



FEATURES OF GROUP MOTIVATION FOR CRIMINAL ACTIONS

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Annotation. *The emergence and realization of motives for criminal activity largely depend on whether the crime is committed individually or in a group. This circumstance leaves a significant imprint on a subject's motivation and the manifestation of social determinants of a crime, assessment of a conflict situation, determination to commit a crime, a crime itself, and its consequences.*

Keywords: *group motivation, crime, criminal acts, social and psychological climate, cohesion*

Introduction.

Investigating features of motives for group crimes, it can be noted that such groups are not social associations or collectives but specific small informal groups.

A small group is a relatively small number of individuals with common goals or objectives. A feature that distinguishes a small group from a complex and more significant group is relative 'simplicity' in its structure: in a small group, there is usually an authoritative leader-instigator (if the group is informal) or an authoritative leader-planner (if the group is official) who gathers all the group members. At the same time, group size does not matter and can reach several dozen people. If, on the other hand, other leaders appear within a small group and some of its members begin to support them, then such a group often splits into two or more ones. Such groups interact with each other and can develop independently. Suppose a small group engages in a socially beneficial and significant joint activity for all its members and mediates interpersonal relations. In that case, it can represent a group with a high level of development – a collective.

An informal group is a group that does not have a legally fixed status and is founded voluntarily based on interests, friendship, sympathies, or pragmatic benefit. Informal groups can act as isolated communities or be formed within formal groups; their interests can have professional and non-professional goals. There are also informal groups founded based on common interests. Formal groups, with all their characteristics kept, can simultaneously have features of informal groups, which enriches and makes them more powerful.

Presenting main material. The study of interpersonal relationships within groups and the peculiarities of their functioning makes it possible to distinguish three types of relationships depending on cohesion.

The first level of cohesion.

This is a diffuse group or a conglomerate. It is a short-term group with random membership where relationships are based on sympathy-antipathy. It is more accurate



to call the purpose of such a group the same one, but not expected as its achievements, as a rule, do not require close integration and interaction. At the same time, a diffuse group can sometimes be localized and act actively and cohesively, with an appropriate distribution of roles. Diffuse group members seldom have any similarity in the deep motivation of activity.

The second level of cohesion.

It is an association or cooperation. The group is cohesive with permanent core membership and has existed for a long time. There are both sympathy-antipathy and business relationships based on their nature. There is almost always an interpersonal role distribution that helps to carry out joint activities more effectively. Interpersonal relationships in such a group are mediated by personally significant for everyone content of group activity. The main feature of cooperation is achieving a common goal for all its members due to close integration and interaction. Motivation from the primary type of activity of the association (cooperation) members sometimes varies. Such a group will strive to achieve its goals. However, differences in deep personal motivation will not allow one to achieve the highest level of group cohesion due to too many differences in the strength and quality of emotional stimulation in its main activity.

The third level of cohesion, the highest one.

In such a group, interpersonal relationships are mediated by the personally significant and socially valuable content of group activities. It has all the same features as an association. However, the highest level of cohesion is ensured by the dominance of coincidence in motivation from the primary type of activity for all group members (the very dominance of the coincidence of motivation is essential here as it is unlikely that even in the most cohesive groups, all its members without exception, have the motivation to coincide). There are groups of the third, highest level of cohesion, but mostly sadly known as their goals and value orientations are antisocial (corporations). These include mafia associations, sects with an inhumane and anti-human orientation, etc.

Groups of the third level of cohesion with socially approved value orientations can solve the most complex social problems most effectively.

Like other small groups, groups of persons who have committed crimes can be differentiated in a certain way depending on their composition, stability, size, common purpose, etc. Finally, these groups are characterized by a special kind of group action. Such groups are founded by the efforts of people with a common goal in a specific situation, which distributes roles and coordinates joint actions.

Based on this, it is possible to distinguish specific features of a group of persons who have committed crimes. The main feature of such a group is its members' conscious or unconscious subordination to a common (in a particular situation) criminal goal. This goal may be the main one. In this case, it is a group with an expressed antisocial orientation. Such a goal may be one of many for a group, but only situational. In such cases, although a group does not have a clearly defined main goal, its psychological climate calls for the possibility of a criminal goal emergence under appropriate circumstances.

Such a psychological climate is based on the cynical attitude of group members



toward social values, disrespect for norms and rules of behavior, or an indifferent attitude towards them. The social and psychological climate manifests as a qualitative part of interpersonal relations, which in turn is expressed as a set of psychological conditions that promote or hinder joint activities and the comprehensive development of an individual in the group.

The most important features of a beneficial social and psychological climate are trust and high demands of group members on each other; friendly and business-like criticism; free expression of one's own opinion during discussion of issues that concern the whole team; lack of pressure on subordinates from managers and recognition of their right to make decisions that are significant for a group; sufficient awareness of team members about its tasks and state of affairs in their implementation; satisfaction with belonging to a team; high degree of emotional mutual assistance in situations that cause a state of frustration in any of team members; taking responsibility for the state of affairs in a group by each of its members, etc. Thus, the nature of the social and psychological climate as a whole depends on the level of group development. It has been found that there is a particular connection between the state of the social and psychological climate of a team and the joint activities of its members. The social and psychological climate depends on a leadership style.

The direct personal contact of group members, based on a joint criminal goal (primary or situational) and unity concerning social values and norms, is one of the main features of a group within which crimes are committed.

An objective indicator of such a group as its essential feature is a specific group activity: crime commitment. Whatever personal motives guide one or another participant of a group in a crime committed, no matter what specific individual experiences are peculiar to him, he contributes to the crime committed in one way or another. This crime (as a group action) indicates a specific group existence where participants engaged in a crime commitment are coordinated and subordinated to a common goal, which, in a certain sense, neutralizes individual experiences and motives.

Two main types of groups can be distinguished depending on the duration of interpersonal relationships and the presence of a group leader that allows the group to function for a long time: permanent and occasional groups. Crimes committed as part of a permanent group have a large proportion of the total number of crimes.

Suppose we analyze the crimes committed as part of a group concerning other crimes. In that case, we can conclude that most of all crimes are committed by permanent groups (except hooliganism in combination with other crimes, grievous bodily harm, and murder).

The motives for group crimes are significantly different from those for solo crimes.

A comparison of data on subjectively perceived reasons for committing group and solo crimes has shown that the causes of group crimes have significant features.

Firstly, the structure of group crime reasons characterized by committing crimes 'under the influence of comrades' increases significantly. In this case, an essential regulator of a group member's behavior is comrades' opinion, their assessment of a group member's actions as a group opinion, and group assessment. Thus, in the



structure of motives for crimes committed as part of a group, a significant place should be occupied by motives of imitation and prestige.

Secondly, among persons who commit a crime as part of a group, there is another reason for helplessness in self-control, which less often occurs and is natural because a permanent group is often well-organized and has control over the group members' deeds and actions. After all, the distribution of roles in a group and coordination of group actions are only possible with such a control. The acquisition of group psychology and group norms creates internal conditions for strengthening self-control. From all the above mentioned, the structure of motives for group crimes has fewer unmotivated socially dangerous acts than the structure of solo crimes.

The motives of group crimes committed are characterized by the subjects' deepest and clearest awareness of them, which significantly reduces the frequency of prevalence of so-called unmotivated crimes.

Recently, group crimes such as white-collar crimes, crimes against the government, and organized economic crimes have become widespread.

Even though it is the poor who make up the bulk of offenders, criminal acts are not exclusively a part of them. Many wealthy and powerful people commit crimes, the consequences of which can be more significant than minor crimes committed by the poor.

The concept of 'white-collar crime' was first defined by Edwin Sutherland and refers to a crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status during his occupation. Typical white-collar crimes include criminal activities such as tax evasion, illegal trade agreements, securities and commodities fraud, land property fraud, embezzlement, environmental pollution, and theft. The number of crimes committed by white-collar workers is much more challenging to measure than those committed by other population segments. Most crimes of this kind do not appear in official statistics at all. It is necessary to distinguish between white-collar crimes and crimes committed by people with power and influence. White-collar crimes mainly involve using professional or social positions to carry out illegal activities. In the crimes committed by people with power and influence, criminals use authority acquired by their official status for criminal purposes, for example, when an official takes a bribe to support one's illegal action.

Some types of white-collar crimes affect a much larger number of people than crimes committed by members of other groups. An embezzler can rob thousands or millions of people using computer machinations. Spoiled and illegally sold products and medicines can affect the health of many and even can cause fatal consequences.

The aspects of white-collar crime committed against one's life and health are less noticeable compared to murder or robbery, but they are just as accurate. Under certain circumstances, their consequences can be much more severe. For example, violation of standards in new medicine manufacturing or environmental pollution can cause injuries or death to many people. The number of deaths caused by workplace malfunctions far exceeds the number of homicides.

The police and other state institutions that are called upon to fight crime are sometimes themselves involved in criminal acts. They are not some isolated cases but a rather substantial number of acts. Such criminal acts include intimidating, beating, or



killing suspects, taking bribes, creating a criminal network, and concealing or fabricating evidence.

Organized economic crime is associated with activity similar to businesses but with illegal content. Organized economic crime is a robust business compared to any area of economic activity. National and local criminal organizations offer goods and services of mass consumption prohibited by law; some criminal structures are transnational. Organized crime includes, but is not limited to, areas of activity such as gambling, prostitution, significant theft, and racketeering.

A specific feature of group motivation is the most expressed orientation of subjects to motives associated with prestige (the desire to gain authority from comrades) and imitation. The most typical crimes include rape, theft, and embezzlement in combination with other mercenary crimes.

Conclusions.

Thus, in the motives of crimes committed as part of a group, a significant proportion is occupied by mercenary motives (the desire to accumulate material goods, greed). These motives are most typical for such types of crimes as theft in combination with other mercenary crimes, theft and embezzlement, robbery, and assault.

Under the influence of group psychology, the specific weight of purely personal motives (revenge, anger) is significantly reduced, and the personal acceptance of group norms and assessments determines the voluntariness of the subject's subordination to group demands. This is confirmed by a sharp decrease in the number of crimes committed (for group reasons) under the influence of coercion.

These features are primarily inherent in the motivation of such crimes as murder, grievous bodily harm, as well as hooliganism in combination with other non-mercenary crimes committed as part of a group.

Group motivation is characterized by group members' desire for mutual responsibility (surety) by committing new crimes, thereby creating conditions for concealing previously committed crimes. The latter refers mainly to motivation for murder and grievous bodily harm. The desire to conceal a crime by committing a murder or grievous bodily harm in a permanent group is observed almost five times more often than solo.