



Attitude of Convicts Addicted to Alcohol to Their Family

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Abstract

Introduction: the article considers the attitude of convicts addicted to alcohol to their family. This category of convicts is a special group in a penitentiary institution, since their individual psychological characteristics are often disharmonious. Therefore, it is important to study the nature of the interaction of these persons with other convicts, employees of institutions, as well as with their loved ones and family. *Purpose:* to identify the specifics of attitude to the family of convicts with alcohol dependence. *Methods:* theoretical analysis of literature; method of generalization and comparison; psychodiagnostic techniques ("Family Environment Scale" by S.Yu. Kupriyanov and "Family Drawing" by G.V. Huels). *Results:* it is revealed that convicts with addiction have mental changes with manifestation of strong emotions as a result of withdrawal from reality, which manifests itself in destructive behavior. This category of convicts is not focused on changing their personality, they have no plans for self-education, there is no motivation to predict their future. A lack of self-control, violations of constructive communication and low self-esteem contribute to negative relationships in the family, manifested in a lack of self-esteem, violation of the emotional sphere and causes difficulties in maintaining long-term and trusting relationships. *Conclusion:* it is the family that has a strong impact on the convict's personality and can contribute either to correction or promote antisocial criminal behavior. Convicts with alcohol dependence find it difficult to openly express their emotions and are characterized by conflict and depressive manifestations, unyielding moral views, etc. To work with this category of persons, it is advisable to use specially developed psychological and pedagogical programs aimed at correcting the distorted family values of the convict, developing skills of perceiving information and forming skills of establishing psychological contact. The main tasks of correctional work will be to develop a sense of respect and acceptance of family members, to form a responsible attitude to family ties and obligations, as well as understanding the need for family and planning future family relationships to prevent recidivism and establish socially useful connections with close people and relatives who are waiting for them at large.

Key words: penitentiary institutions, convicts, convicts addicted to alcohol, family, family relations, interaction in the family, correctional work of a psychologist.

5.3.9. Legal psychology and accident psychology.

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Introduction

In Russia, the problem of alcoholism as uncontrolled alcohol consumption and dependence on it is an important task that needs to be resolved, since alcohol not only destroys human health, but also affects his/her family relationships and the work quality [1]. According to the World Health Organization, Russia occupies one of the first places in the world in terms of alcohol consumption per capita. According to experts, the percentage of alcoholics in Russia is steadily growing (approximately 600 thousand divorces, of which 40% are related to drunkenness of the husband or wife; in addition, alcohol is a cause or risk factor for more than 50% of cases of domestic violence). In this regard, alcoholism is not just a personal problem of a person, but a nationwide problem that requires a comprehensive and effective solution [2].

An increase in the number of alcohol-dependent persons has a significant impact on the crime rate in the country: every fourth crime (28.2%) was committed while intoxicated [3]. In this regard, a large number of convicts addicted to alcohol dependence are held in penitentiary institutions. This category of convicts is a special group in a penitentiary institution, since their individual psychological characteristics are often disharmonious. Alcohol addicts require constant psychological supervision. An adequate strategy for psychological correctional measures focused on solving and preventing interpersonal conflicts is necessary. Therefore, it is crucial to study the specifics of their relationship with other convicts, employees of institutions, and their family.

Being in a difficult life situation, the family of a person deprived of liberty experiences difficulties, which interfere with normal activities of its members. Exceeding conventional adaptive capacity, this family requires considerable psychological and material resources to overcome these challenges and obstacles. A sudden crisis even leads to the misbalance of a family system and requires adaptation to a new reality.

Coverage of the studied problem in the scientific literature

In Russian pedagogy and psychology, the phenomenon of the family was studied by such scientists as Yu.M. Antonyan [4], A.A. Bodalev [5], T.S. Drabkina [6], A.Ya. Varga [6], T.P. Deusova [7], V.L. Levi [8], A.N. Leont'ev [9], A.S. Makarenko [10], V.V. Stolin [5], K.D. Ushinskii [11] and others. These authors developed theoretical and practical approaches to the study of family-parent relations, described key mechanisms, the general structure and features of the domestic family system. Foreign scientists J. Brown and D. Kristknsen [12], V. Satyr [13], J. Haley [14], L.B. Schneider [15], M. Erickson [14] introduced the concept of a family system and described patterns of the institution of the family.

Scientists note that the family is one of the most important components of our lives, the foundation of society and the place where values, attitudes and behavior are formed. The role of the family especially increases during the serving of a criminal sentence, as it helps overcome a stressful life situation.

At the same time, the causes of criminal behavior of a person may also form in the family [16]. Family members, by their attitude to the criminal act committed by the convicted person, can express their inherent social position (approval, condemnation, tacit consent, active protest, provocation, involvement in criminal activity, etc.). It is the family that has a strong impact on the personality of the convicted person and can contribute either to correction or, conversely, encourage him/her to antisocial criminal behavior.

When considering relations between alcohol addicts and their families, it is important to know individual characteristics of these people. So, a valuable contribution to the study of this problem is made by B.S. Bratus' [17], I.M. Gryaznov [18], V. Zeigarnik [19], Ts.P. Korolenko [20], A.E. Lichko [21], V.V. Marilov [22] and others. Scientists note psychological characteristics of the personality of alcohol addicts,

such as moral immaturity, pronounced infantilism, extreme selfishness and individualism, affective thinking, decreased sense of criticism, complacency, overestimated self-esteem, decreased self-criticism, tendency to self-deception, irresponsibility to oneself and loved ones, unreliability, extreme resourcefulness bordering on falsehood and irresponsible fantasy, and weakening of reflection.

Organization of research on the study of family-parental relations of convicts with alcohol dependence

The study was conducted on the basis of the correctional facility No. 12 of the Directorate of the FPS of Russia in the Vologda Oblast. The empirical study covered convicts with alcohol dependence (150 men). S.Yu. Kupriyanov's psychodiagnostic technique "Family Environment Scale" was chosen for the study (10 scales: team spirit, expressiveness, conflict, independence, moral aspect, organization, control; a total of 90 questions [23]). The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Study results obtained with the help of S.Yu. Kupriyanov's method "Family Environment Scale"

Scale	Average values
Team spirit	6.2
Expressiveness	5.1
Conflict	6.4
Independence	4.3
Performance orientation	5.0
Intellectual and cultural orientation	4.8
Active recreation orientation	4.9
Moral aspect	4.6
Organization	5.6
Control	3.6

The data indicate that convicts with alcohol dependence cannot express their feelings and emotions openly and suppress them when communicating with the loved ones ("Expressiveness" scale). Alcohol may help them to experience what they lack in their family and compensate for the missing interpersonal communication and contacts; all this leads to the formation of biological and psychological dependence on alcohol.

These tables also indicate that people with alcohol dependence often become participants in conflict relationships in the family ("Conflict" scale). At the same time, being in conflict family situations, a person, as a rule, has low self-esteem, demonstrates insecurity and a tendency to depressive states. It can also be expressed in aggression and cruelty, deterioration of relationships with others and eventually lead to the commission of illegal acts. These individuals find it more difficult to assimilate moral and general cultural values.

The study results also demonstrate that alcohol addicts have low values on the "Independence" and "Control" scales. This may indicate that these respondents have low-level characterological features, such as the desire for self-affirmation, behavior control, independence in decision-making, severity of the hierarchy of the family organization and the degree of interest of family members to each other.

Convicts with alcohol dependence are characterized by the absence of social interests, infantilism and a low level of stress tolerance. Their worldview is narrow and focused only on obtaining a dependence object. Convicts of this category find it difficult to establish communication links and are afraid of stable relationships, therefore they formally fulfill those social roles that are imposed on them. At the same time, external sociability of addictive personalities is a manifestation of manipulative behavior with unstable and superficial emotional connections characteristic of them.

Besides, we used the method of V. Huels "Family Drawing" [24], developed in 1951 and designed to identify features of intra-family relations (attitude to family members, perception of their role in the family, characteristics of relationships that cause anxious and conflicted feelings). The surveyed is given instructions, a standard sheet of paper, pencils and an eraser. The sequence of drawing family members and their occupation, spatial location, image quality, etc. are analyzed. The results are presented in Table 2.

Study results obtained using the method of V. Huels "Family Drawing"

Table 2

Feature	Interpretation	Number of convicts indicated this feature (%)
Image of a complete family	Favorable family situation	72
Image of a single-parent family	Unfavorable family situation	28
Absence of the author	Feeling of insecurity, rejection	24
Close proximity of family members	Close ties, need for emotional intimacy	68
Distance between family members (family members are distant)	Separation, weakness of emotional contacts	32
Distance between family members (the author is isolated)	Degree of trust	12
Drawing accuracy degree (head, hands)	Good mood, relaxed, lack of tension	28
Type of image (decorating clothes)	Favorable relationships, plenty of attention	28
Use of bright colors	Presence of positive emotions	0
Large size of the figures depicted	High importance of the depicted object	28
Central location of people in the drawing	Adequate level of self-esteem	52
Presence of other elements (nature, animals, houses)	Lack of communication, warm relationships	56

According to the study results obtained using the "Family Drawing" method, 24% of the convicts with alcohol dependence lack a sense of community with their family, are rejected by family members, and lack emotional contact with relatives. The location of family members in the drawings also indicates psychological characteristics of their relationship. Thus, most respondents have close proximity to family members. This is probably due to the fact that, being in isolation, convicts begin to appreciate emotional contacts with their relatives. In 12% of the cases, the author is depicted in the drawings in isolation from other family members, which indicates a low degree of trust.

Also, 28% of the convicts with alcohol dependence have elements of clothing decoration in their drawings, which indicates insufficiently favorable family relations and affluence of attention from relatives. In the majority of the convicts' drawings, all family members are not located in the central part of the sheet, which indicates an insufficiently stable self-esteem. Drawing nature, animals, houses and other additions may indicate an attempt to fill the void, compensate for the lack of close, warm relationships, and emotional connections. These details are presented in most drawings.

Results

The study results show that convicts with addiction have mental changes with manifestation of strong emotions as a result of withdrawal

from reality, which manifests itself in destructive behavior. This category of convicts is not focused on changing their personality, they have no plans for self-education, no motivation to predict their future. A lack of self-control, violations of constructive communication and low self-esteem contribute to negative relationships in the family, manifested in a lack of self-esteem and violation of the emotional sphere, and causes difficulties in maintaining long-term and trusting relationships.

To work with this category of persons, it is advisable to use specially developed psychological and pedagogical programs aimed at correcting distorted family values of the convict, developing skills to perceive information and forming skills to establish psychological contact (sample topics for program development: "Family is the basic value of society", "Social adaptation of personality", "Development and formation of family values", "Family is the seven selves", etc.).

Conclusion

Alcohol consumption is a serious problem of modern society, as it has a negative impact not only on human health, but also on an increase in the crime rate in the country. Therefore, employees of penitentiary institutions need to pay attention to convicts with alcohol dependence, who are characterized by mood swings, depressive manifestations, unyielding moral views, etc.

Studying the specifics of relations between these convicts and their families, it is revealed that they have a negative character of communication with loved ones, which causes difficulties in maintaining long-term and trusting relationships. Crucial tasks of correctional work will be formation of respect for family members and a responsible attitude to family ties and obligations and inoculation of the need for family and planning future family relationships in order to prevent recidivism and establish socially useful ties with relatives who are waiting for them at large.

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