

The Issue of an Offender's Personality in Criminology

Abstract

The major topic of my diploma thesis is the issue of an offender's personality in criminology. The aim of this thesis is to introduce the reader to the issue from criminological perspective, to make him familiar with various opinions on an offender's personality which have developed throughout the history, and to describe the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and criminality against children and juveniles.

The cardinal topic of the first part is scientific discipline criminology with its historical roots, distribution to particular subdisciplines, and relation to other criminal sciences.

The second part provides a summary of main criminological schools and theories which have been formed since the beginning of criminological thinking and had different opinions on offender and his personality.

The term criminal offender has various meanings from the view of substantive criminal law, procedural criminal law, and the view of criminology. These meanings are explained in the third part.

The most important is the fourth part which deals with an offender's personality, relevant internal and external factors that are affecting human personality and the best-known typologies focused on offender's biological dispositions, psychological dispositions, and impact of social environment. Knowledge of an offender's personality and motivation to committing a crime play an important role in both deciding about his guilt and punishment and creating preventive activities.

This thesis specializes in juvenile delinquency in the fifth part. Juvenile delinquency has its typical characteristics which make it different from the criminality committed by adults. Besides these characteristics this part devotes to punishing juveniles for crimes and discusses prevention.

Last part deals with the issue of criminality against children and juveniles. This undesirable phenomenon is typical of high latency and reluctance of the society to announce crimes committed against children. That makes fighting against it even more complicated.

Key words: offender's personality, criminology, juvenile delinquency