



PREDICTORS OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR OF FUTURE LAWYERS

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Abstract

Relevance. In the context of modern changes and global challenges, such as the destabilization of international law and order, changes in security systems and new approaches to law enforcement, the relevance of studying aggression and hostility as social phenomena remains high. Despite extensive research in this area, the problem requires constant revision due to dynamic changes caused by demographic, environmental, social, political, economic and other factors. Understanding all aspects of aggression allows us to develop effective strategies for managing aggression, increase the level of safety among both police officers and society, as well as improve the psychological atmosphere in law enforcement agencies. The psychological analysis is aimed at identifying the presence of significant links between the levels of aggression, hostility and the tendency to deviant behavior of future law enforcement officers.

Methodology. The study used methods for diagnosing the tendency to deviant behavior (the A.Orel method) and measuring aggressiveness (the Buss-Durkee method), which were applied to a sample of 57 law enforcement cadets.

Results. Comparative analysis shows that the models of law enforcement services in Kazakhstan and Ukraine have some differences in the principles of activity, which imposes certain requirements on the psychological characteristics of employees. However, the socioeconomic nature and specificity of law enforcement activities determine a similar dynamic of aggressive reactions. The data obtained showed a high correlation of the components of aggression and hostility with such forms of deviant behavior as: addictive behavior, a tendency to self-destructive behavior, violent behavior, a tendency to violate norms and rules, a tendency to delinquent behavior, to loss of control over emotional reactions. Which indicates the risk of professional deformation, especially given the high stress loads characteristic of for law enforcement purposes. This makes it possible to predict and prevent their manifestations at an early stage to take effective measures to prevent and counteract such manifestations. Reducing the level of aggression and hostility reduces the risk of developing other forms of deviant behavior. Thus, the indicators of aggressiveness and hostility have a prognostic value.

Keywords: aggressiveness, hostility, deviant behavior, law enforcement.

Relevance

Research on the phenomenon of aggressiveness does not stop, despite the rather high scientific coverage of this topic. The specificity of psychological science, due to the

dynamics of social, demographic, environmental, technological, political, economic, legal and other processes, obliges researchers to constantly pay attention to the relevance of issues related to forms of aggression. In this regard, issues of law enforcement, law enforcement and the administration of justice will be of particular interest, in particular during global cataclysms, the destruction of the foundations of international law and order, the reformatting of the global security system based on democratic principles and the rule of law. As O.P. Khaietska notes, in the context of globalization, the role of national states is decreasing, which leads to the loss of their specific identity and integrity. At the modern global level, there are leading countries with signs of dominance and states for which economic globalization is becoming a new, important condition for development, which is almost impossible to control, but it is necessary to consider the scale and dynamics of the formation of a global system for managing world resources and income redistribution, which occurs unequally (Khaietska, 2024).

In such circumstances, the psychological aspects of aggressive behavior among police officers are a significant problem that requires careful study and attention. As O.Romanenko reasonably notes, most police officers consider it permissible to show aggression in situations where there is a clear threat to life and health. At the same time, law enforcement officers note that aggression can be provoked by the actions of citizens, including provocations and humiliation of a police officer. The respondents believe that excessive manifestations of aggression may be associated with difficulties in self-control and managing emotions such as anger, irritation and resentment. The results of the study emphasize the need for more detailed screening of law enforcement officers at the beginning of their professional activity, as well as the development of special psychoprophylaxis programs aimed at strengthening functional strategies for overcoming stress and adaptation (Romanenko, 2023). Aggression can be triggered by a variety of factors, including stressful working conditions, difficulties associated with maintaining law and order, and personal psychological characteristics. Awareness of these aspects makes it possible to develop effective strategies for managing aggression, increase the level of security both among police officers and in society, as well as improve the psychological atmosphere in law enforcement agencies (Ponomorenko, 2024; Volnova, 2015).

In this paper, the individual psychological determinants of aggression and hostility are studied based on the analysis of empirical data obtained from a survey of students of the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Indicators of aggressiveness are of research interest as personal indicators of the tendency to display deviant behavior of future law enforcement officers. Such criteria, in particular, make it possible to evaluate and predict the success of a cadet's professional adaptation in the process of forming basic law enforcement competencies.

The purpose of the study is to analyze and identify predictive indicators of integrative components of aggressiveness and hostility as factors determining the manifestation of various forms of deviant behavior during the training of applicants for law enforcement service.



Methodology

To solve this problem, the following diagnostic tools have been selected: the method of determining the tendency to deviant behavior by A.N. Orel, as well as the method of detecting manifestations of aggression by Buss-Durkee Hostility Inventory, BDHI. The term "aggression" covers a variety of actions that violate a person's physical or mental integrity, cause material harm to him, hinder the implementation of his plans, contradict his interests or lead to his destruction (Nezhuta, 2015). Aggression is understood as human behavior aimed at harming another, including physical violence, direct insults, and even sarcasm if expressed in an unfriendly form. This can be either an individual or a collective action, the purpose of which is to cause physical or psychological harm, damage or destroy another person or group of people. This behavior is characterized by purposeful and deliberate harm to others. In turn, aggressiveness is a personality trait expressed in a stable hostile attitude towards other people and a tendency to aggressive actions without provocation. It is characterized by a person's willingness to display aggressive behavior. Most researchers, studying the problem of deviance, rely on the connection of this concept with "social norms". Social norms are created in all areas of public life and regulate various types of social relationships. On the one hand, they contribute to the achievement of relative universality of human behavior, and on the other hand, they serve as the basis for the implementation of social control and the application of various sanctions. Deviant behavior is a type of aberrant behavior associated with violation of social norms and rules (Safin, Bayda, 2021). At the same time, methods for measuring the main forms of deviant behavior were used for our study.

According to Y.F. Andreeva and S.I. Sobkova, the Vologda Center for Humanitarian Research and Counseling "Razvitie" developed a methodology for diagnosing the tendency to deviant behavior in 1992. The methodology includes 98 statements, is widely used in practice, and has proven its reliability and validity. It is recommended by many authors of teaching aids (Aleksandrov, 2024; Garkavenko & Sobkova, 2019; Volnova, 2016). Also, the methodology includes accounting and correction of attitudes towards socially desirable responses of the subjects.

As for the methodology of A. Buss and A. Durkee (BDHI), this psychological tool, which is well known in the professional psychological environment, is used to diagnose the level of aggression and hostility, as well as their forms both in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. It was admitted to work by the psychological service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Developed by A. Buss and A. Durkee, the technique includes a questionnaire with statements aimed at assessing the aggressive reactions and inclinations of the subject. The test allows you to identify physical verbal, indirect aggression, irritability, negativism, resentment, suspicion and guilt.

The object of the study was the individual psychological characteristics of the students of the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the number of $n=57$ people aged 21 to 34 years (average

age 25 years), as part of three groups of a six-month training course for candidates for service in the Prosecutor's Office, the Economic Investigation Service and the Anti-Corruption Service. The survey was conducted in September 2022.

To solve this problem, a mathematical and statistical analysis of the interdependence of indicators of propensity to deviant behavior with scales of aggressiveness and hostility was carried out. In this regard, the average values of the aggressiveness index were determined – 44 points, hostility – 31 points (which is the average value). The study consisted of the following stages:

1) a general description of aggressiveness and its importance in law enforcement is provided, as well as a comparative analysis of the principles of the law enforcement services of Ukraine and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as fundamental socio-psychological factors that determine individual requirements for a candidate.

2) the analysis of empirical data by the method of rank correlation using the r-Spearman coefficient was carried out. Correlations between the components of aggressiveness, hostility and indicators of a tendency to deviant behavior have been revealed.

3) based on the revealed patterns of the implemented interpretation of the results, conclusions and relevant recommendations are formulated, which are proposed for discussion.

Results

The phenomenon of human aggression and hostility, as a form of deviant behavior, is the subject of many fundamental psychological scientific studies. The works of such scientists as A. Bandura, A. Buss, L. Berkowitz, R. Barron, G. Hartman, A. Durkee, D. Dollard, K. Lorenz, D. Richardson, C. Jung, S. Fishbach, S. Freud, E. Fromm and many others formed the basis of modern trends and approaches to the study of this phenomenon.

At the same time, taking into account the peculiarities of the object of research, the study of the psychological determinants of aggression and hostility includes the specifics of law enforcement activities, the success of which is primarily due to the competence of its staff (Ugwu, & Idemudia, 2024). As has been proven more than once, the quality of service in law enforcement agencies is influenced by a complex of socio-psychological factors. At the same time, based on the content of professional activity, the functions of law enforcement agencies and other significant characteristics by such scientists as D.O. Aleksandrov, Y.V. Aleksandrov, V.G. Androsiuk, B.G. Bovin, A.V. Dulov, L.I. Kazmirenko, Z.Kisil, V.S. Medvedev and many other representatives of the Ukrainian school of legal psychology have defined individual psychological criteria for the selection of applicants for service. The authors have identified the main and additional personality qualities necessary for the successful performance of state law enforcement functions. Thus, the authors refer to the main types of law enforcement activities in the aspect of psychological science: cognitive, communicative, organizational and constructive activities that are aimed at fulfilling the main tasks of law enforcement. In turn, the auxiliary ones include preventive and certifying ones, which are designed to ensure the implementation of the main ones.



Regarding the issue of aggressiveness, we rely on the opinion of D.O. Aleksandrov about its important adaptive function, contributing to the maintenance of life and a normal response to a threat to vital needs. And, as E. Fromm proved, if the control mechanisms are weakened, then a person is prone to the manifestation of malignant aggression – cruelty, which is not biologically adaptive and is not designed to protect human vital interests. In turn, hostility, being a set of undesirable qualities such as resentment, a tendency to unproductive self-accusation, etc., can be caused both by ideological attitudes in the process of internalization and the result of traumatic factors. Hostility can be the cause of such destructive mental phenomena as neuroticism, internal tension, increased suspicion, anxiety and depression, which acquire threatening manifestations in high-risk dangerous professions. As one of the predictors of professional deformation, hostility can provoke malignant destructive aggression, and therefore is a contraindication when selecting a candidate for law enforcement service (Aleksandrov, 2013).

It should also be added that according to the position adopted in jurisprudence (V. Glukhoverya, P. I. Khamula), all law enforcement agencies have the following unifying features:

- 1) the presence of state authority;
- 2) the availability of authority to apply state coercion measures;
- 3) professionalization of activities aimed at the implementation of special law enforcement powers and functions of a state body;
- 4) availability of special material and technical equipment and personnel support for the activities of the state agency;
- 5) the existence of a special procedure for the selection of personnel and service, special restrictions and requirements for personnel, increased responsibility and additional guarantees of activity.

Thus, the personal determinants of effective law enforcement are conditionally distributed based on the presence or absence of specified individual psychological traits directly related to the success of their implementation.

At the same time, given the socio-economic nature of law enforcement activities, it is also necessary to note external factors that cause a negative psychological impact on the personality of a law enforcement officer:

- 1) anomie of the population and legal nihilism;
- 2) the imperfection of the organization of the prevention of "excesses" in the service;
- 3) staff turnover;
- 4) high workload, irregular work schedule, lack of proper rest;
- 5) insufficient social protection and non-compliance of wages with modern standards of living standards;
- 6) increasing the requirements for physical and psychological qualities (Aleksandrov D.O., 2014).

These factors, as well as an increased risk to life and health in situations of active

confrontation with crime, may determine the level of aggressiveness and hostility of a law enforcement officer.

Thus, based on the review of the theoretical material, the following intermediate conclusions can be drawn:

- a candidate for service in law enforcement agencies is an established mature mentally stable person motivated to serve by the ideals of the rule of law, impartiality and justice, and self-improvement. Successful professional adaptation of a law enforcement officer can be facilitated by such attitudes and beliefs of a candidate as: ensuring law and order, defending the interests of the state, respect and observance of human and civil rights and freedoms, intolerance to manifestations of crime and corruption.

Further, returning to the purpose of our study, it is necessary to analyze the collected empirical data and their impact on the psychological qualities of a future law enforcement officer.

The BDHI methodology, chosen to assess the propensity for aggressive reactions, includes 75 questions distributed on eight scales: physical aggression; verbal aggression; indirect aggression; negativism; irritability; suspicion; resentment; guilt.

A.Buss proposed to distinguish aggression and hostility, defining the latter as a reaction expressing negative feelings and assessments of other people and events. Based on the results of the basic scales, the indices of general aggressiveness and hostility are calculated:

1) the aggressiveness index is determined by the average values of indicators of physical, verbal and indirect aggression.

2) the hostility index is the average values of the indicators of suspicion and irritability (Buss & Durkee, 1957).

As part of our research, it is important to determine the relationship between aggression and hostility. So, if a certain level of aggressiveness in the personality structure of a law enforcement officer is one of the professionally significant features, then hostility undoubtedly acts as a negative characteristic (Aleksandrov D.O., 2013).

The method of diagnosing the tendency to deviant behavior by A.N.Orel is intended for use as part of preventive measures aimed at preventing deviant behavior among employees. This standardized questionnaire measures a person's willingness (propensity) to manifest various forms of deviations and includes special psychodiagnostic scales to determine the propensity for each of them.

The scales of the questionnaire are divided into substantive and service scales. The service scale evaluates the participant's propensity to provide socially approved responses, checking the reliability of the results and allowing data to be adjusted according to the content scales depending on the severity of this attitude.

Meaningful scales help to identify the psychological foundations and social attitudes that contribute to various forms of deviant behavior. Meaningful scales include: tendencies to violate norms and rules; propensities to addictive behavior; propensities to self-harm and self-destructive behavior; propensities to aggressive and violent behavior; propensities to loss of control over emotional reactions; propensities to delinquent behavior



(Aleksandrov D.O., 2024).

It is important to note that in the course of service, most employees have a tendency to reduce aggressive manifestations. Research shows that with the accumulation of experience, an employee becomes less susceptible to feelings such as envy and hatred caused by anger and dissatisfaction. Professional experience contributes to the development of tolerance and tolerance through long-term interaction with representatives of different strata of society. The manifestations of autoaggression and guilt are also significantly reduced. As the employee adapts to the service, he begins to perceive himself more objectively, which helps to overcome internal conflicts and conflicting emotions. Strengthening reflexive skills builds self-confidence, and the accumulated positive experience allows you to satisfy the need for self-affirmation as a professional (Aleksandrov Yu.V., 2012).

Also, the level of suspicion decreases over time. If at the initial stage of a career a young specialist shows caution and distrust, fearing possible threats, then as he adapts to his job and builds confidence, increased anxiety normalizes. Thus, in the course of professional adaptation, the level of hostility decreases markedly, which can be considered a positive feature of professional development. Since hostility interferes with the objective performance of official duties, its decrease is a positive trend. At the same time, aggressiveness decreases slightly, as it retains importance for performing law enforcement tasks. Consequently, the reduction of aggression occurs within the optimal level as adaptation and professional growth take place. Awareness of this trend helps to track changes in related personality traits that contribute to a decrease in aggressiveness and hostility (Kisil, Z., 2017).

At the same time, in this study it is necessary to address the dependence of the components of aggressiveness and hostility with the scales of propensity to deviant behavior.

The correlation matrix of indicators of the tendency to deviant behavior of the components of aggressiveness and hostility.

Scales	Physical	Verbal	Indirect	Aggressive						
	Aggression BD1	Aggression BD2	Aggression BD3	Negativism BD4	Irritation BD5	Suspicious ness BD6	Resentment BD7	Feeling Guilty BD8	ness Index BDI	Hostility Index BDII
social desirability O1	-0,287	-0,545	-0,510	-0,181	-0,355	-0,040	-0,289	-0,297	-0,574	-0,185
violation of rules and regulations O2	0,301	0,360	0,215	0,189	0,171	0,210	0,366	0,316	0,366	0,339
addictive behavior O3	0,438	0,346	0,370	0,344	0,357	0,404	0,490	0,366	0,494	0,534
self-destructive behavior O4	0,471	0,244	-0,098	0,059	0,125	0,230	0,173	0,119	0,240	0,246
violent behavior O5	0,429	0,152	0,023	0,073	0,172	0,156	0,104	0,229	0,248	0,159
loss of control over emotions O6	0,137	0,201	0,251	-0,035	0,365	0,010	0,005	0,293	0,256	0,009
delinquent behavior O7	0,245	0,302	0,225	0,371	0,296	0,332	0,421	0,342	0,326	0,449

During the processing, the existing relationships were determined by calculating Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. This is due to the fact that the resulting metrics are not subject to the law of normal distribution. It should be noted that in relation to the volume of the experimental sample ($n=57$), the statistical value of r_s is at least 0.261 at $p \leq 0.05$, the high value of r_s is at least 0.339 at $p \leq 0.01$, and the maximum value of r_s is 0.424 at $p \leq 0.001$.

Consequently, significant correlations are noted between the following scales of the methodology Orel and Buss-Durkee:

The O1 service scale (sincerity scale) shows negative correlations with all scales of the methods used. Of these, the most significant inverse correlations are with the general aggressiveness index (BDI), verbal aggression (BD2), indirect aggression (BD3), irritation (BD5), suspicion (BD6), tendency to violate norms and rules (O2), tendency to addictive behavior (O3) and delinquent behavior (O7), this indicates the respondent's tendency to give socially desirable answers to these questions during the survey. At the same time, it is expected that as the level of aggressiveness decreases, the level of sincerity will increase and vice versa. As for the index of aggressiveness (BDI), it has high positive associations with such indicators of deviance as a tendency to addictive behavior (0.494), a tendency to violate norms and rules (0.366), a tendency to delinquent behavior (0.326). The hostility index also shows a high positive dependence with addictive behavior (0.533), delinquent behavior and a tendency to violate norms and rules.

Evaluating other correlations, the following high values can be noted:

- physical aggression with addictive behavior (0.438), tendency to self-destructive behavior (0.470), violent behavior (0.428);
- verbal aggression with a tendency to violate norms and rules (0.360), addictive behavior (0.345);
- indirect aggression with addictive behavior (0.370);
- negativism with a tendency to delinquent behavior (0.371) and addictive behavior (0.343);
- suspicion with dependent behavior (0.404), delinquency (0.332) and self-destructive behavior (0.230);
- irritability with a tendency to lose control over emotional reactions (0.364);
- vulnerabilities with addictive behavior (0.490), delinquent behavior (0.421), violation of norms and rules (0.366);
- unjustified self-accusation with addictive behavior (0.366), delinquent behavior (0.341), violation of norms and rules (0.316).

Positive correlations indicate that with a decrease (increase) in some indicators, the associated values will decrease (increase) accordingly.

Such trends suggest that a decrease in the overall level of hostility and aggressiveness contributes to a corresponding decrease in the tendency to deviant behavior.



Discussion

In psychology, aggression is considered as emotionally intense behavior aimed at harming others. This behavior can manifest itself in various forms, from physical violence or verbal aggression to indirect aggression. The causes of aggressive behavior are complex and may include biological, psychological, and social factors. Within the framework of theories of social learning (A. Bandura), frustration-aggression (D. Dollard et al.) and psychoanalytic approaches (S. Freud) aggression is explained as the result of the interaction of various factors - from hereditary inclinations to social experience and stress levels.

The relationship between aggression and professional deformation is especially relevant for socio-economic professions where there are high emotional and mental loads. As indicated by Professor V.S. Medvedev, activity determinants play a decisive role in professional deformation, but at the same time personal characteristics also have a high degree of influence (Penkova, 2022). These changes in the personal and professional qualities of an employee caused by prolonged exposure to specific professional conditions and stressful factors in the law enforcement sphere are associated with the constant need to maintain a high level of preparedness for dangers, resolve conflict situations and limit one's own emotions. These processes lead to "burnout" and emotional fatigue, as well as to the manifestation of destructive traits such as hostility, cynicism, excessive suspicion. In extreme cases, professional deformation can contribute to increased aggressiveness, decreased empathy and loss of motivation to work (Kisil, Z.R. & Kisil, R.V., 2021).

In law enforcement agencies, aggression in a controlled form can perform an adaptive function, helping employees respond to threats. However, the accumulation of aggression in the absence of proper psychological relief and support can eventually transform into malignant forms of aggressive behavior and professional deformation. This highlights the importance of preventing professional burnout and managing aggression to prevent negative consequences in the work of law enforcement officers and other high-risk professions.

Conclusions

Some forms of deviant behavior have high correlations with the components of aggressiveness and hostility, which makes it possible to predict and prevent their manifestation at an early stage in order to take effective measures to prevent and counteract such manifestations.

Reducing the level of aggression and hostility reduces the risk of various forms of deviant behavior. Thus, the indicators of aggressiveness and hostility have a prognostic value.

Forms of preventive work with this specific client audience should constantly include the development of respect and importance of the fundamental principles of law enforcement, thereby reducing the level of hostility and aggressiveness caused by external negative factors influencing the personality of a law enforcement officer.

It is necessary to conduct additional empirical research among students in order to identify links between indicators of tendency to deviant behavior and professional deformation in order to develop an integrated approach to the prevention of destructive mental phenomena of law enforcement officers in the process of psychological support for their service.

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AGGRESSION AS A FACTOR OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR AMONG FUTURE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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Abstract

Relevance. In the context of contemporary changes and global challenges such as the destabilization of international law and order, transformations in security systems, and new approaches to law enforcement activities, the study of aggression and hostility as social phenomena remains highly relevant. Despite extensive research in this field, the issue requires ongoing reassessment due to dynamic changes driven by demographic, environmental, social, political, economic, and other factors.

Methodology. The study employed diagnostic methods to assess tendencies toward deviant behavior (A. Orla's Methodology) and to measure aggression (Bass-Darky Methodology). These methods were applied to a sample of 57 cadets training for law enforcement careers. **Results.** Comparative analysis reveals differences between the law enforcement models of Kazakhstan and Ukraine, which impose certain psychological requirements on personnel. However, the socio-economic nature and specifics of law enforcement work result in similar dynamics in the manifestation of aggressive reactions. The data showed high levels of aggression and hostility, indicating a risk of professional deformation, especially considering the high-stress nature characteristic of law enforcement activities. Specific forms of deviant behavior exhibit strong correlational relationships with components of aggression and hostility, enabling early prediction and prevention through effective measures to counter such behaviors.

Conclusions. Reducing levels of aggression and hostility can decrease the risk of other forms of deviant behavior. Therefore, aggression and hostility indicators hold prognostic significance.

Keywords: aggression, hostility, deviant behavior, law enforcement activities.

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