

PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AS A TOPICAL AREA OF SOCIAL WORK

Today, the importance of ensuring a safe childhood occupies one of the leading places not only in Ukraine, but also in the USA and European countries. That is why social services should make efforts and create a favorable environment for the safe and harmonious development of the future generation. One of these areas should be the prevention of sexual violence against children.

According to the statistics of the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine, only in January – March 2021, 288 criminal offenses were registered in our country under articles 155 of the Criminal Code “Commitment of sexual acts with a person who has not reached the age of sixteen” and 156 of the Criminal Code “Depravation of minors” [1].

The Internet Watch Foundation 2021 Annual Report shows that sexual abuse imagery of girls is increasingly being shared online with almost all (97%) child sexual abuse material identified in 2021 showing female children. Sexual abuse imagery of children aged 11 – 13 is most prevalent, accounting for almost seven in 10 instances identified last year. Whilst just 1% of the sexual abuse imagery shows boys, this accounts for 2,641 instances. In more than half of these cases (53%) the boy was suffering category A sexual abuse which is penetrative sexual activity, sexual activity with an animal or sadism. By comparison, 17% of the sexual abuse imagery of girls shows category A activities [3].

According to the presented statistical data, we believe that for effective planning and development of preventive measures against sexual violence against children, it is important for social work specialists to be able to identify children who are at risk. Strelchenko O. defines the following risk groups for children who are most often exposed to sexual violence [2, c.308]:

- a) children of women who are abused at home;

b) children of women who themselves were victims of cruel physical and/or sexual abuse in childhood;

c) grandchildren of grandparents who sexually assaulted their own or other people's children;

d) children from families with unclear age boundaries between generations and from families where parents are strongly dependent on each other;

e) brothers/sisters of a child who is already sexually abused;

f) disabled children with developmental disorders or otherwise different from other children;

g) children who have experienced sexual trauma.

Thus, the topic of prevention of sexual violence against children needs significant attention from social services and public organizations, which will be able to ensure the development, implementation and control of the necessary measures in institutions that interact with children and youth – directly or indirectly.

REFERENCES

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STATE ANXIETY AND TRAIT ANXIETY AS ACUTE PROBLEMS OF CONTEMPORANEITY

The paper focuses on the problem of anxiety because this state can be caused by both external circumstances, and internal psychological problems of the individual. Each individual has his/her own level of anxiety, which is detected with the help of special testing or consultation with a psychologist. It is important to