

EXTREMISM IN THE YOUTH ENVIRONMENT AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST IT**MIKHAIL KOROBAU, NATALIA PANTELEEVA****Mogilev State Kuleshov University, Belarus**

Extremism is one of the most complex sociopolitical problems of modern society, which is primarily connected with the diversity of extremist manifestations and the heterogeneous composition of extremist organizations that have a destabilizing effect on the sociopolitical situation in the world [1].

The term "extremism" is derived from the Latin word *extremus* - extreme. In reference books extremism is traditionally understood as "adherence to extreme views and measures". However, in different countries and at different times, many different legal and scientific definitions were given to the concept of "extremism". There is no single definition for today.

The urgency of this problem for Belarus and for the world community as a whole is connected with the growth of political activity of various public organizations, associations and groups, first of all. Moreover, the spectrum of this activity is quite wide and manifests itself, for example, in political hooliganism - insulting government officials, unauthorized holding rallies, pickets, making inscriptions of a political nature, etc.

The relevance of the analysis of extremism in the youth environment is determined by the following factors and circumstances:

Firstly, young people, being one of the largest socio-demographic groups of society with certain age features, interests, values and place in the social structure, tend to be extremist. The denial of compromises in any form, radicalism and intolerance, maximalism and nihilism, disregard for one's own life and readiness for self-sacrifice become the basis for the world perception of young extremists, make them cruel and place this social category at risk.

Secondly, destructive socio-political, economic, spiritual and ideological reasons become organic environment for potential extremists, namely: a decrease in the level of spirituality of the adult and young generation; the loss of many moral and ethical values, the lack of clear goals, the debunking of the ideals of the recent past; the coming to replace the Soviet idealism of previous generations for modern Western pragmatism, and with it: the cult of power and money, sexual promiscuity. All these circumstances are pushing young people into the ranks of extremist organizations.

Thirdly, young people play an important role in the political sphere of society and therefore various political forces rely on young people during radical transformations. The youth is the most mobile part of the electorate, the most fierce struggle unfolds for its voices.

Causes of extremist manifestations in youth environment:

1. The exacerbation of social tension in youth environment is characterized by a complex of social problems, including problems of the level and quality of education, "survival" in the labor market, social inequality, and diminished authority of law enforcement agencies.

2. Changes of valuable orientations, such as, for example, the creation of religious organizations and sects, spreading religious fanaticism and extremism, the denial of norms and constitutional duties,

3. The growth of nationalism, which contains active work of youth nationalist groups and movements, which became widespread on the Internet.

4. The presence of illegal circulation of funds to commit extremist actions. For example, some youth extremist organizations for illegal purposes are engaged in the manufacture and storage of explosive devices, teach the handling of firearms and cold steel, etc.

5. Use of hostility and aggression among the youth by the leaders of extremist organizations to carry out actions of an extremist orientation.

6. Use of the Internet for unlawful purposes. This provides radical public organizations with access to a wide audience and promotion of their activities, the ability to post detailed information about their goals and objectives, time and place of meetings, planned actions [2].

If we talk about extremism in youth environment, it is necessary to identify the main features. Extremism used a young man's unsteady views on what is happening that is why it manifests itself more often in societies and groups where there is a low level of self-esteem, individual rights are ignored, as well as in societies

and groups that have adopted an ideology of violence and advocate moral promiscuity, especially in means of achieving goals.

Thus, the main signs of violence are: political action carried out in extreme forms, for example, participation in the implementation of a terrorist act, planning mass repressions against dissenters; the deliberate use of illegal methods of influence, such as terror, incitement of national, religious, racial and other enmity, blackmail, unlawful restriction of freedom; aggressively imposing one's will to achieve a certain political goal.

Preventive measures against extremism among young people

Prevention of extremist activities is aimed at eliminating the conditions for the spread of extremism, as well as curbing the activities of extremist public and religious associations. This prevention consists of several directions:

- creation of conditions for reducing aggression, tension, extremist activity among young people;
- creation of conditions for the education of a successful, efficient, tolerant, patriotic, socially responsible person;
- creating conditions for increasing the life chances of adolescents and young people in difficult life situations;
- development of constructive social activity of adolescents and young people;
- development of positive youth subcultures, public associations, movements, groups;
- creation of alternative forms of realization of the extreme potential of young people.
- organization of work of methodological associations on the formation of tolerance in inter-ethnic relations [3];

– introduction of special courses, as well as elements of programs in general courses for teachers with the aim of fostering inter-ethnic tolerance of students;

– development of thematic leaflets for students' parents with an explanation of lawyers, psychologists, social educators, law enforcement officers;

– organizing and conducting a review competition of programs and methodological developments in an educational institution for the prevention of unlawful behavior and extremist manifestations of adolescents;

– the creation of the councils of high school students in educational institutions

The work on the prevention of extremism in the educational process begins with the formation of educators' educative skills among students in the field of education workers and it has an ideological and legal direction.

Ideological direction:

– formation of religious and interethnic tolerance, patriotism, a healthy lifestyle, priorities of universal values.

– analysis of the philosophical, historical, socio-cultural aspects of the processes that occur in the field of youth culture;

– scientifically grounded practical recommendations for the prevention of extremism and terrorism that are necessary for the state and society;

– preventive work to counter manifestations of extremism among young people;

– Legal direction:

– carrying out complex measures to form a legal culture among young people. In particular, this could contribute to a significant expansion of the legal component in education and upbringing. Knowledge of their own rights and freedoms will contribute to the development of feelings of respect for the rights and freedoms of others, including their life, health and dignity among young people;

– development of a tolerant worldview among young people, a tolerant attitude towards all people, regardless of their nationality, religion, social, property status or other circumstances;

– improving issues of leisure and recreation for young people;

– increasing the level of social and material security of young people, assistance in employment of young professionals, support for housing programs for young people;

– international cooperation in the field of countering extremism and terrorism;

– holding parental meetings on the formation of law-obedient behavior of students;

– providing legal assistance to minors and their parents on the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the family, students;

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– It is important for pedagogical staff to intensify the work among students on the disclosure of the nature and activities of extremist organizations and groups together with the internal affairs agencies with the involvement of parents and public organizations.

– Spreading of information leaflets containing calls for extremist activities or promoting such activities, their manufacture, storage and transportation for distribution purposes is prohibited. Despite the existence of legislation, it is necessary to acquaint children with the rules of behavior on the Internet.

Psychological direction:

– creation of a psychologically safe supportive, friendly environment in an educational institution that excludes psychological trauma, both on the part of teachers and in the adolescent team;

– identification of adolescents at risk with methods that exclude provoking extremist behavior;

– carrying out serious individualized vocational guidance in order that the teenager could cope with the experience of an uncertain social perspective;

– trainings with adolescents aimed at helping self-identification;

– conversations with parents about the features and problems of adolescence;

– individual counseling for adolescents, parents and teachers;

– trainings with teachers aimed at awareness of their own level of age tolerance and assistance in developing communication skills with adolescents in crisis situations.

Also, when carrying out the preventive measures against extremism, it should be taken into account that the punishment for the committed crimes of an extremist orientation corresponds to the real degree of public danger [4–6].

Thus, the problem of extremism in youth environment is a topical problem for the Republic of Belarus and requires the intervention of not only law enforcement agencies, but also education system, public organizations and the entire population as a whole.

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