Contemporary forms and methods of counteracting narcotization of the youth

Сучасні форми та методи протидії наркотизації серед молоді

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Abstract

The purpose of the paper is to examine the most efficient forms and methods of counteracting narcotization in society, especially of the youth, and also to characterize the most important factors of the proliferation of narcotization. The authors used the following methods in the research: dialectical, dogmatic, method of systematic analysis and comparative-legal method.

The paper analyses forms and methods of counteracting narcotization of the youth in Ukraine and worldwide. It elaborates the definition of the following terms: “narcotization”, “counteracting narcotization”, “forms of counteracting narcotization” and “methods of counteracting narcotization”. It ascertains that emerging and proliferation of narcotization has a direct correlation with the complex of social factors, each one of them obtained a specific characteristic. Besides analyzing the major factors of emergence and proliferation of narcotization of the youth, the paper gives particular attention to defining forms, methods and means of counteracting this socially harmful phenomenon. The paper studies positive experience in regard to activities of law enforcement agencies of the developed countries in the sphere of counteracting narcotization,

Анотація

Метою статті є аналіз найбільш ефективних форм і методів протидії наркотизації в суспільстві, особливо серед молоді, а також надання характеристики найбільш вагомих чинників, під дією яких наркотизація отримує своє поширення. Під час написання статті авторами застосувалися такі методи наукового пізнання, як діалектичний, догматичний, системного аналізу та порівняльно-правовий.

У статті аналізуються форми та методи протидії наркотизації молоді в Україні та світі. Запропоновано визначення понять “наркотизація”, “протидія наркотизації”, “форми протидії наркотизації” та “методи протидії наркотизації”. Встановлено пряму залежність процесу виникнення та подальшого розповсюдження наркотизації від комплексу суспільних чинників, кожен із яких охарактеризований окремо. Окрім аналізу головних чинників виникнення та розповсюдження наркотизації серед молоді, не менш важливо увагу було приділено визначенню форм, методів та засобів протидії цьому негативному суспільному явищу. Вивчено позитивний досвід діяльності органів правопорядку розвинутих країн світу в сфері протидії наркотизації, у тому числі серед

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including narcotization of the youth. It emphasizes that coercive methods of reducing narcotization have much lower efficiency compared to preventive methods that are generally more humane and economically efficient. The paper formulates the conclusion about the necessity of ongoing engagement of the community in counteracting narcotization of society, especially of the youth.

**Key words:** narcotization, the youth, drug addiction, counteraction, law enforcement system, forms, methods.

**Introduction**

Today, the problem of drug trafficking among young people is a negative factor that poses a real threat to the life of society not only on the territory of Ukraine but also beyond its borders, thereby becoming transnational. Addiction to drugs has been the most important threatening factor got human which withdraw an individual from the society and makes various problems of the society. Attachment to the drug is an important health threat and a big mental and social problem and is influenced by genetic, mental, physical, and social factors (Edalat, Rostampour, 2019, p. 262).

According to scientific research, during the last years there has been a steady tendency for further aggravation of challenges posed by illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, which poses a direct threat to the national gene pool, law enforcement, and national security. Meanwhile, the world experience clearly demonstrates that the spread of HIV/AIDS leads to reduced life expectancy, increased need for health services, exacerbation of poverty, social inequality and orphanage, which require permanent increase of expenditures from state, regional and city budgets (Luzhetska, 2018).

Taken into account globalization of this problem, scientists from various fields of knowledge, public organizations, state authorities and local self-government are quite active in paying attention to the glaring deficiencies in the existing forms and methods of counteracting proliferation of such a negative phenomenon as narcotization. However, despite the adoption of numerous measures directly aimed at combating and preventing drug addiction at the national level, efforts to completely eliminate or at least substantially reduce its spread have not been able to produce the desired result. It is especially important given the signed Association Agreement between Ukraine, on the one hand, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, on the other hand (2014). This concerns implementation of the principles of a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach focusing on reducing the demand for controlled substances, which are engaged in illicit trafficking.

The facts cited above clearly demonstrate the relevance and the extreme importance of the issue raised in this paper, which became the main factor for choosing this particular topic.

The objective of the paper is to summarize and analyze the most efficient forms, methods and means of counteracting narcotization of society, especially the youth, as well as to describe major factors contributing to the further proliferation of narcotization.

**Theoretical framework**

Currently, to gain a more detailed awareness of the factors influencing emergence and development of the issue raised in this paper, we can draw on the vast experience of past generations, presented in the form of scientific works and surveys. Survey on this subject are mainly aimed at finding ways of counteracting drug-related crime, as well as formulating the most efficient methods, means and forms of its prevention.

The relevance of the new sources consists in summarizing already existing forms and methods of counteracting narcotization of the youth and ascertaining novel means for preventing proliferation of drug trafficking. Generally speaking, the most interesting achievements in
The field of counteracting narcotization are presented in scientific works of F. Amirloo (2019), J. Alaghebandrad (2019), V. M. Boychuk (2017), N. V. Bratchenko (2016), V. V. Burlaka (2008), S. K. Chatterjee (1988), M. Donchenko (2017), I. V. Drozdova (2017), Panah Edalat (2019), T. Gadomska (2013), G. Garmarudi (2019), Y. O. Hladkova (2018), A. M. Krotuyk (2015), N. A. Luzhetska (2018), O. M. Melnyk (2014), A. V. Okushko (2018), V. M. Pikhotska (2017), N. O. Pryakhina (2017), S. P. Rashevsky (2017), S. Rostampour (2019), V. A. Tymoshenko (2012), A. D. Vlasyuk (2017), V. A. Yashchenko (2012) and other scientists. Scientific works of the mentioned above and other leading experts in different fields of law provide socio-philosophical analysis of public administration in the field of counteracting narcotization, including narcotization of the youth, substantiate methodological role of the concepts and categories related to this negative social phenomenon, etc.

The need of urgent examination of the issue raised in the paper is conditioned by both the social significance of implementing public policy in the sphere of counteracting and preventing narcotization of the youth, as well as by the lack of elaborated forms and methods of preventing further narcotization to date. Basing on this fact, the authors made an attempt to provide analysis and consequent summarization of the forms and methods of counteracting narcotization of the youth. In particular, the paper reconsideres theoretical bases of this issue simultaneously reflecting implementation of the state policy in counteracting and preventing drug addiction in line with socio-economic and political realities of Ukraine.

Methodology

To achieve the intended objective, to fulfil specified tasks, and to provide scientifically valid results of the research, the authors apply a complex of general scientific and special methods of scientific research. In particular, dialectical and dogmatic methods became the base for scientific research of social and legal phenomena, interpretation of the legal categories, enhancing and specifying the conceptual and categorical apparatus, namely such concepts as “narcotization”, “counteracting narcotization”, “forms of counteracting narcotization”, and “methods of counteracting narcotization”. The method of systematic analysis provided an opportunity to consider the features of narcotization of Ukrainian youth. Comparative legal method became the base for scientific research of the positive experience of law enforcement agencies of the developed countries in the sphere of counteracting narcotization. Mentioned above methods were used in the paper with the view of their interconnection and interdependence, which ensured comprehensiveness, completeness and objectivity of the research.

Results and discusión

Emerging in the 20th century, drug addiction has become one of the global problems of the modern society, which continually proliferates among the population and permanently expends covering its major part. Currently, this problem is getting worse, which raises additional concerns. To tackle this problem, we need to refer to its root, ascertain its cause and create conditions for preventing undesired results in the future (Pryakhina, Donchenko, 2017, p. 128).

In recent years, representatives of public organizations in scientific journals and the mass media increasingly admit the “glaring” danger of proliferation of narcotization, which threatens the native society (Tymoshenko, Yashchenko, 2012). This negative tendency is especially active in the youth society. In particular, experts conclude a severe threat posed to the society by trafficking in various drug substances in the cities of educational institutions for children and adolescents (such as schools, lyceums, gymnasiums, technical schools, colleges). Obviously, the risks to children are of particular concern, because the impact of drugs on their gentle bodies can be extremely devastating (Okushko, 2018).

The problem of narcotization of the modern youth is so acute, that the use of drugs by minors, boys and girls is becoming a dangerous social phenomenon. 60-70 percent of all transgressions and offences of the youth are committed under the influence of alcohol. However, 70% of young people acknowledge that they regret their smoking addiction, but still recognize that they lack the willpower to quit, 65% indicate that they experience a negative impact on their health (poor appetite, weakness, often nausea, frequent cold-related illnesses, stomach pain, but addiction prevails and they continue to smoke).

In recent years, the number of people registered at medical institutions with diagnose of drug addiction has almost doubled. Statistic data on the level and dynamics of narcotization reflect
only the external trends of this socially dangerous phenomenon. There are substantive grounds to believe that a quantity of drug addicts is 10 times higher than official figures. In addition, a large number of people are involved in the process of storage and distribution of drugs, and, moreover, drug addiction is quite common not only among the young people, who previously raised pedagogical concerns, but also among superficially prosperous adolescents. Narcotization of the society is actively facilitated by such negative factors as sharp social stratification of families, imbalance of the psycho-emotional aspects of adolescents’ upbringing, their socialization in conditions of devaluation of universal moral principles, dehumanization of attitudes to the most vulnerable social groups, etc. The fact that Ukraine has transferred to the sphere of international drug trafficking business is undeniable, and this fact immediately influences the dynamics of narcotization of the society. There is also a tendency of taking more dangerous drugs that changes the structure of narcotization. Modern adolescents start using opiate and cannabis crops as yearly as 11 – 12 years. Modern youth do not even hide what psychotropic and narcotic substances they take. Drugs destroy the psyche of the young people, cause rejection of positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyle, breed motives for making wrong choices, in some cases even provoke suicides. There are different viewpoints, why a person turns to drugs. Whatever the reasons, the danger of drug addiction is obvious. Illicit trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors vigorously proliferates and becomes an extremely serious social factor, adversely affecting the health and well-being of the people, as well as the development of society as a whole (Gadomska, 2013; Bratchenko, 2016; Vlasyuk, 2017).

The prevalence of abusing cigarette, alcohol, and drugs have changed to the social matters among teenagers and youth of Iran and has made deep concerns in various managerial, academic, and public levels of society. In studies, the mean age of starting cigarette in Iran is 6.16 years old and the highest ratio of addicts of state (7.45%) started abusing drug since the age of 17-22 years old. Therefore, one of the most significant preventive approaches is the identification of the risk factors in the risk populations. Abusing drugs and addiction is one of the most important problems of this era with the global extension and has changed to the mental, social, and family dilemma. According to studies, most risky behaviors including cigarette, alcohol, and drugs, and insecure sexual relationship happen before 18 years. Crime and the drug controlling office of UN in Iran (United Nations’ office of drug and crime control) named addiction as one of the fourth crises in the world and classified Iran in the risky countries (Amirloo, Alaghebandrad & Garmarudi, 2019, p. 48).

Therefore, it is absolutely obvious, narcotization of the population, as well as of the youth, is rapidly growing, which indicates the complexity and significance of this sphere of crime prevention and detection of the ways of infiltrating narcotic raw materials to the region, places of their processing and the cities of cultivation of drug-containing plants (Rashevskyy, 2017).

The experts emphasize that in Ukraine, as by the way and in many other countries of the world, always existed various problems related to drug trafficking among the population and, as a consequence, the proliferation of such a disease as drug addiction. The new methods of drug distribution, such as the use of Internet, present additional complexities for counteracting narcotization, for instance, the use of drug tabs became a popular way to obtain drugs among the young. Almost all members of the global community admit that the endemic drug addiction of the vast segments of population worldwide, especially representatives of the younger generation, is one of the most disturbing issues for the mankind in the twenty-first century. That is why one of the key elements of any anti-drug campaign strategy should encompass an efficient program with precise action plan aimed at countering narcotization of the minor and adolescents. Such program must inevitably consist of two major parts, namely, the prevention and deterrence of the commission of the alleged drug-related offenses, as well as active practical counteracting the trends of drug addiction among children and adolescent and committing specific offenses in this sphere. Such arrangements were used at implementing successful prevention measures with active participation of adolescents, law enforcement officials and members of the public, which were a part of the extensive anti-drug campaign held in the developed countries of the world. In general, it should be noted that relative efficiency of drug counteracting forms and methods implemented in some developed countries can to a large extent be explained by the fact that it has been accomplished by efficient and integrated combination of the following elements of narcotization counteraction: modern inclusive preventive measures, large-scale by magnitude
and compelling and relevant by its nature publicity campaign based on the active implementation of the newest technological achievements, efficient performance of law enforcement agencies and clear legislative regulation (Melynyk, 2014).

From this undeniable reality, it can be concluded that the problem of endemic narcotization can be resolved only at the national level in certain separate countries, but due to the significant deficiencies of anti-drug campaigns of most less developed countries, it is almost impossible to eliminate narcotization at the global level. This means, that even having overcome drug-related crime in a single state, it is highly unlikely to maintain of narcotization at a minimum level over a long period of time. The reason for this is that at present time of the globalized world and universal linkage, including in the sphere of crime, the level of narcotization in almost any country of the world sooner or later will approach the global average (Krotuyk, 2015).

Substantiating the mentioned above points, we would like to cite an example of the fight on international trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances held by the United States Government, which has been being implemented during the past thirty years, starting from the 1980s until the present time, and is called the War on Drugs. The peculiarities of this anti-drug campaign can be characterized by to a greater extend as forceful detention or elimination of drug-traffickers in different regions of the world. At present, it can be concluded with confidence that, despite resounding local successes, overall this large-scale, long-lasting and costly campaign had not achieved its main objectives, and therefore had not lived up to its credibility and, therefore, wasted much of the US taxpayers money.

One of the key reasons for such failure of the US law enforcement agencies (mostly the Drug Enforcement Administration, hereafter the DEA) was an extreme “resilience” of the entire drug trafficking system. That is, when large-scale Colombian drug cartels (Medellin and Cali) had been eliminated by the DEA efforts in the 1990s, drug production increased in neighboring Peru. And after destroying cultivations of drug-containing plants in Peru, drug trafficking had proliferated in Colombia again, but it was no longer divided between the two major cartels but between dozens of small criminal organizations. Thus, drug trafficking had not disappeared, but simply was “migrating” between the countries. Similar situation occurred in the sphere of drug transportation. It is well known, that the US domestic market is one of the largest and the most attractive in the world economy. This is equally true for the illicit drug trafficking market. In this regard, it is quite evident why the vast majority of illicit drugs from all over the world, and especially from South and Central America, are trafficked to this country.

Initially, almost all the drugs were trafficked by sea or air through the small Caribbean countries. However, later due to the sufficient development of the means and methods of proper securing of the US external borders and also to the disclosure of such criminal schemes by law enforcement agencies, this way of transportation became ineffective and, accordingly, lost its attractiveness to criminals. However, this did not diminish the volume of drug trafficking. Since destruction of the “Caribbean route”, a new way of trafficking drug through Mexico immediately emerged, which simultaneously led to emergence of powerful and independent Mexican drug cartels. It should be emphasized that law enforcement agencies of the US and Mexico continue the struggle for elimination of the “Mexican route” up to the present moment (Chatterjee, 1988).

Today, according to the UK police structure, the Drug Squad is a unit of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), based in New Scotland Yard. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) encompasses a number of specialized units, including a separate division, Operation “Trident”, dealing with violence and shooting related to drug trafficking. National Crime Squad (NCS), a key structural unit of the Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA), dealing with countering drug-related crime, along with other criminal activities. The Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency (SDEA) (Krotuyk, 2015) created in April 2001 is a major unit of this country undertaking implementation of the governmental program for combating drug trafficking, which also closely collaborates with the Scottish Police, the National Criminal Intelligence Service, the Customs and Excise Department and other law enforcement agencies. Taking the task to significantly reduce the demand for drugs and negative implications of drug-related crime, the Agency (SDEA), among other tasks, coordinates police prevention measures in this sphere and conducts an active awareness-raising campaign. Thus, the UK Government pays special attention to establishing specialized law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking in the 21st century, providing these agencies with a
considerable amount of police authority and thus ensuring a high level of their effective functioning (Chatterjee, 1988).

All of the above clearly and transparently demonstrates that efforts to combat narcotization worldwide are unfeasible and unsuccessful. However, there is a real opportunity for significant reduction of narcotization tendency on the level of a single state. It is possible, for instance, if the anti-drug campaign is focused not at the violent struggle with the subjects of production and distribution of drugs and psychotropic substances, but rather if the anti-drug strategy is focused on diversified counteraction to the factors and roots of narcotization. Moreover, it is highly desirable that such counteractive complexes bear non-violent nature or provide for a minimum level of violence.

Modern concepts of counteracting narcotization have to put forward such demands, because, in recent years, it was scientifically proven, including the studies based on open statistical data, that the use of prevailing violent forms and methods of counteracting narcotization not only leads to a failure, but also often aggravates the situation. Based on the results of these studies and statistics, a large number of primary developed countries have already proceeded to non-violent counteraction.

More specifically, the so-called “nonviolent counteraction” is based on the most effective concurrent application of several action-oriented methods. For example, it is quite frequently the case that counteracting narcotization is implemented in the form of disclosure of the existing drug production and distribution schemes, with an objective of their further elimination or blocking. Similar tactics of counteracting narcotization were approved and practically implemented in Ukraine, where they were presented by several novel mean (Burlaka, 2008).

In this connection it is worth mentioning that on the 16th of January 2020 officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, namely the officers of Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs (hereinafter - KNUIA), senior lecturer of the Department of Information Technologies and the Cybersecurity of the KNUIA Oleksiy Rvachev and the Dean of the Faculty of Cyberpolice of the KNUIA Vyacheslav Markov presented the national wide chat-bot «Stop drugs», developed in the KNUIA, which can be considered a sound example of a modern technological approach to successful solution of the problems related to narcotization and drug addiction. The staff of KNUIA, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Alesander Gogilashvili and the ad interim Head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the National Police of Ukraine Serhii Fedchenko attended the presentation of this innovative technology. The developers of the chat-bot team reported that from the beginning of the project practical application of the chat-bot allowed to block more than three hundred drug store addresses.

The developers also emphasized that at the day of the presentation up to fifteen thousand Internet users have got acquainted with practical application of the chat-bot. Olexander Gogilashvili evaluated the start of a chat-bot as an extremely rewarding phenomenon that would bring socially valuable benefits in the nearest future. Particularly, this is due to the high relevance of this product developed at KNUIA. It is well-known fact that nowadays almost the whole drug market in Ukraine and in other parts of the world has transferred online. Accordingly, cash payments for illicit drug-related trafficking have also been made through the World Wide Web (2018).

According to Vyacheslav Markov, the internal structure of the chat-bot, it is “a simple computer program with straightforward functional content that allows law enforcement officers to archive and systematize all drug-related Internet addresses for consequent counteracting drug-related crime and blocking the latter”. In addition, one of the constituent parts of the “Stop Drugs” chat-bot developed by KNUIA is a special online map, which contains advertisements of online drug stores that regularly appear on the streets of Ukrainian cities. According to the chat-bot developers’ team, by January 2020, over six thousand photos of online drug stores addresses have been uncovered and posted through the chat-bot; this data is transferred by the KNUIA officers to the relevant National Police units for the consequent elimination of the uncovered drug trafficking Internet addresses.

It is worth noting, that at the 58th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Economic and Social Council the emphasis was placed on focusing the state policy on (National Report in 2016 on the Drug Situation in Ukraine, 2016):
Considering these recommendations, it can be argued that, from a practical perspective, not only the ways of fighting this negative phenomenon are of paramount importance for providing efficient counteraction of drug addiction among the youth, but also the introduction of specific forms and methods for their implementation. For example, at the national level it is necessary to develop a program for systematic monitoring drugs, their analogues and precursors as well as the places of their concentration. In this way, it will assist identifying the most common places of illicit drug trafficking, which, in turn, will allow to intensify the work of law enforcement agencies connected with their seizure.

According to the Concept of creation of the system for monitoring the situation in the sphere of counteracting illicit trafficking in narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1193-p from 17.10.2011 (The Concept of creation of the system, 2011), the monitoring system is a set of regulatory, organizational and administrative measures, technical and telecommunication means enabling the collection, processing, accumulation, analysis and storage of information in the field of trafficking in narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors and counteracting their illegal distribution by integrating relevant information resources of public authorities databases by providing the State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control automated access to information resources of public authorities databases or by providing and regular updating relevant information resources of the monitoring system.

As noted by I. V. Drozdova and V. M. Pikhotska (2017, p. 5-6), today in Ukraine this work is carried out in a fragmentary way, mainly in the part concerning offenses and treatment of drug addicts, which makes it impossible to draw a complete picture of the processes in this sphere. According to the regulatory requirements, monitoring must ensure: 1) expansion of the drug situation monitoring; comprehensive coverage of the drug situation in two of its main components: legal and illegal trafficking; 2) adherence to the principle of objectivity as a comprehensive consideration of all elements of drug situation; 3) formation of national indicators as reliable evidence of real drug trafficking processes; 4) implementing innovative methodology for monitoring and all its components. The traditional questioning (questionnaire) of certain categories of citizens, maintained on a regular bases, is clearly insufficient. What required is a substantive update of the monitoring methodology, the type of the problem research, i.e. the clarification of causation links, identifying of underlying processes.

According to E. O. Hladkova (2018, p. 36), today counteracting drug-related crime exists in the form of various theoretical schemes, concepts, approaches and tasks of applied value, involving quite poor interrelation. The goals of counteracting drug-related crime should focus on preventative actions rather than repression. The main objective of such counteraction is its preventive effect, based primary not on coercion, but rather on convincing and treatment, not on the punishment for offence, but rather on its deterrence. Although on certain occasions application of the punishment is also essential. Within the framework of counteracting drug-related crime the researcher distinguishes two main directions of general prevention: 1) prevention of drug addiction, including treatment of drug addicts; 2) prevention of crimes committed on the basis of drug addiction. Wherein, she emphasizes that both of these directions are closely interrelated, using a variety of forms and methods of prevention: measures of general and individual prevention, measures of early prevention, operational search measures, etc. With regard to prevention of crimes committed on the basis of drug addiction, the most appropriate direction is an early individual prevention.

Conclusions

Summarizing the conducted research, it should be emphasized that the efficiency of the methods aimed at forcible-coercive fighting narcotization
are much lower comparative to preventive methods that are more humane and cost-efficient. Impressive results obtained in relatively short period of time by recently launched by KNUIA officers “Stop Drugs” chat-bot project prove the efficiency of the strategy utilizing the potential of a large segments of population for counteracting narcotization of the society.

In our view, methods of control and observation play an important part in counteracting narcotization of the youth. Thus, the control over the behavior and lifestyle of drug addicts must be carried out by the officers of the preventive units of the National Police (for example, checking at a place of residence, studying, entertainment facilities, etc.).

For their part, systematic monitoring of the lifestyle and behavior of young people who are suspected of drug addiction, conducted by the police officers will allow to collect the necessary information about their illegal behavior, intentions, etc. This can serve the basis for taking a person for narcological registration, conducting individual preventive measures in his/her regard, as well as carrying out investigative investigation for consequent recording his/her criminal activity, arresting and stopping the crime at preparation stage.

Furthermore, observation can be conducted in an indirect form, with the assistance of the public, educators, relatives, neighbors, drug therapists, with the subsequent transmission of its results to the officer conducting individual preventive work. Police monitoring over such categories of persons must be ongoing. Occasional receiving the information on the lifestyle and behavior of this category of persons does not allow conducting objective and accurate analysis of the available information for making a necessary decisions. Available experience indicates that the best results of the observation can be achieved by combining overt and covert forms of work.

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