



Role of Civil Society Institutions in Promoting Law-Abiding Behavior of Female Convicts Serving a Sentence of Imprisonment: Existential, Psychological and Penitentiary Aspects

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Abstract

Introduction: understanding the role and importance of civil society institutions in solving one of the significant problems of resocialization, social adaptation of convicts, prevention of new crimes makes it expedient to develop new approaches to its study, in particular, requires research in the context of existential and psychological problems of world perception and attitude to living the period of serving a sentence as a segment of the life path of female convicts serving criminal sentences in places of deprivation of liberty. *Purpose:* to study key life options (variants of life) of female convicts serving a criminal sentence in the form of imprisonment on the example of the correctional facility for women in Krasnodar Krai, where, in cooperation with the Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service in Krasnodar Krai and financial support of the Presidential Grant Foundation, the Social Innovation Support Fund "Vol'noe Delo" and the Kuban Governor Grant, a project of the Krasnodar Regional Charitable Public Organization "Healthy Generation" is being implemented with the participation of teachers and psychologists. *Methods:* theoretical analysis, comparative analysis, psychological testing, statistical method; methodology "Relevant variant of life" (A.G. Shisheva). *Results:* the methodological principle of complexity allows to conduct a study of such a social phenomenon as resocialization from the standpoint of cybernetics, when the processes of learning, upbringing and development are considered as a special type of cognitive activity management (formation of a subjective model of the relevant life option by female convicts-project participants; active life position with a focus on solving individual life tasks and achieving success in the future; willingness to use time rationally and in accordance with planned goals to get possible personal benefits), which helps identify the specifics of direct relationship and feedback in social processes and study the means to improve management efficiency, including in the law enforcement sphere. *Conclusion:* guidelines for penal policy humanization should be based on interdisciplinary approaches to solving problems of resocialization of convicts; variants of life chosen by the project participants as "real" or "ideal" are socially approved in modern socio-economic realities and are meaningfully

implemented by the majority; the project participants construct their own lifestyle, which can be implemented within the framework of social rules and demonstrates their aspiration to restore social functions and integration into society.

Keywords: security of society and the state; life option; existential psychology; life personality type; ideas about the world; meaning of existence; personality of the convict; resocialization.

5.3.9. Legal psychology and psychology of security.

5.1.4. Criminal law sciences.

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Introduction

The goals of Russian penal legislation are to correct a convicted person and prevent commission of new crimes. One of the current trends in achieving the goals set by the Russian state is the expansion and inclusion of new areas of social functions, which implies the improvement of legal regulation and consideration of positive domestic and foreign experience. The state fulfils the tasks aimed at maximizing the use and development of the constructive potential of both an individual and civil society institutions in solving socially significant problems of resocialization of certain categories of citizens. The institution of resocialization as a socio-legal phenomenon contributes to the achievement of goals and objectives of the penal policy and acts as an important element of the social function of the state. One of the most important conditions for effective resocialization of persons released from correctional institutions is the creation of necessary social, economic, psychological, medical and legal conditions that allow them to lead a law-abiding lifestyle, which ultimately significantly affects recidivism rates. The process of resocialization is rather time-consuming and consists of certain stages (stage of execution of punishment, period of primary resocialization after punishment, lengthy process of integration into society). The Federal Law “On Probation” defines penitentiary probation as one of the types of probation applied to convicts in correctional institutions as a set of measures aimed at correcting convicts, as well as preparing for the stage of release.

Penitentiary probation is implemented by various entities. The list of subjects of penitentiary probation is defined by law, according to the content of the Federal Law “On the Fundamentals of the Crime Prevention System in the Russian Federation” can be correlated with subjects endowed with the competence of crime prevention. These are executive authorities, institutions of the penal system, state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, and local self-government bodies.

The Penal Code of the Russian Federation determines public influence and assistance to convicts released from serving their sentences as the main means of correction. A special role in resocialization of convicts, in respect of whom probation is applied, is assigned to socially oriented non-profit organizations and public associations providing social, pedagogical, legal and other services aimed at helping citizens who have served criminal sentences in places of deprivation of liberty to return to a law-abiding lifestyle.

It is well known that certain categories of convicts have their own specifics of serving a criminal sentence. Thus, Article 100 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation provides for the presence of children’s homes in correctional institutions in which women with children serve their sentences. This entails the need to create conditions for normal living and development of children, as well as to select and implement a special complex of psychocorrective measures. In this regard, the experience of resocialization of persons being released and having been released from correctional facilities located on the territory of

Krasnodar Krai is of great interest. In the Correctional Facility No. 3 in the village Dvubratskii of Krasnodar Krai, a complex multi-level process of directed measures to restore convicts' rights, status, legal capacity in their own and everyone's eyes defined as a resocialization effect has been carried out on a permanent basis since 2014. It is financially supported by the Presidential Grant Foundation, the Social Innovation Support Fund "Vol'noe Delo" and the Kuban Governor Grant. Teachers and psychologists participate in the project; the Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service in Krasnodar Krai takes part in its coordination. The impact includes aspects of professional development: female convicts have the opportunity to undergo training in such areas as: "Fundamentals of entrepreneurship", "Landscape design", "PC User"; correctional impact: Mother's Day holidays are organized for them, Christmas meetings with the priest of the Russian Orthodox Church, conversations "Spiritual path and development of women, values of family and motherhood"; identification of unformed, undeveloped abilities and their restoration: master classes on newborn care and on the development of personal abilities are held; prevention: formation and development of anti-criminal motives of law-abiding behavior and change of social attitudes.

Resocialization is based on a complex set of psychological, pedagogical, economic, legal and organizational measures aimed at forming an individual's ability and readiness to become a full member of society. The process of resocialization of female convicts has a number of significant features, so in the context of existential and psychological issues, their worldview and attitude to living the period of serving a sentence as a segment of their life path requires study. Researchers note that the awareness of the crime committed, the punishment imposed and the length of the life period in isolation from society causes deep personal experiences and actualizes problems of being in conditions of unfreedom, for the resolution of which it is important for a person to fill his/her past, present and future life with the meaning [1; 2]. Personal crisis as a result of awareness of what is happening at this stage of life entails two possible alternatives: positive resolution and a qualitatively new level of personality functioning, or

its further destruction, often manifested in forms of antisocial and delinquent behavior. Therefore, as the scientists emphasize, correctional work should begin from the moment convicts arrive at a correctional facility [3–5], while correction measures should take into account the psychological and spiritual dimension of the individual [6].

Presence of children is a significant deterrent to crime commission. Therefore, the Krasnodar Regional Charitable Public Organization "Healthy Generation" systematically conducts training seminars for female convicts aimed at promoting respect for motherhood, developing communication skills with the baby, and fostering a sense of responsibility, for example, "Motivation of convicted mothers to law-abiding behavior. Formation of generally accepted values", "Effective methods and a tolerant approach for successful resocialization of convicted mothers", "Observance of the rights of convicted women with young children".

Women differ from men in their great emotional instability, emotional dependence on the current situation, and increased anxiety in isolated conditions. The above-mentioned circumstances determine the relevance of the study of those social values, the possession of which primarily prevents the return of former female convicts to illegal behavior.

The purpose of the article is to consider key types or life options (variants of life) of female convicts serving a criminal sentence in the form of imprisonment in the correctional facility for women in Krasnodar Krai, participating in the resocialization project as a socially significant initiative of the Krasnodar Regional Charitable Public Organization "Healthy Generation".

Within the framework of this research, statements of women analyzing a current variant of their own life, including real life "here and now", as well as ideas about ideal and unacceptable life options. The analysis of women' dialogue with their own self is of a practical value for both the respondents themselves and the entire system of their psychological support. Self-reflection helps the respondents understand themselves and their own lives and initiates the search for answers to life questions that are significant for the individual. Understanding and typologization of life attitudes of convicts focused on

correction make it possible to effectively select and use psychotechnical tools for complex resocialization measures.

When constructing methodological foundations of the study, we relied on the ideas of K.A. Abul'khanova, L.I. Antsiferova, and A.A. Kronik about understanding a life path and choosing life strategies [7–9], D.A. Leont'ev about creative life and a role of personal values in the organization of human life [10], C. Buhler about a life path of the individual [11], R. May and J.F.T. Bugental about existential psychotherapy [12; 13], V. Frankl and A. Lengle about life meanings and work with personal and existential crises [14–17]. The conceptual basis of the research is V.N. Druzhinin's beliefs about life options of modern people, consciously chosen by them or set by society and its social institutions [18].

Life options are "social inventions", or life models that exist independently of a person, in which he/she is included in a certain period of time, depending on specific conditions and life circumstances. A variant of life can be considered as a type of a person's attitude to life, since each option corresponds to a person's specific ideas about the world, him/herself and others, and the meaning of being. A person in his/her individual-typological diversity, choosing a life option, is included in a certain lifestyle set by society. Living the chosen lifestyle affects personal identity, over time modifies and "typifies" the psychological appearance of a person. In the social world, a person inevitably chooses one or another life option, and the belief system adopted by him/her becomes the basis of his/her worldview [18; 19]. In his work V.N. Druzhinin describes eight variants of modern life: "Life begins tomorrow" ("Life as a preface"), "Life as a creative activity", "Life as an achievement" ("Chasing the horizon"), "Life as a dream", "Life according to the rules", "Life as a waste of time", "Life against life", "Existential constructor" ("Life as a creative activity subject"). We will consider the following [18; 20].

"Life begins tomorrow" is a life option in which a person often acts as a dreamer, has a good sense of time perspective and many plans for the future, but does not embody them in real life; the preparatory phase of his/her life path is dragging out. It is characterized by a constant postponement of the implemen-

tation of important tasks and the fulfillment of life obligations; a lot of plans and ambitious ideas in combination with inaction often lead to feelings of frustration and boredom.

"Life as a creative activity" is a life option, a creative person leads. It often represents a rebellion against an established life option, covering up the person's inner rejection of life realities and desire to avoid bitter disappointments in life. Often, a person chooses self-improvement, personal growth, self-change in the value system as priority life goals.

"Life as an achievement" is a variant of life in which a person acts as man of action. The main psychological feature of this life option is the devaluation of the present and fetishization of the future. A person, showing will, character, determination and loyalty to the cause, is inclined to sacrifice the present for the nearest predictable future, and strives for self-development of personal qualities that are "sold" on the social market, provide material earnings and ensure achievement of goals.

"Life as a dream" is a life option, characterized by person's escape from life realities into the illusory world of experiences. V.N. Druzhinin describes this state as a kind of "psychological suspended animation" [18]. This variant of life is often accompanied by the use of psychotropic substances, with the help of which the effect of derealization is achieved.

"Life according to the rules" is a variant of life, characterized by a high normative regulation of the life activity of an individual, orientation to a set of rules that prescribe a socially desirable order for the implementation of a person's life path. According to V.N. Druzhinin, life according to the rules is convenient because it saves a person from a difficult burden of choice: after all, everything is already prescribed [18].

"Life as a waste of time" is a life option in the structure of which the main occupation of a person is aimless pastime and a significant part of life is taken away by activities aimed at wasting time. The time free from making money is mostly wasted.

"Life against life" is a life option in which the main driving force is the struggle for survival. A person is on the "warpath" against everyone; it can be a struggle for social benefits, strategies of competition or fierce rivalry.

“Existential constructor” (“Life as a creative activity subject”) is a life option of a person with an active life position, who has no illusions about his/her own capabilities and human nature as a whole. An individual strives to solve existential questions of the meaning of human existence, good and evil, strength and weakness, freedom and necessity, evolution of social systems. Man, his life and development is the highest value [18; 20].

V.N. Druzhinin recognizes the possibility of changing one option to another during a person’s life, which correlates with other authors’ views that the life path can be the subject of the construction of both personality and social institutions [11; 18; 21; 22].

In general, the subjective experience of punishment, the attitude to life, to oneself and other people, the choice of value orientations and the relevant life option by convicts largely depends on their social characteristics, penitentiary and criminal experience, attitude to the sentence, and real living conditions in a particular institution. At the same time, inner feelings and the desire for a socially approved lifestyle of female convicts participating in innovative projects for the resocialization of those released from correctional institutions can become a psychological potential for rethinking life attitudes, values, and life paths. A. Lingle writes that a person suffers existentially if he/she is disoriented in life, unable to see the broader context of what is happening, and possessed by feelings of failure and senseless fatality; however, even being constrained by circumstances, everyone is endowed with inner freedom [23].

Psychological practices in the programs for resocialization of convicts, including psychodiagnostics and psychocorrection, should be focused on providing psychological support in positive self-change of personality. At the same time, as D.A. Leont’ev rightly notes, not everything can be diagnosed by an algorithm in psychodiagnostics [10], since entrenched personality traits and properties that are reproduced in any conditions can be evaluated according to a formally fixed scheme; complex elements of the inner world can only be interpreted, since they set inexhaustible meanings. In the study, we focus primarily on the selection and use of

such psychological tools, which, on the one hand, can be measured, and on the other, will allow female convicts, based on the reflection of beliefs, feelings and values in the present, to analyze different life models, to make sure that their life position is correct or to reconsider it. The importance of the forensic measurement of convicts’ behavior in places of deprivation of liberty is undeniable [24], at the same time, psychological tools complement a set of methods to work with convicts and allow them to directly initiate personal changes contributing to their optimal integration into society. F.E. Vasilyuk, revealing the essence of psychotechnics, mentions that it “brings to the fore the category of consciousness and therefore becomes phenomenological and dialogical, that is, understanding psychology, capable of professionally treating the subject of research not only as an “object”, but also as a living being” [25, p. 224].

Procedure and methods of empirical research

The design of the empirical study is descriptive; it is aimed at determining subjective models of the current life option of female convicts participating in social adaptation programs. Empirical tasks were consistently solved in the study: first, current life options of convicted women were identified on the basis of self-statements; second, the choices of life options of young and mature female convicts were compared; third, the results of diagnostics of young female convicts with the results of the survey of female university students and graduates were compared; and fourth, key subjective models of the current version of the life of convicted women were identified.

The empirical study covered 98 respondents, including 48 women aged 20–56 who participated in the one-and-a-half-year project “Resocialization of convicted women with young children” supported by the Presidential grant for the development of civil society realized by the Krasnodar Regional Charitable Public Organization “Healthy Generation”, and 50 female students and graduates of higher educational institutions aged 20–30. To solve empirical tasks of the study, two age groups of female convicts were identified: from 20 to 30 years (21 people) and from 31 to 56 years (27 people).

When forming samplings, we took into account both the main purpose and empirical objectives of the study and the conceptual idea that life options are existential convictions of the individual, which may be the result of a conscious choice or a consequence of actual circumstances of life: this is a general ideological position of the individual and a vision of his/her own life, which can undergo changes in accordance with the main stages of the life path. We proceeded from the assumption that the choice of a life option is associated with external social circumstances and experience of interaction with reality in general; due to a combination of personal characteristics and many other factors, such as education, profession, family status, having children and others, a person can be included in any of the life options, representing a certain life type.

The sample of female convicts included participants of the resocialization project “Resocialization of female convicts with young children” as convicts with highly positive characteristics on the part of prison staff; therefore, we consider it quite acceptable to compare their choices of life options with those of female university students and graduates representing respondents with law-abiding and socially approved behavior. At the same time, the sample of female convicts was divided by age criterion, since the semantic content of the life path at each age stage may be different.

The method “Relevant variant of life” (A.G. Shisheva) was used as a diagnostic tool [19; 20] based on V.N. Druzhinin’s ideas about typological features of a person’s life views, or variants of life: “Life as a preface” (LP), “Life as a creative activity” (LCA), “Life as an achieve-

ment” (LA), “Life as a dream” (LD), “Life according to the rules” (LR), “Life as a waste of time” (LWT), “Life against life” (LL), and “Existential constructor” (EC).

The diagnostic procedure included familiarizing respondents with the descriptive content of eight cards (according to the highlighted life options) and making three choices: a “real” variant of life (corresponding to the situation “here and now”), an “ideal” variant of life (the most attractive model), a “rejected” variant of life (the denied model). When interviewing female convicts, the contents of two of the eight cards were adapted to the contingent. To process the results, including calculating the frequency of occurrence and valid percentage, the IBM SS Statistics 22.0 software package was used.

Results and their discussion

Table 1 shows the distribution of female convicts according to their choice of “variants of life. In general, convicted women most often choose “Life according to the rules” (39.6%), “Life as a preface” (20.8%) and “Existential constructor” (14.6%) as a “real” variant of life. At the same time, these results are distributed by age categories as follows: 38.1% of the respondents aged 20 to 30 years and 40.7% of the respondents aged 31 to 56 years choose “Life according to the rules”; 14.3% and 25.9%, respectively, – “Life as a preface”; 23.8% and 7.4% – “Existential constructor”. Among the age group from 31 to 56 years, 11.1% of convicts are focused on the option “Life as an achievement”, young respondents do not consider this option as “real”, corresponding to life “here and now”.

Table 1

Distribution of female convicts by choice of life option, %

Variant of life	“Real” variant of life			“Ideal” variant of life			“Rejected” variant of life		
	Age of 20 – 30 years	Age of 31 – 56 years	Total sample	Age of 20 – 30 years	Age of 31 – 56 years	Total sample	Age of 20 – 30 years	Age of 31 – 56 years	Total sample
LP	14.3	25.9	20.8	9.5	11.1	10.4	-	-	-
LD	9.5	7.4	8.3	-	3.7	2.1	14.3	22.2	18.8
LR	38.1	40.7	39.6	19.0	18.5	18.8	4.8	-	2.1
LL	4.8	7.4	6.3	-	7.4	4.2	47.6	33.3	39.6
EC	23.8	7.4	14.6	4.8	11.1	8.3	-	-	-
LA	-	11.1	6.3	57.1	48.1	52.1	4.8	-	2.1
LCA	4.8	-	2.1	9.5	-	4.2	-	-	-
LWT	4.8	-	2.1	-	-	-	28.6	44.4	37.5

The results of the study show that female convicts who evaluate the subjective model of the world as "Life according to the rules" perceive their current life as normative, orderly and standardized. Such a scenario of life, being predictable and corresponding to the schedule set from outside, to some extent frees a person from worries about the future and gives a sense of foreseeable tomorrow. At the same time, personal orientations to the performance of an actual social role expected by others entail mental problems associated with the loss of personal autonomy and individuality.

The variant "Life as a preface" is interpreted as a model in which a person considers his/her current life as preparation for the future. Women tend to dream, expect the best in their lives, and make plans for the future. Interestingly, this option is more often chosen by elderly convicted women. Probably, the disappointment and hardships of everyday life distort the real perception of the present, forming the hope that the current life situation will pass faster and an optimistic conviction of the appearance of valuable and desirable things in the future life.

It is noteworthy that the convicts choose the "Existential constructor", particularly the respondents aged 20–30 years, as a "real" option. These convicts are characterized by an active life position, an attitude to their own life as a subject of creative activity without illusions about their capabilities. The respondents are concerned about the meaning of life, life values, good and evil, freedom and responsibility, they act and make decisions, coordinating their own beliefs, desires and capacities.

Some elderly convicts consider the option "Life as an achievement" as "real". It indicates both the summing up of intermediate results of their own life and the focus on achievements and victories, the willingness to sacrifice the present for the sake of the future, for example, to work hard, as well as the faith in the upcoming successes and results. At the same time, the respondents assess the present as a difficult period, since it does not give a sense of fullness of life, and the life goals achieved are subjectively devalued and replaced by others.

As an "ideal" option, "Life as an achievement" is preferred by the majority of the respondents in the total sample (52.1%), while both young (57.1%) and older respondents (48.1%) are focused on it. The ideal life models for the respondents are also options "Life according to the rules" (18.8% of the respondents in the total sample) and "Life as a preface" (10.4%). "Life as an achievement" is the most approved and idealized model of life in modern culture, therefore, its attractiveness for female convicts is obvious, whose desire to be socially successful and active is largely frustrated. It is noteworthy that a person who interprets his/her life in terms of success or failure, victory or defeat is inclined to believe that the results of his/her activities and life depend on him/herself, and not on external circumstances; thus, female convicts, choosing this life option, rely on inner resources when overcoming difficulties and perceive the social world dichotomically: useful and useless people, opportunities and obstacles, successes and failures. The focus on the variant "Life according to the rules" indicates the respondents' desire for stability and constancy, while the option "Life as a preface" chosen as an "ideal" model indicates a tendency to postpone "for later" and, accordingly, an extended "preparatory" stage of life.

Among "rejected" variants are "Life against life" (39.6%), "Life as a waste of time" (37.5%), and "Life as a dream" (18.8%). By age, the results are grouped as follows: "Life against life" is chosen by 47.6% of young respondents and 33.3% of the respondents aged over 30, "Life as a waste of time" – by 28.6% and 44%, respectively, and "Life as a dream" – by 14.3% and 22.2%, respectively.

The conscious denial of the option "Life against life" characterizes female convicts as avoiding emotional states of aggression and hatred, refusing attitudes aimed at destroying themselves and others in the world and tough confrontation with others. The rejection of the variant "Life as a waste of time" indicates women's acceptance of the value of life time, their activity and focus on achieving specific life goals. The rejection of the option "Life as a dream", which implies a passive lifestyle and the desire to escape from reality into the illusory world without problems, difficulties and

worries, also testifies to the vital activity and initiative of the respondents.

Figures 1–3 illustrate results of the comparative analysis of choices of the current life option by young female convicts and female university students and graduates.

Figure 1 shows that for female students and graduates the “real” variant of life is “Life as a preface” (42.0%), while for female convicts of

the same age it is “Life according to the rules” (38.1%) and “Existential constructor” (23.8%). Thus, it is less common for young female convicts to perceive their life as a kind of preparatory stage for real life, they are focused on following externally set rules of behavior “here and now” and assess themselves, their own capabilities and human nature as a whole adequately.

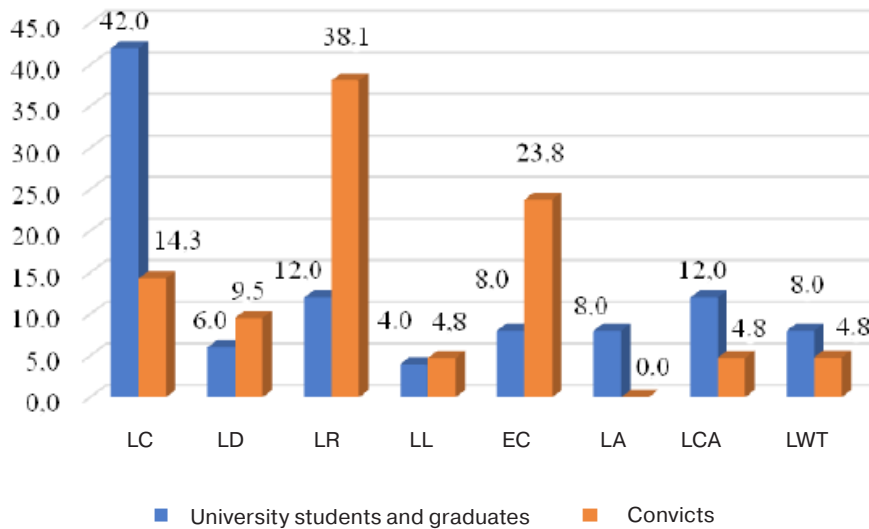


Figure 1. Distribution of a “real” variant of life among young respondents (%)

Female convicts’ aspirations for an ideal model of life correlate with those of university students and graduates, with “Life as an achievement” (female students 42%, female convicts 57.1%), “Life according to the rules” (20% and 19%, respectively), “Life as a pre-

face” (14% and 9.5%), and “Life as a creative activity” (12% and 9.5%). The respondents’ social values and ideas about an ideal life and its perfect living, regardless of their social and legal status, largely coincide; their goals and values are success, material security and

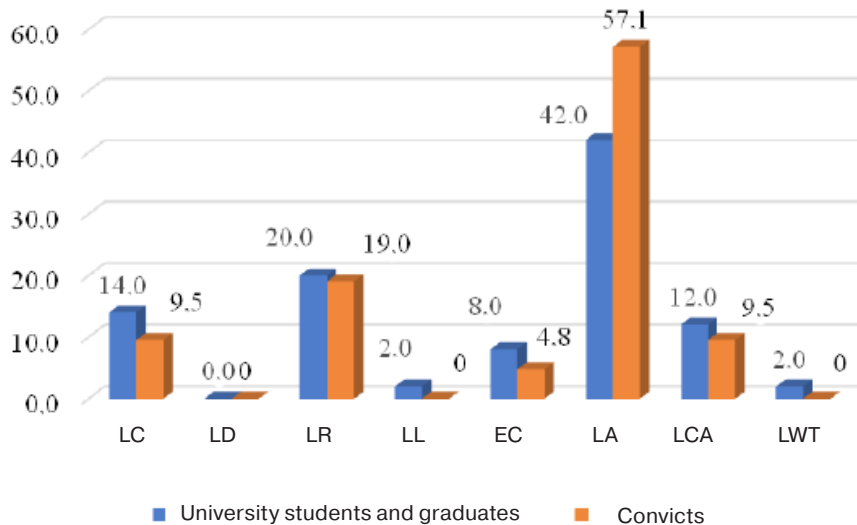


Figure 2. Distribution of an “ideal” variant of life among young respondents (%)

prestige, as well as the opportunity to realize themselves in the future or experiment with their life in the present moment.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of respondents according to the choice of the “rejected” life option. It is worth mentioning that the following variants of life are rejected: “Life against life” (47.6% of young female convicts

and 28% of female university students and graduates), “Life as a waste of time” (28% and 28.6%, respectively) and “Life as a dream” (4% and 14.3%, respectively). In comparison with female students, young female convicts more often consider the model of struggle and aggression, as well as the option of leaving into the world of illusions, as unaccept-

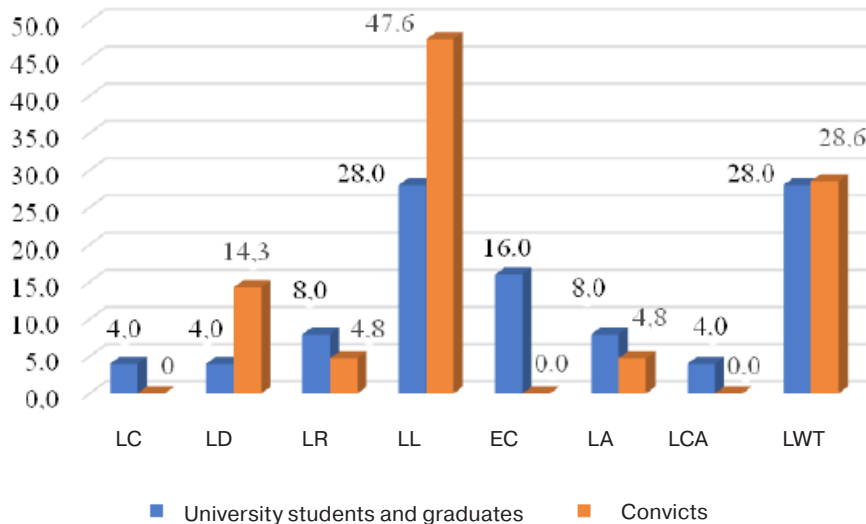


Figure 3. Distribution of a “rejected” variant of life among young respondents (%)

able, perhaps due to the obvious asociality of such forms of behavior, a high level of self-control, as well as realism and practicality of their views and attitudes.

In general, the empirical analysis of the choices of actual life options by female convicts made it possible to identify the most common combinations of “real” / “ideal” / “rejected” options:

1. “Life according to the rules” / “Life as an achievement”, “Life as a preface” / “Life against life”;
2. “Life as a preface” / “Life as an achievement”, “Life according to the rules” / “Life against life” or “Life as a waste of time”;
3. “Existential constructor” / “Life as an achievement” / “Life against life”, “Life as a waste of time”, “Life as a dream”.

The first model is observed among the respondents who in real life are focused on following external rules, and have clear internal principles and attitudes that allow them to overcome difficulties, optimize relationships with others, and live in accordance with externally set requirements. When making plans for the future, the respondents dream about

success or the opportunity to prepare themselves for a correct and stable life, consciously denying confrontation and confrontation as ways to achieve individual results.

Within the framework of the second model, the respondents perceive the real period of life as stretched in time, as some preparation for a more valuable and important stage that will come later or after, when it will be possible to improve social status, achieve the desired or be like everyone else, and live according to generally accepted norms. In addition to aggressive forms of defending their interests, these respondents also reject a waste of time and meaningless activities in life, since it is obvious that preparing for the implementation of their plans and concrete successes in life require initiative and energy.

The third model is characteristic of the respondents who are currently thinking about the meaning of human existence, issues of life and death, fate and life path, accepting themselves and other people with all their positive and negative qualities. At the same time, these convicts also strive for self-actualization and achievements in the future; their attitudes to positive

aspiration and activity are evidenced by the rejection of life associated with a tough struggle or waste of life time, passivity and idleness.

Thus, the results of the empirical study show an active life position of the surveyed female convicts participating in the resocialization project, their focus on solving individual life tasks and achieving success in the future, their willingness to use time, extracting possible personal benefits, rationally and in accordance with planned goals in the future.

Conclusion

First, guidelines for the humanization of the modern Russian penal system should be based on a comprehensive approach to solving the key task – resocialization of convicts, being released and had been released from correctional facilities. We assign a significant role to the dissemination of practices for the introduction of special programs implemented within the framework of the activities of public organizations, civil society institutions aimed at correcting and motivating law-abiding behavior of this category of persons. A promising direction is to increase the efficiency of resocialization of convicts and achieve the necessary ratio between the final results of certain actions with the effects and costs associated with this activity. In this context, we consider it expedient to use the potential of unique psychotechnics that allow revealing the ideological position of the convict and the semantic content of his/her life path. The results of the conducted research can be useful in assessing the experience of implementing programs for resocialization of persons released from penitentiary institutions.

Second, the study of key subjective life models of female convicts serving a criminal sentence in the form of imprisonment in one of the correctional facilities of Krasnodar Krai,

participants in social adaptation programs, allows us to talk about their activity, focus on future achievements, practicality and rationality in life planning. “Life according to the rules”, “Life as a preface” and “Life as an achievement” chosen by female convicts as “real” or “ideal” variants of life are socially approved in modern socio-economic realities and are meaningfully implemented by most people. The choice of the life option “Existential constructor” characterizes the personality of female convicts as mature, with altruistic values.

Third, the analysis of the psychological approach to the life of the female convicts participating in the project shows the choice and construction of their own lifestyle approved in society, which can be implemented within the framework of social rules and demonstrates their aspiration to restore social functions and integration into society.

And, finally, practice irrefutably proves that the participation of public organizations makes a significant contribution to the prevention of recidivism, has a positive impact on the effectiveness of combating crime, significantly expanding its capabilities, contributing to the implementation of the principle of rational use of means of correcting convicts and stimulating their law-abiding behavior, combining punishment with corrective action. The development of penal legislation defining the powers of public institutions in the correction of offenders reflects the increasing social significance of one of the main areas of the fight against crime – crime prevention. In order to increase the educational and preventive impact it seems expedient to consolidate in the penal legislation the powers of public institutions for the correction and reeducation of persons and strengthen the stimulating moments of this activity.

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