EFFECT OF AMATEUR ORGANIZATIONS ON CORRECTION PROCESS AND RE-SOCIALIZATION OF PRISONERS

The article addresses to the influence of amateur organizations of convicts on their involvement in socially useful activities and personal development. The directions and tasks of amateur organizations activity of convicts and the role of administration of penal institutions in creating conditions necessary for support of convicts’ positive initiative are analyzed. Proposals to strengthen the role of amateur organizations of convicts, taking into account foreign experience were made.

Key words: amateur organization, convicts, council of convicts’ collective, convicts’ useful initiative, foreign experience.

Target setting. In prisons there are persons of different ages, social status, social ties, interests, levels of criminality, and more. Long term imprisonment leaves a mark on a person’s worldview, needs, and admiration. Inability to organize and meaningfully spend free time and leisure often causes unlawful behavior in prisons. Amateur organizations of convicts are the fuse that allows to direct the energy of convicts in a positive direction and contributes to the development of their useful initiative, the formation of human relationships in their environment, acquiring the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities that contribute to further successful re-socialization after release from sentences. At the same time, sometimes in prisons there are rules of the so-called “other life”, which predetermines the prejudiced attitude of some convicted persons to participate in the work of amateur organizations, and therefore the consideration of the problem of involving convicted prisoners in the work of these organizations, both in the legal sphere and in the moral one, is relevant enough and timely.
**Actual scientific researches and issues analysis.** Research on the work of amateur organizations of convicts, as a rule, was limited to the analysis of the legal framework and found its reflection in the publications of lawyers Bohatyrov I.H., Vasylevych V.V., Dzhuzhi O.M., Kolb O.H. and others, as well as in scientific works of teachers and psychologists, such as Karaman O.L., Kushnivova T.V., Tretiak O.S., Kharchenko S. Ya. and others. At the same time, problems related to enhancing the role of amateur organizations in the context of convicts’ motivation and creating appropriate conditions for the development of their useful initiative in order to correct and re-socialize considering the opportunities of social-educational and psychological service of penitentiary institutions and foreign experience, have not found sufficient foundation.

**Purpose setting.** Consideration of legal regulation and peculiarities of activity of amateur organizations sentenced in penitentiary institutions considering domestic and foreign experience and determination of their role in the process of correcting and re-socialization of persons held in places of freedom.

**The statement of basic materials.** The analysis of scientific publications devoted to amateur organizations of convicts showed that amateur organizations of convicts in the territory of Ukraine began to exist in Soviet times. According to Metlin D.H., establishing correctional institutions and deployment of educational work with prisoners in them, the sphere of manifestations of amateur activity of the prisoners, which sometimes took various forms. [6, p. 163–164].

Describing the structure of these organizations, which began to function in the 1950s, Metlin D.H. writes that: “Amateur organizations of those times were a kind of linear system built on several levels. The internal order section, like other sections, was formed and function at the level of the correctional institution collective and the lower level - for the detachment collective. General management of the organization of the section was carried out by the deputy head of the correctional institution, who was engaged in issues of regime compliance and operational work» [6, p. 166].

At the present stage, the legislation regulates that amateur organizations of convicts are created in colonies for the purpose of development in the prisoners of useful initiative, social activity,
healthy interpersonal relationships, participation in solving issues of work organization, training, rest, life, influence on development useful social connections (Article 127 of the Criminal-Executive Code of Ukraine) [3].

The legislator establishes rules that any participation in amateur organizations is a voluntary affair of every convict, his socially useful activity is encouraged by the administration of the colony and is taken into account in determining the degree of his correction [4].

At the same time, tasks assigned to members of amateur convicts’ organizations include tasks such as: assisting prisoners in spiritual, professional, and physical development; development of a useful initiative of convicts; positive impact on the corrections of convicts; participation in solving the issues of organization of work, life and leisure of prisoners assistance to the administration of penitentiary institutions in support of discipline and order, formation of healthy relations between prisoners; providing social assistance to prisoners and their families [5].

All these tasks are not limited to the mentioned list. Amateur organizations of convicts may have other goals that do not contradict the tasks, procedures and conditions of execution of punishment. It has been established that persons who have proven themselves positive are included in amateur organizations in penitentiary institutions. From among such convicts, councils are created for the staff of the institution and branches of the social and psychological service [10].

A whole procedure is provided in order for a convicted person to become a member of the amateur organization. He must write an application and submit it for consideration to the prisoners’ collective council. Only after the decision of the council of the convicted staff is included in the section in which he wishes to work [10].

The legislation provides a list of sections in which a convicted person may be involved. These sections, whose activities should be aimed at addressing issues related to the organization of the life of prisoners, leisure, training, work, etc. are such as: amateur art; arts and crafts; library (literary); spiritual and educational; sanitary-household; educational; physical and sports; production, etc. [10].
Given that juveniles prefer active recreation, creativity, sports, communication by virtue of age characteristics, one of the types of amateur work, it can be considered holding in the educational institutions of the All-Ukrainian festival of amateur art "Red guilder rose".

According to the Ukrainian legislation, the council of convicts’ detachments is obliged to:
- develop activity of convicts, to organize execution of their permanent and one-time assignments;
- assist the newly arrived convicts in the period of their adaptation to the conditions of serving the sentence;
- promote the formation of legitimate behavior and prevention of conflicts among convicts, to provide public assessment of violations of prisoners of the established penitentiary regime;
- involve prisoners in amateur sections;
- analyze and direct the activity of units (teams) for the tasks performance;
- analyze the work and direct the activities of the sections for the implementation of planned activities;
- execute the decisions of the general meeting of members of amateur organizations of convicted wards and the board of the institution’s staff [10].

However, in spite of the fact that the Regulations on amateur organizations are stipulated in Ukraine, the main problem in penitentiary institutions is the invariability of sections of amateur organizations, the involvement and implementation of programs of amateur sections only in formal form, the lack of qualified specialists capable of creative approach to organizing educational activities, are not employees of the penitentiary system.

At the same time, analysis of publications [2] and own experience indicate that the criminal subculture, whose attributes are such social-negative phenomena as: stratification, small informal groups with a negative focus, nicknames, oaths, theft law and thievery traditions. All this counteracts the establishment of normal work of amateur organizations of convicts and prevents the recruitment of new representatives to their ranks.

The experience of foreign countries can be interesting in terms of solving these problems. So, in order to ensure a positive impact on
juveniles in German prisons, in 1974 a form of re-socialization was introduced, such as training for minors in order to organize their leisure, solve everyday problems and displace social skills [14, p. 81].

As Muraviov K. notes, the conditions of detention of convicts are quite free compared to the conditions of detention of prisoners in domestic penitentiary institutions. If the convicted person has served 18 months of imprisonment, then he or she is entitled to leave, and if he/she is a life sentence. Great importance is given to the imprisonment of religious ceremonies for which there are no restrictions. To maintain an appropriate detention regime, a system of disciplinary action on prisoners, promotion measures, special security measures is provided. Professional and general education, medical services are also organized. In prisons in Germany the system of social rehabilitation of prisoners is quite clear, much attention is paid to the process of social adaptation of those released from serving sentences” [7, p. 241].

Unlike in Germany, the penitentiary institutions in France “use a progressive system of serving sentences, organize the work of prisoners, professional and general education”. Among the major defects in the penitentiary system in France are the “poor condition of the buildings where convicts are held, the cruel treatment of convicted prisoners and prison staff, the inability of prisoners to perform socially useful work, and the low level and inaccessibility of school and vocational education in penitentiary places that prevent individual access to each of the prisoners by the administration» [7, p. 243].

In penitentiary institutions in Poland, in order to achieve a positive outcome in terms of correcting prisoners and maximizing their access to society, prisons were made open to public scrutiny and to the enforcement of penalties in the Right to Every Day program [12, p. 147].

In California (USA), convicts have regular access to training and various correctional programs. The training of convicted firefighters is very popular, as there are often fires in California. Each institution has several dozen programs. Among the most "exotic" - underwater welding, radio affairs (prisoners have their own radio waves), programming, photography. The prisoners receive “credits” for their participation in the programs, which allow them to shorten their term [13].
In Norway, while in being in prison, convicts are required to lead active lifestyles, such as study, community service, participation in various programs and trainings to prepare for release and social adaptation. All convicts must undergo sufficiently long courses in understanding certain social concepts, such as intelligence, morality, ethics, and pass exams in the following subjects: “Correct conflict resolution”, “Stress and emotional tension”, “Literacy and engagement with the social environment” etc. [11].

**Conclusions.** Development of useful initiative of convicts, their social activity, healthy interpersonal relationships that do not contradict the tasks, order and conditions of execution of punishments are greatly facilitated by amateur organizations. Considering that amateur organizations of convicts are entrusted with such important functions as solving issues related to the organization of life, leisure, training, work of prisoners, etc. to improve their work in penitentiary institutions:

1) to develop active cooperation of penitentiary institutions with governmental and non-governmental organizations, and involve them in the creation of appropriate conditions and arrangement of the sections (rooms, classes, workshops, sports grounds, etc.) to meet the goals of specific amateur prisoners;

2) to activate effective incentives to engage convicts in amateur organizations. Such incentives may be: interesting and useful activities; points that will be considering when assessing the degree of adjustment and the accrual of cash incentives; the opportunity to obtain leave outside the penitentiary institution; protection against convicts who have a negative orientation; attracting qualified specialists to work with convicts, who are able to support and help the convicts interestingly and professionally in the implementation of their useful initiative;

3) to organize exhibitions of arts and crafts more often, as well as amateur concerts, creative evenings, sports competitions, etc., in order to demonstrate the achievements of members of amateur organizations of convicts.

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ВПЛИВ САМОДІЯЛЬНИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ НА ПРОЦЕС ВИПРАВЛЕННЯ ТА РЕСОЦІАЛІЗАЦІЇ ЗАСУДЖЕНИХ

У статті розглянуто питання впливу самодіяльної організації засуджених на залучення їх до суспільно корисної діяльності та розвиток особистості. Визначено особливості правового режиму діяльності самодіяльної організації засуджених в установі виконання покарань. Проаналізовано напрями та завдання діяльності самодіяльних організацій засуджених та роль адміністрації установи виконання покарань у створенні умов, необхідних для підтримки позитивної ініціативи засуджених. Вироблено пропозиції щодо посилення ролі самодіяльних організацій засуджених з урахуванням зарубіжного досвіду. Зроблено висновки про те, що на самодіяльні організації засуджених покладено такі важливі функції, як вирішення питань, пов’язаних з організацією побуту, дозвілля, навчання, праці засуджених тощо, а тому для покращення їх роботи в установах виконання покарань бажано: 1) розвивати активну співпрацю установ виконання покарань з урядовими та неурядовими організаціями та задіяти дієві стимули для залучення засуджених до участі в самодіяльних організаціях; 2) задосібно підвищувати ступінь залучення засуджених до активної участі в самодіяльних організаціях; 3) частіше організовувати виставки виробів декоративно-прикладного мистецтва, концерти художньої самодіяльності, творчі вечори, спортивні змагання тощо з метою демонстрації досягнень членів самодіяльних організацій засуджених.