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## FEATURES OF LIFE-MEANING ORIENTATIONS AMONG CONVICTS SENTENCED FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF CRIMES

## ОСОБЕННОСТИ СМЫСЛОЖИЗНЕННЫХ ОРИЕНТАЦИЙ ОСУЖДЕННЫХ ЗА РАЗНЫЕ ВИДЫ ПРЕСТУПЛЕНИЙ

**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the relationship between the type of crime for which the convicted person is serving a sentence, the level of education, the presence of socially useful connections, the age of the convicted person and the level of his life orientation, which includes such indicators as: the general indicator of the meaningfulness of life, goals in life, the process of life, the effectiveness of life, the locus of control – I, the locus of control – life. The attitude of convicts to such vital components as: health, family, future, self-realization in work was also studied. The study used the “Test of life-meaning orientations” by D. Crambo, A. Maholik in the adaptation of D. A. Leont’ev, and the color test of relations by A. M. Etkind. In order to study life-meaning orientations and preferences in different spheres of life, 93 convicts serving sentences for various crimes were examined. The results of the study of convicts’ personality characteristics can be used by correctional officers to identify problematic aspects in the development of convicts’ personality, develop programs aimed at solving these problems and develop the strengths of convicts’ personality.

**Keywords:** meaning-life orientations, goals in life, the process of life, performance in life.

**Аннотация.** В статье рассматривается взаимосвязь вида преступления, за которое осужденный отбывает наказание, уровня образования, наличия социально-полезных связей, возраста осужденного и уровня его смысложизненной ориентации, куда входят такие показатели, как: общий показатель осмысленности жизни, цели в жизни, процесс жизни, результативность жизни, локус контроля – Я, локус контроля – жизнь. Исследовалось также отношение осужденных к таким жизненным составляющим, как: здоровье, семья, будущее, самореализация в трудовой деятельности. В исследовании были использованы «Тест смысложизненных ориентаций» Д. Крамбо, А. Махолика в адаптации Д. А. Леонтьева, цветовой тест отношений (ЦТО) А. М. Эткинды. Для изучения смысложизненных ориентаций и предпочтений в разных сферах жизни было обследовано 93 осужденных, отбывающих наказание за совершение различных преступлений. Ре-

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зультаты исследования особенностей личности осужденных могут быть использованы сотрудниками исправительных учреждений для выявления проблемных сторон в развитии личности осужденных, разработки программ, направленных на решение этих проблем и развитие сильных сторон личности осужденных.

**Ключевые слова:** смысложизненные ориентации, цели в жизни, процесс жизни, результативность в жизни.

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Recently, in the work of correctional institutions much attention is paid to the prevention of acts that have a criminal risk among convicts serving sentences in closed correctional institutions. This work is aimed at preventing the person from committing a new crime after release.

Meaning-life orientations are a holistic system of conscious and selective connections that reflects the orientation of the individual, the presence of life goals, the meaningfulness of choices and assessments, satisfaction with life (self-realization) and the ability to take responsibility for it, influencing its course (Kaunova, N. G. 2006, p. 1). The study of the life-meaning orientations of convicts who are serving their sentences for the first time allows us to identify possible reserves of the effectiveness of personal growth, self-determination and formation of this category of people. The development of life-meaning orientations among convicts is an important part of the work of correctional psychologists, since during the period of serving their sentence they experience many problems, namely: negative experiences associated with deprivation of liberty; inability to self-regulate behavior and activities; search for the optimal mode of work and rest in new living conditions; lack of the previous social environment, including family members and relatives. The study of life-meaning orientations makes it possible to identify the weaknesses of the convicts' personality: lack of life goals; dissatisfaction with the process of life; shifting responsibility for what is happening in life to circumstances and other people. This makes the work of psychologists and employees of other correctional services problem-oriented, aimed at correcting the weaknesses of convicts' personality, which in the future may lead to the commission of acts that have a criminal risk, and the recidivism

Depending on the type of crime committed by the convicted person: economic, violent, related to the possession and distribution of narcotic substances – the overall indicator of

the meaningfulness of the convict's life, its three components of life-meaning orientations (goals in life, saturation of life and satisfaction with self-realization) and two aspects of the locus of control vary (the locus of control – I and the locus of control – life). The following diagnostic tools were used in the study: "The test of life-meaning orientations" by D. Crambo, A. Maholik in the adaptation of D. A. Leont'ev (2000, p. 18), color test of relations by A. M. Etkind (1987, p. 220–226). To study the meaning of life orientations and preferences in different spheres of life, we conducted a study in which 93 convicts serving sentences under various articles took part.

In order to obtain a complete understanding of such a concept as meaning-life orientation, it is necessary to determine its components. Goals in life are tasks that fill it with meaning and help a person determine his life orientation. The lack of life goals causes the degradation of personality, stops the process of personal development and leads to a decrease in the quality of life. The ability to set goals contributes to the development of the personality and increase the level of satisfaction with life in general. The process of life – satisfaction with emotional saturation and fullness of meaning in the present time. The effectiveness of life – the assessment of the passed segment of life, satisfaction with self-realization and productivity of one's life activity. This indicator of life-meaning orientation was higher among convicts serving sentences for economic crimes; since this category of convicts has a fairly high level of education (most of them have higher education). Also, the average and high level of this indicator is due to the presence of socially useful connections: a spouse, children. Convicted persons whose deprivation of liberty is associated with serving a sentence for economic crimes have an average or high level according to the above indicators. A high level was found among convicts serving sentences for possession and distribution of narcotic substances. This is due to the fact that this category of convicts, as a rule, has

a specialized secondary or higher education, maintains socially useful connections.

In the course of the study, we analyzed the relationship between the life-meaning orientations of convicts and their attitude to further employment after release, family relations and education. Depending on the article under which the convicted person is serving his sentence, the attitude to work, family and education is more positive, and is aimed at the further development of these areas of life. This category of special contingent includes people serving sentences for economic articles and articles related to the possession and distribution of narcotic substances. Convicted persons serving sentences for possession and distribution of narcotic substances are special contingent, whose age category, as a rule, is within 30 years, their level of education is higher than that of convicted persons serving sentences for violent crimes, and persons who have violated the established rules and whose penalty was changed to imprisonment.

Convicts serving sentences for violent crimes and those for whom the penalty was changed to imprisonment showed a low level of locus of control – life, which suggests that this category of convicts has a belief that a person's life is not subject to conscious control, that freedom is illusory, and it is pointless to make any plans for the future. The low level of this indicator shows the lack of responsibility for the actions and behavior that led to the deprivation of liberty, and the main reason is the combination of circumstances and the activities of other members of society.

The formation of life-meaning orientations can be considered as one of indicators of convicts' readiness for life in freedom. A study was also conducted on the test of color relations of such concepts as: health, future, self-realization in work and family. Most of the convicts showed a positive attitude to health, they do not have health-related difficulties. Some convicts had difficulties in building a color series according to this concept, since they do not have problems related to their state of

health and consider it normal, something taken for granted. A large percentage of convicts have a positive attitude to their future, because they are serving their sentence for the first time and believe that their stay in a correctional institution is a mistake that they will not make again after their release. A more positive attitude to the concept of self-realization in work has convicts whose age category is within the range of up to 40 years, which is associated with the possibility of acquiring skills that will contribute to self-realization in this area of life.

The attitude to the concept of family was more positive among convicts serving sentences for economic crimes and crimes related to the possession and distribution of narcotic substances. This category of convicts maintains relations with their family members, who provide them with both moral and material support during the period of serving their sentence. Convicted persons serving sentences related to violent crimes are less likely to maintain relations with close relatives, since they led an antisocial lifestyle, which was the reason for the lack of close relations with family members who are ready to support the convicted person in prison.

The study of convicts' personality characteristics will help the correctional institution staff to carry out their diagnosis qualitatively, identify problematic aspects in the development of the convict's personality, develop programs aimed at solving these problems and developing the strengths of the convict's personality, which will ultimately contribute to obtaining a positive result in the activities of correctional officers.

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