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FACTORS DETERMINING HOOLIGANS CRIME

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ABSTRACT

During the study authors stated that the main determinant of demoralisation of youth, joining scarfers subcultures, where they act with aggression and brutal violence, are disturbances in the process of their education and socialization. They have presented, in their opinion, the most important factors determining the processes leading to deviant and pathological behaviour of youth, whose negative final is criminal activity. These determinants, in their opinion, are: family environment, school, peer group and negative social background. According to the researchers, occurrence of dysfunction in these areas results in criminalisation of the youth, which takes place in an informal group, which are the scarfers. The authors conclude that it is necessary to start comprehensive programs aimed at improving situation in family, schools, which in addition to implementation of educational process, should focus their attention on pedagogical work. Without taking into account, in a comprehensive way, all of the indicated factors, we cannot achieve the goal of normalisation of environments associated with fans.

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Authors in their previous publication titled “Subculture of Stadium Hooligans – Pathology or Crime?” stated that such an important, from the point of view of public security, negative phenomenon, which is the activity of hooligans, requires thorough examination. The aim of these studies should be formulation of specific remedial action both in the area of preventing and tackling the social pathology¹. To do this, authors have identified the main research problem, which is: is it possible to improve the efficiency of actions of the Police in combating crime, hooligans?

In previously published results, researchers pointed out that the aggressive behaviour of hooligans is not a new phenomenon, but goes back to its roots to ancient times. They described the way of manifesting devotion to the team by scarfers and an arsenal of, often illegal, measures taken to combat adversarial groups, noting that they are constantly evolving². In that article they also presented the system of supporters³ qualification, outlining the attributes and characteristics of individual, extracted groups.

Authors stressed that the behaviour of hooligans, which is the subject of research process, are often brutal and violent.

In the course of study they have determined that modern groups of football hooligans in Poland have often criminal nature, what more they are an important part of organised crime. They have shown that this crime has often international character, especially when it comes to smuggling and drug trafficking.

In this article, which is the consequence of research made so far, authors put the next detailed research issue, which is formulated the following question: what are the reasons why young people become members of groups of hooligans and going on the path of crime? Authors considered that giving answer to this question will determine remedies that will help to reduce negative and already defined effects of criminal activity of so-called scarfers.

By analysing the problem of causes of delinquent behaviour of football hooligans, it is indispensable to use, recognised in criminology, concepts

¹ Comp. P. Piotrowski, *Szalikowcy. O zachowaniach dewiacyjnych kibiców sportowych*, Toruń 2000, p. 15.

² J. Dudała, *Fani- chuligani Recz o polskich kibolach studium socjologiczne*, Wyd. Akademickie „Żak”, Warszawa 2004, p. 33.

³ P. Sielecki, P. Sobiech, *Szalikowcy- podstawy informacyjne*, Zakład Taktyki i Techniki Interwencji, Szkoła w Katowicach 2006.

concerning the etiology of crime. Lasting for many years research on finding and explaining the causes of crime can be dichotomously classified.

The first group are factors directly influencing humans, such as:

- biological,
- medical,
- psychological.

The second group of factors are the ones that occur in human environment, such as sociological and social phenomena⁴.

C. Czapów⁵, as a result of research he carried out, has built the following theories of the causes of crime:

- social disorganization,
- prohibited measures,
- biological,
- conflict of cultures.

While M. Veillard-Cybulski in his study took into account such determinants:

- biological,
- psychological,
- anthropological,
- sociological.

In general, all of these factors can be divided into two categories, those that are stuck in the person of offender and those that are generated by his surroundings.

According to authors, particular attention should be paid to the process of socialization, including, in particular, on the role of education, authority and factors specific for crime.

So to the social factors affecting young people's social mismatch⁶, resulting in crime committing, we can include:

- family,
- school,
- group of peers,
- nearby surrounding.

⁴ M. Lipka, *Przestępczość nieletnich w Polsce. Zapobieganie i zwalczanie*, Warszawa 1971, p. 13.

⁵ See C. Czapów, *Czy Johnny stanie się gangsterem?*, Warszawa 1959.

⁶ M. Lipka, *Zjawiska patologii społecznej. Studium Prawno-Kryminologiczne*, Warszawa 1977, p. 15.

Many social researchers extend this list of social factors taking also into account: degree of social development, organisation, or socio-economic structure.

FAMILY

There is no doubt that the most important social factor is family, due to the fact that it is the first and, at the same time, the primary educational environment, affecting evolution of attitudes of a young man. In the educational process any state institution or organisation is not able to replace properly functioning family. On the other hand, dysfunctions occurring in the family may contribute to the emergence of behaviours known as pathological⁷.

As often happens, family is for young man the closest environment, sometimes the only one he knows. So repetition of family members' behaviour is regarded as normal, proper way of acting.

The basic mission of each family is to run the process of education in accordance with moral standards and law, accepted in the society. Situation when the behaviour of family members deviate from generally accepted standards is referred to as a dysfunctional family⁸.

Factors affecting dysfunctionality of family will be, inter alia: crime of parents, siblings or other family members in the closest environment.

Large impact on psyche of a young man is bringing up in families in which members have committed several offences and for whom this was a way of life. According to authors, particularly dangerous is a situation when most of crimes or offences committed by parents, siblings or other family members, had not been not detected by the Police. So that people committing offences functioned in environment as they had had no criminal record. The impunity of family members made their children aware that such conduct is not bad, especially since everyone in the area does the same as they do. This way of functioning of families can we see particularly in areas covered by unemployment. There is greater social consent on this kind of illegal earning. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the image of a parent or older siblings causes other residents fear, providing children from pathological families respect in the criminal environment. They become an attractive model to follow by their peers.

⁷ See C. Czapów, *Rodzina a wychowanie*, Warszawa 1968.

⁸ J. Rembowski, *Rodzina w świetle psychologii*, WSiP, Warszawa 1988.

Another factor influencing improper functioning of family is parents alcoholism or drug addiction. Parents taking these stimulants cannot fulfil educational functions in a responsible manner. Their behaviour is a negative pattern to follow, and their habit is often a reason for breakdown of family.

For a young man such an environment may cause a desire to leave family home, in search of another better world.

C. Czapów, in his theory of social disorganization, indicates that environments of young offenders occur everywhere where people are not connected by solidarity, or collective.

While the area of social disorganization is the area where do not work, or work only to the limited extent, factors such as:

- law,
- moral rules,
- public opinion,

that is, the ones that are responsible for the organisation and coordination of the activities of “individuals and communities”⁹.

In a disorganised society we can see the breakdown of family life, and the family, to a young man, plays a hard to overestimate role in the process of socialization and bringing up to society¹⁰.

In turn, an incomplete family factor is usually a consequence of unfortunate coincidences and in this cases care, along with education, falls solely on one of the parents. There are some cases in which this is a result of an anti-social behaviour. Being left by one parent can cause the lack of specific gender patterns to follow and consequently may lead to distortion of educational process. This process becomes then free from orders, prohibitions and need's creation, necessary for creative life in society.

The consequence of the lack of focus on interests and ambitious aims is activation in a child aversion towards environment, manifesting with vandalism or hooliganism. This can consequently lead to the fact that the young man will be seeking acceptance of environment, a stronger connection with a group of peers, following different rules from those represented by the parent¹¹.

⁹ C. Czapów, *Czy Jobny stanie się gangsterem?*, Warszawa 1959, p. 9.

¹⁰ Comp. P. Huget, *Rodzinne uwarunkowania zaburzeń w zachowaniu u dzieci*, [in:] *Deviare wśród młodzieży. Uwarunkowania i profilaktyka*, B. Urban (ed.), Wydawnictwo UJ, Kraków 2001, p. 193–202.

¹¹ Comp. M. Ziemska, *Rodzina a osobowość*, Wiedza Powszechna 1970.

Of course, there are also cases of people who, despite the lack of family support, managed to graduate, and even reached a high social status. However, research shows, as a rule, that the dysfunctional family background definitely narrows the opportunity to choose the right way of life.

The next, but also important factor for development of a young person, is the lack of sufficient parental care, or emotional connection, caused by excessive concern of parents on purely material matters. As a result, young people, deprived of important needs, begin to look for meeting them outside the family. Often the environments they reach they have criminal or pathological nature¹².

Sometimes, over-protective parent, harsh discipline, the use of corporal punishment for even minor expressions of opposition may be the cause of a young man's revolt and desire to become independent as soon as possible, by leaving the not accepted family home.

In such cases, it often comes later to the subconscious acquisition of parents' patterns and their duplication according to members of his own nuclear family¹³.

Of course, the wrong examples of social roles taken from the family home does not automatically mean demoralisation of a young man, but significantly increases the likelihood of its manifestations.

It is bad material conditions, combined with previously mentioned factors, that contribute to the occurrence of pathologies¹⁴. Insufficient financial resources to provide needs, created by the media, also have a negative effect on the young man's psyche.

According to the authors, upbringing in the family is very important in shaping the personality of a young man. The process of developing mental qualities and practices is influenced by childhood experiences, both positive and negative, as well as style and atmosphere in the family. Hence educators and sociologists pay such a big attention to the style of education functioning in the family¹⁵.

¹² A. Podgórecki, *Patologia życia społecznego*, Warszawa 1969, p. 24–25.

¹³ See S. Forward, *Toksyczni rodzice*, Agencja Wyd., Warszawa 1993.

¹⁴ Comp. J. Wódz, *Zjawiska patologii społecznej a sankcje społeczne i prawne. Wyniki badań empirycznych w Nowej Hucie*, Wrocław-Gdańsk 1973, p. 13–14.

¹⁵ P. Sadler, *Leadership: Styles, Role Models, Qualities, Behaviours*, Kogan Page Limited, London 1997.

The style of education can be divided, depending on the level of care taken over the child, into:

- authoritarian (autocratic), there is a robust care with severe penalties,
- caring, there is a robust care along with mild penalties,
- chaotic-despotic, lack of care with severe penalties,
- laissez-faire, lack of care, along with mild penalties.

In authoritarian and caring styles parents intensively take care of their child, and the relationship between parents and child is very strong. Parents are interested in child life and have a huge impact on it. The process of young man's development is, in this type of family, related to patterns provided by members of immediate family, with little participation of the external environment impact.

By contrast, in chaotic-despotic and laissez-faire¹⁶ styles parents' interest in child's problems is negligible. The consequence of this is the search, by young people, for acceptance and role models to follow, in external environment, most often in a group of peers.

A very important role, in shaping personality of a young man, plays the atmosphere in which he grows up and relationships between various members of the family. Child from a family which has a positive emotional climate, later has no problems in going into relationships with others and feeling empathy towards them. Such a man also has no predisposition to disregard other people or treat them as obstacles to achieve aims.

Authors think that the process of socialization is in fact dependent on many factors. It is very difficult to say what will be the final result. However, there is no doubt that upbringing in the family is the foundation of building hierarchy of human values.

Lidia Mościcka drew attention to the fact that environmental conditions, in combination with other factors, can lead to crime. From her research on the people put by judgments of courts into approved schools, it appears that as many as 60 percent of them have pathological family background. She also noted that incomplete family is not the main cause of young man's demoralisation and going into crime¹⁷.

¹⁶ T. Oshagbemi, SA Ocholi, *Leadership styles and behavior profiles of managers*, „Journal of management development” 25 (8), 2006, p. 748–762.

¹⁷ L. Mościcka, *Przestępczość nieletnich. Podłoże, geneza, motywacja*, 1998, p. 47.

In a study conducted by L. Mościcka young perpetrators of offences explained their behaviour in such ways:

- did not have a normally functioning family,
- parents did not have educational control,
- they had low social status,
- they had problems at school,
- family members overuses alcohol, drugs,
- parents had serious medical condition.

SCHOOL

Researchers of educational issues clearly show that, apart from family, school has important influence in shaping attitudes of a young man. Experience and values gained there affect further, mature life. The main task of the school, apart from its teaching function, is to closer young people to “the most important ideals and standards of our civilisation”¹⁸.

School should teach to follow the rules that are in force in society. Deviations from the desired pattern can be caused by e.g. faulty school system and can be related to:

- constant changes in teaching programs, resulting in inability to ensure proper development,
- the lack of or limitations for development of extracurricular interests,
- too high expectations towards students from school, inadequate to intellectual capabilities of some students,
- poorly functioning system of cooperation between school and family,
- the lack of effective protection of students from drug traffickers, hooligans.

Analysing the impact of school on a young man at first you must take into account three elements:

- school to which child goes,
- class composition,
- teaching staff.

The impact of school¹⁹ may of course differ from previous experience, which is a factor co-defining his situation. The consequences of negative impact of school may be:

- leading to aggressive behaviour, exclusion of some people,

¹⁸ E. Fromm, *Zdrowe społeczeństwo*, Warszawa 1996, p. 337.

¹⁹ L. Mościcka, *Problemy niedostosowania społecznego*, Prace Pedagogiczne Acta Universitatis Wratislaviensis, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, 1984.

- presentation by a teacher wrong attitude towards some people, for example favouring a particular person or harshly punishing,
- formulation of expectations inadequate to abilities of a young man,
- stigma of adolescent as demoralised, antisocial²⁰.

Additional, negative consequence of school failures can be demoralisation of a young man. This process is as follows: Problems at school » Playing truant » Conflict with parents » Running away from home » Contact with demoralised group of peers » Committing a criminal act²¹.

Authors draw attention to the fact that the escape of a young man, both from school and home, are nothing else than demonstration of opposing duties, restricting his freedom. These escapes, however, differ: escape from home is directly linked to exposure of family on emotional shock and may be a consequence of bad functioning of the relationship between a young man and loved ones. While truancy can also happen to the student who has a good relationship with his family and not having major problems at school.

Authors recall that already Lidia Mościcka, in her research on motivations affecting escapes of young people, discovered that the essence of the problem is a deliberate attempt to stabilise, wrong in their opinion, relationships between them and their immediate environment.

GROUP OF PEERS

Educational failure of both family and school can lead to situation in which young man, alienated from school environment and without emotional ties with parents, will seek its own environment, the one that will compensate him emotional deficiencies and current lack of understanding. As a rule, this is a peer group, or youth movement with a negative attitude to the dominant culture.

For a young man, spending more and more time away from home, away from parental control, it is a group of peers which starts to form his mode of life and types of interests. That is when he begins to shape his own, accepted environment of “group of peers”²².

²⁰ J. Błachut, A. Gaberle, K. Krajewski, *Kryminologia*, Gdańsk 2001, p. 351.

²¹ Z. Rydyński, *Osobowość nieletniego przestępcy w świetle badań wielospecjalistycznych*, 1971.

²² L. Mościcka, *Przestępczość nieletnich. Podłoże, geneza, motywacja*, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków, 1970.

Authors see that usually this is a community you enter voluntarily. The choice of this community is influenced by many factors, including your interest or own social activity.

Group of peers plays a very important role in the process of socialization. A social group we define as community consisting of at least three people, having common interests and awareness of their own distinctiveness²³.

Sociologist Znaniecki believes that group of peers has a huge impact on the young man's personality and cannot be replaced.

He assumed that in any other community, a young man is constantly subservient to someone while in the peer group it is the opposite. In this community not only is he in equal position to other members, with whom others respect, but also is a social actor²⁴.

Authors indicate that young people merging in a more or less strict peer groups with common interests, common tasks, objectives, manifested in the opposition "we (members of the group) – others" is a natural process. It determines conditions for realizing by a young man his social role, which is a relatively constant set of expectations of his behaviour as a member of the community, playing a specified role.

His social role depends on the following factors:

- status in the group,
- norms approved in the group,
- individual characteristics of an individual²⁵.

The consequence of described process is the formation of young criminals groups, in which process the selective factors are: similar social position and lack of control from parents²⁶.

The beginning is generally very similar. A group of young people begin to function as a peer group, spending time together, usually at the beginning of the fun. The problem arises when a young man begins to treat the group of peers as his only family, to which he escapes from everyday problems. Young people, amazed with the sense of limitless freedom and the ability to decide about their life, run away from home, and to pay for their basic needs and pleasures, begin to commit crime – usually theft. Over time, these offences are made more and more often, becoming their main source of livelihood, a way of life.

²³ J. Błachut, A. Gaberle, K. Krajewski, *Kryminologia*, Gdańsk 2001.

²⁴ F. Znaniecki, *Socjologia wychowania*, 1973, p. 61.

²⁵ J. Błachut, A. Gaberle, K. Krajewski, *Kryminologia*, Gdańska 2001, p. 61.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 61.

Mostly group of peers consists of people who live in the neighbourhood, or met in school. As already described, in these groups appears organised crime, but also drugs and alcohol. In large cities, these groups operate in districts inhabited by people of lower social classes, where there is high intensity of crime and high level of criminalization.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

Authors present thesis that factors significantly affecting each person are: society, environment, and the place where he lives. So here we have to deal with a group much bigger than group of peers, usually representing a specific behaviour, culture but also constantly changing economically and culturally. The functioning of any society is closely linked with values designating economic hierarchy or complying material requirements, consisting basic level of needs of a human as a part of the society.

According to Brunon Hołyst economic security is identified with possession of sufficient means of subsistence²⁷. Hence any social and economic changes remain in closely linked to arising pathology resulting from unemployment, or promoted lifestyle focused only on consumption.

Criminogenic nature of the cities is mainly due to the anonymity and much more opportunities to commit crimes. In the cities most often committed are such offences as:

- stealing,
- burglary,
- hooliganism.

Offence is treated as an anti-social behaviour because it violates the rules of social conduct. While an offence made by a young man, as shown previously is a result of deprivation²⁸, which process consists of social maladjustment resulting from inappropriate educational interactions. As a result, it comes to a pathological personality development and the co-associated educational difficulties.

Educational difficulties include:

- arrogant way of being towards parents and teachers, disobedience, escapes from home and from school,
- conflicts with their peers,
- hooliganism.

²⁷ B. Hołyst, *Wiktymologia*, Warszawa 2000, p. 232.

²⁸ J. Kwaśniewski, *Dewiacja społeczna*, [in:] *Encyklopedia Socjologii*. T. 1: A-J, Oficyna Naukowa, Warszawa 1998, p. 125–129.

The beginning of deprivation process of a young man usually starts with a frivolous, negatively assessed behaviour, to which the community does not respond to or ignores them, although such behaviour is the first step to so-called “criminal careers”. Hence, according to the authors, it is important to observe the very first symptoms of antisocial behaviour of young people that can guide them on the criminal way.

According to Edwin Lemert, the creator of theory of secondary deviation²⁹, in the process of becoming a criminal, of key importance are the stages:

- primary deviation, violation of the rules by an individual,
- social reaction to the violation of social rules,
- secondary deviation, consisting of individual’s response to the social reaction to his behaviour, reflected in another crime.

E. Lemert the process of social condemnation called the process of stigma and a deviant – a person, whose life is focused only on the fact of deviation.

A different approach to this issue was presented by Howard Becker, presenting the controversial thesis that it is the society that creates a crime. In his monograph “Outsiders”³⁰ he drew attention to purely sociological aspects, which later were used to develop the concept of social control.

H. Becker rejects in his theory Lemert’s concept, stating that only some of human behaviours are called “crime” and concluding that if there were no specific legal, moral norms, not there would not be such thing as crime. According to him, it is a social response that is an indicator in determining whether particular act is criminal.

Becker in his theory stresses so-called deviant career of perpetuating negative mechanisms in people, who were given by the society a label and status of “criminals”. It’s a kind of self-realising forecast, which mechanism is the rejection of people breaking the law, whom that social role prevents from normal functioning, and thus forces them to return to unlawful life.

The scheme of absorbing social roles by people labelled “criminals” noted also Edwin Schur³¹. The scheme is that “deviant” social role “becomes to have dominant status”.

²⁹ A. Siemaszko, *Granice tolerancji. O teoriach zachowań dewiacyjnych*, PWN, Warszawa 1993.

³⁰ H. Becker, *Outsiders: Studies In The Sociology Of Deviance*, 1997.

³¹ E.M. Schur, *Labeling Deviant Behavior its Sociological Implications*, Harper and Row New York 1971.

Schur stressed that in attitude towards people labelled as “deviants”, occurs the phenomenon of retrospective interpretation, involving the disclosure of information from the past. It means that the environment starts to analyse past behaviour of a person, although it has not been questioned so far, and adjusts them freely to post factum given “criminal” status.

Provided research clearly shows that the direct cause of demoralisation of young people, who decide to enter the scarfers subculture, which results in criminalisation of their behaviour, are disturbances in process of their education and socialization³². Authors exposed several factors determining these processes and that their course. These determinants, put by them into detailed analysis, are: family, school, peer group and negative social background. According to the researchers, an occurrence of dysfunctional situation in these areas implies the entry of a young man on the way of crime in specific peer group that is a group of hooligans. So it is necessary to take comprehensive measures aimed at remedying the situation in the primary social cell which is the family, and in schools, that, in addition to implementation of educational process, should focus their attention on pedagogical work. This, in turn, should positively affect the construction of appropriate and healthy relationships in groups of peers, which activity will be aimed at community work, rather than on hooligan or criminal activities. Authors also indicate the role of social conditions, which provide a general framework of development or recourse for youth. This, in turn, is a major challenge for state and self-government authorities in Poland. Only taking into account all the pointed factors can cause a real change of behaviours in environments associated with fans.

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