

THE CRIMINOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROSTITUTE'S PERSONALITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Israyelyan G.V.

National Bureau of Expertises,
Yerevan, Armenia

This article presents the results of a criminological study of the socio-demographic and psychological characteristics of individuals involved in prostitution in the Republic of Armenia. The findings indicate that both women and men are involved in this activity, with men predominantly engaged in homosexual prostitution. It was established that most individuals begin engaging in prostitution at a young age; the average age is approximately 26 years, while the active age range generally does not exceed 45 years.

The study also revealed that the majority of individuals involved in prostitution are of Armenian nationality. However, in recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of individuals of other nationalities arriving from the Russian Federation, Colombia, Iran, China and several other countries.

The analysis shows that among the psychological characteristics of individuals involved in prostitution, a sense of personal and social inadequacy is frequently observed. It is demonstrated that limited adaptive capacities of the individual constitute one of the factors contributing to involvement in prostitution. In the case of male homosexual prostitution, motivational factors may include masochistic tendencies, specific sexual fantasies, a desire for self-affirmation and the pursuit of sexual gratification.

The study further indicates that the development of these personal characteristics may be associated with unfavorable socio-psychological conditions of socialization, including negative parental behavioral patterns, the absence of one parent in the family (most often the father), as well as experiences of sexual abuse during childhood.

Keywords: prostitution, criminological characteristics, socio-demographic factors, psychological traits.

Introduction

Effective prevention of prostitution requires a comprehensive analysis of its criminological components, including the characteristics of the offender's personality. In the Republic of Armenia, prostitution is classified as an administrative offense, with liability established under Article 179.1 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Armenia.

Correspondence address: Israyelyan Gevorg, Doctor of Law, Associate Professor, Head of the Research Center for Applied Problems of Forensics at the National Bureau of Expertises of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, Lecturer at the Eurasian International University, e-mail: g_i_1979@mail.ru

At the same time, the personality of individuals engaged in prostitution as an independent object of criminological research has to date rarely been the subject of systematic scientific analysis in the Republic of Armenia. The absence of comprehensive empirical data on the socio-demographic and psychological characteristics of this category of individuals significantly limits the development of scientifically grounded preventive measures.

The aim of the present study is to examine the criminological characteristics of individuals engaged in prostitution by identifying their principal socio-demographic and psychological traits, as well as factors relevant to the development of effective individual preventive measures against this offense. The scientific and practical significance of the study lies in the fact that identifying typological characteristics of the offender's personality is one of the key prerequisites for developing effective individual preventive measures against prostitution, as well as for improving relevant areas of social and law enforcement policy.

The empirical basis of the study consists of the results of analysis, comparative examination, and surveys conducted among 40 individuals engaged in prostitution.

Proceeding to the presentation of the research results, it appears appropriate to first examine the socio-demographic characteristics of this category of individuals, as these characteristics make it possible to form a generalized understanding of the typological profile of the studied group and to identify a number of factors of criminological significance.

Basic research

1. Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Socio-demographic characteristics include such indicators as gender, age, marital status, level of education, professional training and other parameters that make it possible to construct a generalized criminological profile of the studied category of individuals.

Gender.

According to the gender distribution, the overwhelming majority of individuals engaged in prostitution are women. Male individuals sex are generally involved in homosexual prostitution. Among them are individuals who identify as transgender persons. Some of them have had sex reassignment surgery and hold identification documents issued in female names.

Age.

The analysis of the age structure indicates that this type of illegal activity is predominantly carried out by individuals under the age of 45, as older individuals are generally not in demand in the relevant illegal market. Most individuals begin engaging in prostitution at a relatively young age, while the average age of the respondents in the study is approximately 26 years.

Nationality.

By nationality, approximately 90% of individuals engaged in prostitution are of Armenian origin. At the same time, in recent years there has been a certain increase in the number of individuals from other countries arriving in the Republic of Armenia from the Russian Federation, Colombia, Iran, China and several other states. This trend may be associated both with ongoing migration processes and the expansion of transnational social contacts.

Level of Education.

The overall educational level of the surveyed individuals is relatively low: approximately 80% have incomplete secondary education, while only about 20% possess a full secondary education. A low level of education may be considered one of the factors limiting opportunities for lawful employment and, consequently, increasing the risk of involvement in illegal activities.

Marital Status.

All women who participated in the study were unmarried at the time of the survey. Approximately 10% had previously been married and were divorced at the time of the study. Notably, about 80% of the women had one or more dependent children, which often constitutes an additional socio-economic factor contributing to the continuation of this form of activity. The male participants in the research had not previously been married.

Thus, The analysis of socio-demographic characteristics allows the identification of several typical features inherent in this category of individuals. These data provide the necessary basis for the subsequent analysis of psychological and behavioral characteristics, which together form a criminologically significant profile of a person involved in prostitution.

At the same time, these parameters reflect only external and formally observable aspects of personality and do not fully reveal the internal mechanisms of behavior that drive both involvement in prostitution and the persistence of this activity.

In this regard, for a more comprehensive understanding of the criminological nature of the phenomenon under consideration, it is necessary to turn to an analysis of the psychological characteristics of individuals engaged in prostitution, with particular attention to their motivational attitudes, value orientations and perceptions of their own social roles.

2. Psychological Characteristics**2.1. Feelings of Personal Inferiority**

One of the characteristic psychological traits identified in criminological analyses of individuals involved in prostitution is a pronounced sense of personal inferiority. Although this condition is generally observed among individuals across various forms of prostitution, it is most pronounced among women

This phenomenon stems from an underdeveloped sense of personal value and self-respect. Individuals involved in the sphere of commercial sex are often characterized by

persistently low self-esteem, a sense of social insignificance, and a perceived inability to realize themselves through socially approved forms of activity. From a criminological perspective, such personality traits create a psychological foundation conducive to deviant behavior. An individual who experiences a prolonged sense of personal “insignificance” and does not perceive opportunities for social self-realization may view prostitution as an acceptable and relatively accessible means of achieving material well-being or a certain level of social recognition. The development of a personal inferiority complex is typically influenced by a combination of adverse socialization factors. These include a dysfunctional family environment, a lack of emotional support, negative interpersonal experiences, as well as various forms of psychological and social pressure during adolescence. These circumstances contribute to persistent distortions in self-esteem and worldview, which, in turn, may increase the likelihood of involvement in deviant forms of behavior, including prostitution [1, p. 215].

Thus, a sense of personal inferiority represents not only a psychological characteristic of the individual but also a significant criminological factor contributing to a predisposition toward participation in illegal or socially disapproved activities.

2.2. Motivational Sphere

An integral component of the psychological characterization of personality is the motivational sphere, which represents the system of internal drives and attitudes that determine the direction of behavior.

In criminological literature, the prevailing view is that the primary reason for involvement in prostitution is financial need. Indeed, for a certain segment of the youth population, commercial sex constitutes an important source of income that allows them to secure basic living conditions. At the same time, for other individuals participation in paid sexual relations serves as a means of obtaining additional financial resources to satisfy consumer needs and maintain a particular lifestyle and level of leisure activity [2, 2003, p. 15]. The prevalence of prostitution is also often associated with the general level of socio-economic development in society. In countries with lower standards of living, this phenomenon is more frequently observed among socially vulnerable and economically disadvantaged groups [3, 2014]. However, such an explanation is not exhaustive. Empirical evidence indicates that prostitution also exists in economically developed countries characterized by high levels of welfare and relatively low unemployment. Moreover, in many cases this activity is undertaken by individuals who already possess stable sources of income. Consequently, reducing the causes of prostitution exclusively to financial hardship or low social status represents an oversimplification of the problem.

From a criminological perspective, it is more important to analyze how objective life circumstances are reflected in an individual’s consciousness, shaping their system of values, attitudes, and behavioral strategies. In this regard, particular importance should be

attached to the conditions of personality formation during childhood and early adolescence. It is during this period that the foundations of social adaptation are established, including attitudes toward work, adherence to social norms, and the perception of one's place within the social structure. It may therefore be assumed that involvement in prostitution occurs more frequently among individuals experiencing internal insecurity, anxiety, and a sense of social vulnerability. Such psychological conditions are often associated with an inability to achieve the desired level of material well-being, to meet certain social expectations, or to maintain the social status that the individual considers necessary for personal self-realization.

From a criminological standpoint, prostitution may be regarded as one manifestation of social maladjustment in an individual. Limited adaptive capacities of the individual, the inability to effectively realize oneself through legitimate forms of employment, and a distorted attitude toward social norms and values create conditions that encourage the selection of alternative, deviant means of generating income.

Such maladjustment is also reflected in attitudes toward labor activity. A significant proportion of individuals involved in prostitution do not demonstrate stable motivation for professional development, do not seek to improve their qualifications, and do not pursue further education. As a result, a particular model of economic behavior emerges in which the commercialization of one's own body is perceived as a relatively simple means of obtaining financial resources [4, pp. 20–21].

It should be noted that the aforementioned psychological and motivational characteristics are typical of both female and male prostitution. However, in the case of male prostitution, several specific motivational factors can also be identified.

These include the following:

1. The desire to experience the role of a sex worker, associated with the presence of specific sexual fantasies or masochistic tendencies of the individual [5, p. 154].
2. The need for self-affirmation, which may function as a mechanism for compensatory mechanism for low self-esteem, a lack of social recognition, and a desire for control within interpersonal relationships.
3. The desire to satisfy sexual needs, which is significantly less common as a motivator in female prostitution. Researchers note that many women involved in commercial sex demonstrate a specific behavioral pattern based on the so-called "syndrome of passionless prostitutional sexuality".

The essence of this phenomenon lies in the formation of a psychological attitude that implies a strict separation of the sexual act from the emotional sphere. Within this behavioral model, sexual relations acquire an exclusively utilitarian character and are primarily perceived as a means of obtaining material benefit.

The absence of emotional and sensual intimacy, as well as the alienation of one's own body as an object of commercial exchange, gradually leads to significant changes in the personality structure. From a criminological perspective, such transformations manifest themselves in the formation of specific behavioral stereotypes, a decreased sensitivity to social norms, and the gradual adaptation to a deviant form of economic activity [6, pp. 166–184]. At the same time, the feeling of personal worthlessness is not limited to an emotional or psychological experience but exerts a deeper influence on the structure of self-perception and the system of personal attitudes. Over time, this condition begins to manifest itself in the transformation of an individual's attitude toward their own body, personal identity, and mechanisms of psychological self-protection. In this context, particular interest lies in the analysis of personality changes arising from the systematic violation of personal boundaries, which makes it possible to more fully reveal the psychological and criminological aspects of involvement in prostitution.

2.3. Personality Changes Resulting from the Violation of Personal Boundaries

Among the significant psychological characteristics of individuals involved in prostitution are substantial personality changes resulting from the systematic violation of personal boundaries. Such violations affect several interconnected levels of personal functioning, including physical, definitional and protective personal boundaries.

Physical personal boundaries reflect an individual's sense of their own body, their perception of it, and their attitude toward it as a value. From the perspective of sexology, the only psychologically safe reason for sexual relations is the mutual desire of both partners. In cases where sexual contact occurs in the absence of such desire, and especially against it, distortions in the perception of one's own body gradually emerge. The body may come to be perceived as dirty, dysfunctional, unattractive, or damaged." Such a transformation of bodily perception increases the tendency toward self-destructive behavior while simultaneously reducing psychological sensitivity to further violations of personal boundaries. In effect, a malfunction occurs in the psychological "signaling system" that is intended to warn the individual of potential threats. As a result, the risk of physical harm increases, including harm inflicted by clients. At the same time, the level of concern for one's own health decreases, responses to illness and physical discomfort weaken, and the priority of preserving personal health gradually loses its significance.

Defining personal boundaries form the basis of personal identity and are closely related to the system of values, self-perception, and the fundamental question of "who am I?". Under normal circumstances, an individual possesses several identity components (family, professional, social, cultural, and others). However, in the case of involvement in prostitution, self-identification often becomes primarily centered on this sphere of activity, largely due to the insufficient development of other social roles and forms of self-realization.

The formation of the attitude "I am a sex worker" significantly transforms the nature of social interactions. In interpersonal relationships, orientation toward fulfilling the

expectations of others begins to dominate, accompanied by the necessity to “please” and conform to imposed demands. Such a transformation contributes to the consolidation of dependent behavioral patterns and the instrumentalization of social contacts.

Protective personal boundaries serve to protect the individual from aggression, exploitation, and destructive social influences. Their constant violation leads to the formation of a persistent state of latent psychological stress. Under such conditions, consumerist and objectifying attitudes toward the individual may gradually be perceived as normal in everyday interactions. However, even when such interactions appear outwardly normalized, they retain a pronounced destructive impact on the individual’s psychological state.

The accumulation of chronic stress creates a need for compensatory mechanisms of psychological release, which frequently acquire destructive forms. In particular, the likelihood of developing addictive behavior (including alcohol and substance abuse) increases, as does the tendency toward various forms of self-destructive behavior and self-harm [7].

From a criminological perspective, the described personality changes are of considerable importance, as they directly affect the level of victimological vulnerability among individuals involved in prostitution. The weakening of personal boundaries, reduced sensitivity to violations of physical and psychological integrity, and the development of dependent behavioral patterns objectively increase the likelihood that such individuals will become involved in various forms of exploitation, including violence, economic coercion, and criminal control by third parties.

As a result, a state of social and psychological vulnerability becomes entrenched, which may be exploited by criminal structures to maintain stable mechanisms of recruitment and retention within prostitution.

Thus, the violation of personal boundaries should be regarded not only as a psychological consequence of involvement in prostitution but also as a factor that generates specific criminological risks and increases the predisposition to victimization of this category of individuals. These circumstances necessitate a more detailed analysis of the psychological mechanisms through which individuals adapt to the conditions of such activities, as well as their influence on the formation of behavioral strategies and social attitudes.

2.4. Factors Influencing Personality Formation

The formation of personality is significantly influenced by the parental emotional rejection of a child. Emotional rejection is understood as a destructive parenting style in which parents fail to satisfy the child’s basic emotional needs, demonstrating coldness, indifference, or even open hostility. The primary manifestations of such an attitude include ignoring the child’s needs, emotional coldness and distance, as well as other forms of insufficient parental attention.

Under such conditions, the process of personality formation in girls acquires a number of specific features. In early childhood, in relations with the mother, a girl often does not perceive herself as a fully-fledged individual with her own identity, but rather as a kind of “extension” or continuation of the mother. As a rule, in the life histories of women involved in prostitution, the mother is often characterized by emotional coldness, inaccessibility, or a depressive state. Living with such a mother, the girl constantly experiences a sense of lost love and remains in a continuous search for at least minimal emotional closeness. Such an unstable emotional environment creates a persistent sense of insecurity and vulnerability, and may also produce strong inner tension and ambivalent emotions toward the mother as a significant figure in early childhood.

Simultaneously with experiences of loneliness and abandonment, as the girl grows physically, she may often encounter excessive attention from men within her immediate environment - such as her father, uncle, or other male relatives - who demonstrate an unhealthy interest in her body and sexuality. Such forms of behavior can prematurely sexualize the child’s psyche, provoking emotional arousal mixed with feelings of shame and internal “contamination.”

As a result, girls raised under such conditions frequently reach adulthood unprepared for the wholesome experience of everyday life and positive emotions. They may not even allow themselves to consider the possibility that they have the right to perceive themselves as independent individuals with their own needs, desires, and personal boundaries. In a certain sense, such women do not acquire the experience of internal freedom to be themselves. The lack of personal integrity and value leads to the formation of an instrumental attitude toward one’s own body, which begins to be perceived as a means of obtaining material benefits or other life resources.

In a symbolic sense, such behavior may be interpreted as an attempt to escape from maternal emotional coldness toward the figure of the father or another man in order to obtain at least a physical response in place of unavailable emotional support. Since the child did not receive either emotional acceptance or the necessary intimacy during childhood, the unmet need for love and closeness continues to remain a dominant motive in adulthood. The entire life strategy of such women often becomes subordinated to the search for a better life and the anticipated, yet never experienced, sense of psychological well-being [8].

It should be noted that emotional rejection of a child does not always directly lead to the development of unlawful behavior. In some cases, families may contain certain emotional barriers between parents and children; however, through their behavior parents may demonstrate distorted attitudes toward moral and legal norms (for example, alcohol abuse, drug use, the use of obscene language, etc.). Observing such patterns, the child

gradually internalizes corresponding behavioral stereotypes, forming similar attitudes and perceptions regarding the acceptability of particular forms of behavior [9, pp. 782–789].

Another negative factor influencing personality formation may be the absence of one of the parents in the family (most often the father), which objectively limits the educational and developmental potential of the family environment. The absence of a parent can significantly affect a child's development, influencing the emotional sphere, behavioral responses, and processes of social adaptation. Such circumstances may lead to attachment disturbances, increased anxiety, personality deformations, as well as difficulties in the formation and identification of gender roles.

A significant risk factor is also sexual abuse experienced in childhood within the family. Sexual abuse of a child inflicts severe psychological trauma that disrupts the functioning of the psyche, leaves a deep imprint on memory, and exerts a long-term impact on self-esteem, personality development, and the nature of subsequent interpersonal relationships. Such traumatic experiences may generate a lasting sense of alienation and isolation, influencing the individual's entire subsequent life trajectory [10].

Conclusion

The conducted study has identified key criminological and psychological characteristics of prostitution in the Republic of Armenia. The analysis demonstrates that this activity involves both women and men, including representatives of transgender and homosexual groups, reflecting the diversity of forms of illicit sexual activity. Involvement in prostitution is associated with an early age of entry, limited social resources, and insufficient individual adaptation to socio-economic conditions, thereby creating a basis for the stable reproduction of this criminal practice.

The psychological characteristics of individuals engaged in prostitution reveal a persistent decline in self-esteem and a sense of personal insignificance, which constitute important factors facilitating the legitimization of their criminal behavior and the formation of stable patterns of self-exploitation. In male homosexual prostitution, additional specific motives are observed, including self-affirmation through the role of the prostituting individual and the realization of sexual fantasies, which necessitate particular attention in criminological analysis and prevention.

The formation of such behavioral patterns is closely associated with adverse upbringing conditions, including emotional rejection in childhood, the absence of one parent, limited educational opportunities within the family, and experiences of sexual abuse. These factors contribute to personality distortions, impaired personal boundaries, and increased vulnerability to criminogenic activity.

Thus, the identified patterns underscore the need for a comprehensive approach to prevention and social rehabilitation of individuals involved in prostitution, with an

emphasis on the early identification of socially vulnerable groups and the correction of psychological and behavioral factors predisposing to unlawful conduct. Moreover, the revealed data characterizing the offender's personality make it possible to determine the principal directions of individualized preventive work. They enable a more precise selection of subjects of preventive intervention (e.g., a parent or another person of authority for the offender), as well as the identification of the most appropriate methods and forms of preventive influence aimed at preventing repeated deviant or unlawful behavior.

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ՊՈՌՆԿՈՒԹՅԱՄԲ ԶԲԱՂՎՈՂ ԱՆՁԻ ՔՐԵԱԲԱՆԱԿԱՆ ԲՆՈՒԹԱԳԻՐԸ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅՈՒՆՈՒՄ

Իսրայելյան Գ. Վ.

Սույն հոդվածում ներկայացված են Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունում պոռնկությամբ զբաղվող անձանց սոցիալ-ժողովրդագրական և հոգեբանական առանձնահատկությունների քրեաբանական ուսումնասիրության արդյունքները: Հեղինակի պնդմամբ հակահրավակական վարքի նշված տեսակը դրսևորում են ինչպես

կանայք, այնպես էլ տղամարդիկ, ընդ որում տղամարդիկ հիմնականում զբաղվում են նույնասեռական պոռնկությամբ:

Պարզվել է, որ անձանց մեծ մասը պոռնկությամբ սկսում է զբաղվել երիտասարդ տարիքում. միջին տարիքը կազմում է մոտ 26 տարեկանը, իսկ ակտիվ զբաղվածության տարիքային սահմանը, որպես կանոն, չի գերազանցում 45 տարին: Ուսումնասիրությունը նաև ցույց է տվել, որ պոռնկությամբ զբաղվող անձանց մեծամասնությունը հայ ազգության ներկայացուցիչներ են: Սակայն վերջին տարիներին նկատվում է այլազգիների թվի աճ, որոնք ժամանում են Ռուսաստանի Դաշնությունից, Կոլումբիայից, Իրանից, Չինաստանից և մի շարք այլ երկրներից:

Վերլուծությունը ցույց է տալիս, որ պոռնկությամբ զբաղվող անձանց հոգեբանական առանձնահատկությունների շարքում հաճախ հանդիպում է անձնական և սոցիալական անբավարարության զգացումը: Ապացուցվել է, որ անհատի սահմանափակ հարմարվողական կարողությունները պոռնկությամբ զբաղվելուն նպաստող գործոններից են: Տղամարդկանց նույնասեռական պոռնկությամբ զբաղվելու շարժառիթային գործոններն են մազոխիստական հակումները, հատուկ սեռական ֆանտազիաները, ինքնահաստատմանը ձգտումը և սեռական բավարարում ստանալու ցանկությունը: Հետազոտությունը նաև վկայում է, որ անձնային նշված հատկանիշների ձևավորումը կարող է կապված լինել սոցիալականացման անբարենպաստ սոցիալ-հոգեբանական պայմանների հետ, այդ թվում՝ ծնողների բացասական վարքագծային օրինակների, ընտանիքում ծնողներից մեկի (առավել հաճախ՝ հոր) բացակայության, ինչպես նաև մանկության շրջանում սեռական բռնության ենթարկվելու փորձառության հետ:

Բանալի բառեր. պոռնկություն, անձի քրեաբանական բնութագիր, սոցիալ-ժողովրդագրական հատկանիշներ, հոգեբանական առանձնահատկություններ:

КРИМИНОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКА ЛИЧНОСТИ ПРОСТИТУИРУЮЩЕГОСЯ ЛИЦА В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ АРМЕНИЯ

Исраелян Г. В.

В статье представлены результаты криминологического исследования социально-демографических и психологических характеристик лиц, вовлечённых в проституцию в Республике Армения. Установлено, что в данную деятельность вовлечены как женщины, так и мужчины, при этом мужчины преимущественно участвуют в гомосексуальной проституции. Показано, что большинство лиц начинают заниматься проституцией в молодом возрасте; средний возраст составляет около 26 лет, а активный возрастной диапазон, как правило, не превышает 45 лет.

Выявлено, что по национальному составу преобладают представители армянской национальности, однако в последние годы наблюдается увеличение числа лиц других национальностей, прибывших из России, Колумбии, Ирана, Китая и ряда других стран.

Установлено, что среди психологических особенностей лиц, вовлечённых в проституцию, нередко отмечается ощущение личностной и социальной несостоятельности. Показано, что одним из факторов вовлечения в проституцию выступают ограниченные адаптационные возможности личности. Для мужской гомосексуальной проституции могут быть характерны такие мотивационные факторы, как личностные мазохистские тенденции, специфические сексуальные фантазии, стремление к самоутверждению и удовлетворению сексуальных потребностей.

Выявлено, что формирование указанных личностных особенностей может быть связано с неблагоприятными социально-психологическими условиями социализации личности, негативными поведенческими моделями родителей, отсутствием одного из родителей в семье (чаще всего отца), а также пережитым в детстве сексуальным насилием.

Ключевые слова: проституция, криминологическая характеристика, социально-демографические факторы, психологические особенности.

The article was submitted: 12.01.2026

The article was accepted: 16.03.2026