Re-Socialization of Prisoners in Russia at the Present Stage

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Abstract: The author formulates the suggestions concerning the process of re-socialization of prisoners at the present stage. The article gives the idea of the penal sanction of condemned which should lead to the re-socialization of prisoners. It also provides the information of the current situation of the system of penal sanctions in Russia and in particular: conditions at the correctional institutions at the current moment and brand new information of the level of crime and breaking law in the social sphere of life. This article is also devoted to the European experience of solving this problem.

Key words: Re-Socialization of prisoners · Imprisonment · Correctional facilities · Correctional system

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Concept of the development of the correctional system to 2020th year, it is planned to hold a range of activities on improving the penal policy directed on the socialization of prisoners and changing the ideology of applying the basic means of correction of prisoners with the help of psychological and pedagogical work with a person and her/ his preparation for the social life. A lot of attention is paid to the development of correctional work with prisoners, searching and applying new forms and methods of correction of prisoners and educational work concerning the condemned who are capable to the re-socialization [1].

Re-socialization of convicts ensures the implementation of the principles of social justice, humanity, justice, differentiation and individualization of punishment, correction of prisoners, as well as meets the international standards of the treatment of juvenile prisoners.

Deprivation of Convicts and Re-Socialization: Re-socialization of convicts as a social and legal category is demanded by the social and economic and also legal sciences studying the development of the modern society in these aspects, as it is one of the main goals of the state in relation to a person who has committed a criminal offense [2].

The experience of German scientists has shown that the project of re-socialization is aimed at the facilitating prisoners' transition from imprisonment to freedom and opening up perspectives for the future. The positive impact on the negative affect is likewise an important goal in imprisonment. Yet the most relevant effects of the re-socialization measures are consisted of the positive impact on the self-concept. Compared to the control group, the project group felt higher self-efficacy and was more convinced of being able to cope with the problems after their release from prison [3].

Under the term 're-socialization' is commonly understood Resocialization, as it is understood in the conjunction of imprisonment, is the process by which an existing identity or social role is adjusted, altered or replaced, by retraining a person psychologically to fit the expectations and behavior of the common society [4].

The legal re-socialization is the process that allows a convicted person to determine his/her own place in the society; it is his/her development from the statement of desocialization to the statement of the successful functioning in the legal world [5]. To achieve these goals a priority role is given to the education that aimed at replacing the legal ignorance, infantilism, nihilism,
cynicism by opposite personal characteristics. Legal re-socialization envisages the development of a convicted person, suggesting assimilation and reproduction of the law, as well as self-development and self-realization as an individual. This process cannot take place effectively in the conditions of the spontaneous interaction.

Legal re-socialization is a two-sided process, which includes, on the one hand, the assimilation of a prisoner the social and legal experience by joining the legal environment; on the other hand, it is a process of the active reproduction of the social relations by the individual on account of his/her vigorous activity and the active involvement into the social environment.

This sphere of functioning of the correctional institutions includes [6]:

- Carrying out the psychological, social, educational and work in the process of socialization;
- Involvement of prisoners in educational processes and work;
- Search and implementation of the forms which would provide constant communication with the families of prisoners, friends, relatives, labor groups, etc.;
- Real and effective rendering of assistance in the domestic and employment spheres after release;
- Consolidation of the concept of "re-socialization" as the purpose of the criminal punishment.

The principle of humanity in terms of re-socialization is directed at three variants of supporting a convicted person:

- The recognition of the individual's ability to independently deal with life's contradictions;
- The possibility of actualization the individual optimally resolve the contradictions;
- The modeling more natural situations for a person, where he/she is raised to a new level of disclosure of his/her features.

According to the estimates of the society expects prisoners will change their behavior and the formal system will succeed in re-socialization. However, the presence of the informal system makes this process harder that is projected on the re-socialization and educational process [7].

One should agree with the opinion of Simona Mesoniene, that apart from the social support, the foremost instruments of re-socialization should also include identification and elimination of criminogenic factors in the individuals of convicts and the management of risk levels. This requires improvements of legal regulation. Firstly, the legal regulation mechanism should define the criteria and procedure for the evaluation of a convict’s risk, which would facilitate the application of appropriate risk evaluation methods. The results of such risk evaluation would be the basis for selecting the appropriate tools for the correction of an individual person’s behaviour and thinking. Secondly, penal law should establish the necessity of applying of behaviour correction programmes adequate for reducing the level of risk among convicts. Such measures would ensure a comprehensive re-socialization process composed out of both, special measures directed at the management of individual risk and elimination of criminogenic factors on the one hand and satisfaction of individual social needs on the other [8].

Conclusion. Re-socialization of a prisoner is a process of training and entering into the social environment of the prisoner upon the release through the assimilation of conventional value orientations, restoring social functions and status of the individual, which involves not only the adaptation to the social context, but also, above all, the vigorous activity of a person through transformation.

It appears that the re-socialization of the convicted person should be regarded as a primary goal of the state regarding the person that has committed the criminal offense. The humanistic principle is revealed in promoting the authenticity of a human life recognizing its value in itself.

The main and final object of the process of re-socialization, the central point of the efforts of all subjects included in this process is the personality of the convicted person [9].

There is an abundance of evidence that correctional treatment is associated with reduced recidivism [10].

The result of the re-socialization is the rehabilitation of offender as a fully legitimate socialized member of the modern society.

References


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