practice is questionable. Many individuals released from such institutions frequently return to criminal activities, raising concerns about the efficiency of correctional facilities in achieving lasting reform.

A key responsibility of officials is to continue preventive work with adolescents in these categories. One of the most critical tasks is to prevent minors from committing repeat offenses or administrative violations. Inspectors are obligated to conduct preventive work with minors who have committed or are accused of committing crimes. This work is especially vital in cases where alternatives to detention have been employed, emphasizing adaptive measures that encourage positive change.

When prevention is effectively implemented, it holds significant educational value, helping to reshape behaviors and provide adolescents with opportunities to integrate constructively into society.

### References



1. Moffitt, T. E. (1993). Adolescence-limited and life-course-persistent antisocial behavior: A developmental taxonomy. *Psychological Review*, 100(4), 674–701. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.100.4.674>
2. Barnes, G. M., Reifman, A. S., Farrell, M. P., & Dintcheff, B. A. (2000). The effects of parenting on the development of adolescent alcohol misuse: A six-wave latent growth model. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62(1), 175–186. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2000.00175.x>
3. Dishion, T. J., & Patterson, G. R. (2006). The development and ecology of antisocial behavior in children and adolescents. In D. Cicchetti & D. J. Cohen (Eds.), *Developmental psychopathology*, Vol. 3: Risk, disorder, and adaptation (pp. 503–541). John Wiley & Sons.
4. Hawkins, J. D., Catalano, R. F., & Miller, J. Y. (1992). Risk and protective factors for alcohol and other drug problems in adolescence and early adulthood: Implications for substance abuse prevention. *Psychological Bulletin*, 112(1), 64–105. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.112.1.64>
5. Kumpfer, K. L., & Alvarado, R. (2003). Family-strengthening approaches for the prevention of youth problem behaviors. *American Psychologist*, 58(6–7), 457–465. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.58.6-7.457>
6. Siegel, L. J., & Welsh, B. C. (2018). *Juvenile delinquency: Theory, practice, and law* (13th ed.). Cengage Learning.
7. Thornberry, T. P., Krohn, M. D., Lizotte, A. J., & Chard-Wierschem, D. (1993). The role of juvenile gangs in facilitating delinquent behavior. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 30(1), 55–87. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427893030001004>
8. Ungar, M. (2004). The importance of parents and other caregivers to the resilience of high-risk adolescents. *Family Process*, 43(1), 23–41. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1545-5300.2004.04301004.x>
9. World Health Organization (WHO). (2018). Adolescent mental health. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-mental-health>
10. Van Ryzin, M. J., Fosco, G. M., & Dishion, T. J. (2012). Family and peer predictors of substance use from early adolescence to early adulthood: An 11-year prospective analysis. *Addictive Behaviors*, 37(12), 1314–1324. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2012.06.020>
11. Jamalova N. U. POSSIBILITIES OF USE OF FOLK PEDAGOGY IN THE FORMATION OF INDIVIDUAL AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS //Journal of Integrated Education and Research. – 2022. – T. 1. – №. 6. – С. 191-193.
12. Turayevich U. R., Qahramonovich H. N. ZAMONAVIY DUNYONING AXLOQIY MUAMMOLARI-ZO ‘RAVONLIK FALSAFASI //Ustozlar uchun. – 2024. – T. 57. – №. 4. – С. 422-425.
13. ХАККУЛОВ Н. К., РИЗАЕВ И. И. Цифровая культура и неприкосновенность личности //Новые технологии в учебном процессе и производстве. – 2023. – С. 605-606.
14. Бурханова М. Б. Взгляды абдурауф фитрата о семейных отношениях и женщин //Мировая наука. – 2021. – №. 1 (46). – С. 62-65.
15. Burkhanova M. B. Family education of a child: the past and present //European Scholar Journal (ESJ) Available Online at. – 2021. – T. 2. – №. 12. – С. 55-58.



# Czech

## Journal of Multidisciplinary Innovations

**Volume 36, December 2024.**

**Website:** [www.peerianjournal.com](http://www.peerianjournal.com)

**ISSN (E): 2788-0389**

**Email:** [editor@peerianjournal.com](mailto:editor@peerianjournal.com)