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Modeling as a Method of Shaping a Personal Future of Convicted Women

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Abstract

Introduction: the article is devoted to the problem of studying convicted women's plans for the future and using a modeling method to shape a personal future of female convicts in conditions of imprisonment. *Purpose:* to contribute to the construction of a positive personal future of female convicts on the basis of the use of the modeling method. *Methods:* theoretical analysis of literature, modeling methods, conversation, and classification. *Results:* to analyze convicted women's plans for the personal future, we developed the following criteria: by time duration (long-term, medium-term, current), by degree of parameter determination (deterministic and probabilistic), by planned actions (reactive, inactive, preactive). During individual conversations, three groups of life plans of first-time convicted women of various ages for their personal future were identified: 1) long-term, deterministic and positive personal plans for the future; 2) medium-term or current, probable, inactive; 3) there is no model of future life. Drawing up a detailed plan, modeling the prospects of life is the basic method of a person's influence on their future. This makes it possible to more effectively build a correctional process for a more successful rehabilitation of the personality and its adaptation in society after release. *Conclusion:* plans for the future are all kinds of long-term goals (personal or professional), considered as a real benchmark of action. The personal future model is an accurate description of the life planning process, its sketch or reference point. In this study, the use of the modeling method in drawing up a personal future is a practice-oriented embodiment of life plans of convicted women, which allows them to see their future life as a whole process, as well as to isolate all components in their interrelation. Based on this, it is necessary to carry out specially organized work to study life plans of convicts, include them in various correctional programs in order to revise their views, realize the value of life, and model a positive personal future.

Key words: places of imprisonment; female convicts; educational process; modeling method; positive future of a convict; personal plans.

5.8.1. General pedagogy, history of pedagogy and education.

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Introduction

Current economic, political, legal and socio-cultural reforms in the country have led to crisis conditions in many spheres of human activity: a drop in the standard of living of the people, unemployment, an increase in crime, etc. Female crime is of particular concern, since it has a significant impact on the criminogenic situation in the country. Female crime has a cynical, cruel and aggressive nature. It has a negative impact on general crime, especially on the crime of the younger generation [1].

It is especially important to carry out correctional and educational work with convicted women serving a sentence of imprisonment for the first time in order to neutralize recidivism and prepare them for adaptation to the living conditions of modern society after release. In this regard, the activity of correctional institutions in search of the most effective measures of a psychological and pedagogical nature (forms, means, methods and directions) to reduce the level of recidivist female crime is of particular importance.

The study of the content, structure and specifics of convicts' plans for the future is of great importance in the correctional and educational process in conditions of deprivation of liberty. Plans for the future are all kinds of long-term goals (personal or professional) considered as a real guideline for action. In addition, actions should be justified, since without them a plan cannot become a reality, and achieving the goal is impossible without volitional efforts, thoughtful and responsible.

The problem of convicts' personal life plans was first posed by S.V. Poznyshev in 1925. Further it was considered in the works of Yu.Yu. Bekhterev, A.P. Evgrafov, A.S. Makarenko, V.I. Monakhov, I.V. Shmarov, B.S. Utevsii and other researchers.

Convicts' plans in connection with various aspects of life were studied by penitentiary psychologists, in particular Yu.R. Saar (problem of self-determination of personality) [2], N.A. Deeva, V.G. Deev [3; 4], V.F. Pirozhkov (personality

orientation) [5], A.I. Ushatkov (volitional activity of a person) [6], A.N. Sukhov (conflicts in communication) [7], and M.G. Debolskii (possibility of correcting life plans of convicts) [8]. Nowadays, this problem is reflected in the works of I.S. Ganishina, A.V. Napris, S.V. Rusakov, E.V. Savvina, A.S. Chertovikova and other researchers.

It is relevant to study plans for a personal future, since a long time isolation has a profound negative impact on the psyche, which affects the process of correction in places of deprivation of liberty [9; 10]. Most women have no idea what they will do when they are released, there is no motivation for goal-setting, etc. All this does not contribute to successful resocialization of convicts in places of deprivation of liberty and can lead to recidivism [8; 11–13]. The above circumstances indicate the need to study the problem posed and confirm its relevance.

Classification of life plans of convicted women

The author's classification was developed on the basis of current typologies and classifications of life plans [1; 14–17]. We proceeded from the needs of practice (introduction of the achievements of pedagogical science into practice), requirements of the correctional process development logic and the availability of new theoretical concepts of education (taking into account the regularities of organization of the content and methodology of the process), the need to find new ways to re-socialize convicts.

We developed criteria of life plans to assess convicted women' plans for the future:

1) according to time duration. It is a perspective of the plan, a time period for which the convict can plan her life. It can be long-term (from 10 to 25 years), medium-term (from 3 to 10 years) and current (for 1 year, 6 or 3 months).

We relied on the doctrine of perspective lines developed by A.S. Makarenko. The researcher determined the importance of near, medium and long-term prospects, considering them as important tools for managing the process of

education, with the help of which students' activities become more expedient and purposeful. Different perspectives make it possible to make a person's life activity more fascinating and to fill it with new content [18].

A.V. Napris characterized life plans of convicts according to the scale of relations and impact on life, defining three groups of convicts: convicts with close, medium and long-term life plans [17];

2) according to the degree of parameter determination, since any process can be represented as a sequence of cycles and intermediate goals. Parameters of the plan are independent variable criteria that fully and unambiguously determine the task to be solved; in our work they are presented as deterministic (more specific and private goals, assessment of their significance and priority) and probabilistic (uncertain and approximate definition of goals or their absence). Project parameters are plans and means of achieving planned goals related, for example, to family, building relationships with children and parents, work, profession and career, realization of one's own desires and aspirations, etc. can serve as project parameters;

3) according to planned actions. They can be: a) reactive, that is, focused on consolidating achievements of the past, and they can act as positive assessments of their life results (successes, awards, incentives, etc.) and negative (criminal life); b) inactive, when a person refuses bringing out the past, forgets his/her mistakes, and strives for the future, perceived as quite good or at least acceptable; c) preactive, when person's activity is aimed at transforming reality, accelerating changes, and approaching the future in the search for optimal solutions.

The selected criteria are logically and internally connected and represent a system that is understood as their functional relationship through the inclusion of elements of some criteria in the composition of others and through the implementation of the same functions based on different indicators.

Modeling as a method of forming convicts' life plans

The creation of a pedagogically expedient and effective system of rehabilitation of convicts in conditions of deprivation of liberty is impossible without special activities related to its modeling and construction. The interest in the problem of creating a model is not accidental, since the reform of the penal system implies humanization and democratization of the correctional process, as well as transition to a personality-oriented paradigm. This method suggests development of a system that would be optimal for a particular convict.

In the methodology of scientific cognition, the modeling method is understood as a systematic study through which a model is created that reproduces the properties and relationships between elements of a cognizable object or phenomenon. The concept "model" is multidimensional and used in many different senses. One of the founders of the theoretical modeling method in the methodology of science V.A. Shtoff considered the model as a mentally imagined and materially realized system that, reflecting the object of research, is able to replace it so that its study gives us new information about its object [19]. The modeling method, consisting in establishing quantitative relationships between indicators and factors determining them, was discussed in works of many scientists (S.R. Boguslavskii, E.V. Bondarevskaya, V.A. Karakovskii, V.V. Kraevskii, L.I. Novikova, E.A. Yamburg, and others). Each model has a special psychological and intellectual atmosphere, as well as spiritual and moral climate.

In this study, the use of the modeling method in the formation of a personal future is a practice-oriented implementation of life plans of convicted women, which helps them to consider their future life as a holistic process, as well as to isolate all components in their relationship.

The personal future model is an accurate description of the life planning process. Modeling the future is a strategic planning of life, its

sketch, a reference point. Our logical filters “interpret” our “reality”, a person analyzes his life activity and chooses what is possible/impossible, will / will not work, to do / not to do, makes sense / makes no sense, etc., and our unconscious calculates risks and makes hints in the form of intuition and various premonitions. Researchers have proved that when a person sets a goal, thinking about his/her future, preferably imaging it in detail, then life achievements increase many times.

Drawing up a detailed plan and modeling life prospects is the basic method of a person’s influence on their future. Not having goals means going with the flow, waiting for others to decide and do everything for you, making momentary rash decisions, making mistakes, fulfilling other people’s goals, etc. In this regard, it is important to know convicts’ plans for the future and the model of life after release, etc. This makes it possible to more effectively build a correctional process for a more successful resocialization of the individual and his/her adaptation in society after release [16; 20–24].

Studying convicted women’s plans for the future

Plans of convicted women first-time serving their sentences in places of deprivation of liberty were studied during individual conversations in the correctional facility No. 1 of the Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the Vologda Oblast. Thirty women of various ages took part in them.

Analysis of the results shows that many respondents make plans related to family and further work (40%). Moreover, plans are long-term and mostly deterministic, that is, with clearly defined parameters, as well as focused on consolidating positive achievements of the past.

So, M., 34 years old, has two children. She is divorced. The son is studying at a university, the daughter is 5 years old, brought up by her grandmother. The convict is proud of her children. She actively maintains contacts with relatives. She is not a member of creative associations and has no hobbies. She works as

a seamstress in the correctional facility. She enjoys working, since time passes faster when being busy. Before her conviction, she worked as a seller in a fruit and vegetable pavilion. After her release, she plans to raise children, pay special attention to upbringing of her daughter, and continue working as a seller.

It should be noted that in the conversation about life plans, the convict speaks negatively about the time of the crime commission, “I hope the time in the correctional institution will do me good. And I am starting a new life without all the bad things that have surrounded me. I have already learnt my life lessons”.

There is another example: convict N., 21 years old, wants to make a career more than to start a family after her release. She mentions, “First I will finish my studies and get a job. I do not want to live on my parents’ money, I am tired of it”. In the correctional facility, she receives an education as a manager and is going to get an appropriate job. Though she understands difficulties of finding a good job place having a criminal record, she does not lose hope. After release she is also going to move to her place of residence and take care of her parents.

Convicts with long-term, deterministic and positive personal plans for the future are rather confident, while their statements are colored by positive emotional experiences. It is important for convicts to realize that not all the planned events will come true, but modeling the future will help to realize their aspirations and find new solutions and ways to achieve goals.

At the same time, quite a large part of respondents (45%) do not have specific plans and when answering a question about their future, they use general phrases and show uncertainty in this area of life.

The convict L., 50 years old, answers ambiguously and vaguely to the question “What are your personal plans for life after release?”; she claims that she wants to work only for herself (“not for someone else”) and only in her profession, while noting that it is unlikely to work out and she will retire soon. At the same time,

she is afraid of not finding a job in the future, “since prison leaves its imprint on a person and who will employ “such a person”, specifying that “money is needed to raise her son”. She does not work in a correctional institution due to illness and has little interest in life. She does not want to remember her past and tries to forget it.

The convict O., 43 years old, answers questions about her plans after release briefly and reluctantly, says mainly that she will return to normal life, since both her husband and daughter are waiting for her release, and also claims that she will try to get a job. At the same time, she notes, “after my release, I will not be able to return to my previous job, since I worked at a school for the disabled, took care of children who are not able to do it on their own. Now I regret it”. At the same time, in case of an unsuccessful attempt to get a job, she does not know what will do.

There is a contrast between “I want to return to my former job” and “they will not employ me”, the convict has no plan and understanding of her future life.

So, we can observe poor work planning and vague understanding of life and employment after release. These plans are classified as medium-term or current, probabilistic (with fuzzy parameters), and inactive.

The convicts of this group demonstrate negative emotional experiences and focus mainly on encountered negative circumstances, which they transfer to their future. So, many of them have lost confidence and meaning of life and live for the moment.

Among the respondents, the category of persons who practically do not have a model of future life (15%) is also singled out. These convicts make contradictory statements or show complete indifference to their future life. So, for example, the convict at the beginning of the conversation talks about personal plans for further employment. She had attempts to find a job before her conviction, but there were problems with the medical admission of the drug

dispensary. She is not officially employed at the correctional facility, because she does not find it important with four months left before her release. The relationships in the team are neutral, she tries to lead an independent life without communication, and communicates when necessary. She imagines how her son and relatives will meet her after release and concludes, “I will not get on drugs anymore”, “it is better without them”. However, at the end of the conversation, answering the question “Can you say that you will no longer take drugs and will not return here?” she answers, “I am not sure about that!”.

In the category of convicted women without definite plans, future life is permeated with fatalism and pessimism. The most common statements are the following: “I do not want anything”, “I do not aspire to anything”, “I do not know what to be”, etc. This type of respondents does not understand how to live on, and this triggers personal protest.

It should be noted that modeling of plans for the future is influenced by the level of stability of the social environment. Therefore, the uncertainty of personal life is becoming the norm, as many do not see any sense in this in connection with the situation in the country, believing that it is not too favorable for planning a personal future. At the same time, we note the importance of analysis and adequate assessment of the past. It is important for further personality change and, in the course of psychological and pedagogical influence, can provide significant assistance to convicted women in modeling their lives and determining prospects for the future.

Results

Thus, to analyze convicted women’s plans for their personal future, the following criteria were developed: by time duration (long-term, medium-term, current), the degree of parameter determination (deterministic and probabilistic), planned actions (reactive, inactive, pre-active).

During individual conversations, three groups of life plans of newly convicted women

of various ages were identified: 1) long-term, deterministic and positive personal plans for the future; 2) medium-term or current, besides probabilistic, inactive plans; 3) plans of convicts who do not have a model of future life.

Convicts demonstrate positive or negative emotional experiences and rely on life circumstances that they transfer to the future. They whether show confidence in their choice or not, whether find the meaning of life or not. At the same time, the higher the person's activity in realizing the importance of life prospects and the ability to plan results of their activities, monitor their achievement, assess their level, analyze shortcomings and self-correct them, the higher the person's readiness for correction. These convicts define goals, tasks and actions on the implementation of plans in real life more actively and more accurately.

In the process of modeling the personal future of convicts, it is necessary to take into account the specifics of their age. In youth self-esteem, own feelings, experiences and motives are important; acquired values, beliefs, and ideals gradually transform into life plans. In addition, researchers note that at 40–50 it is much more difficult to change life plans.

So, for correctional and educational work in this direction to be effective, it is necessary to further study the problem of the personal future of convicts: their genesis, classification, diagnosis, actualization, change, correction, self-regulation, etc.

Conclusion

Thus, convicts with long-term strategies of their lives build more detailed plans with clearly defined parameters and are focused on consolidating achievements of the past. It is proved that people who set certain goals do not give up when they fail, gradually move forward, adjust and revise tasks, and adapt to current conditions. This is the key to success in life for any person.

In this regard, it is necessary to carry out specially organized work to study life plans of convicts and include them in various correctional programs, so that convicts could revise their views, understand the value of their lives, and model a positive future. All this will enhance effectiveness of the resocialization process in conditions of deprivation of liberty and encourage convicts to correct and follow the rules, approved by modern society and accepted by law-abiding citizens.

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