HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

CRIMINOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM VIOLENCE IN MAHALLAS

Xusainov Alisher Abduvahobovich
Independent researcher at the Research Institute of Criminology of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract

This article examines the criminological foundations for improving the protection of women and children from violence at the mahalla level. The study analyzes the causes and conditions of domestic violence, social risk factors, preventive mechanisms, and the role of local community institutions in reducing violence. Statistical data from international organizations and national studies demonstrate that women and children remain among the most vulnerable social groups exposed to physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence. The research emphasizes the necessity of strengthening criminological prevention, improving victim support systems, enhancing interagency cooperation, and implementing community-based preventive strategies. The findings suggest that an integrated criminological approach can significantly reduce violence and improve social security within local communities.

Keywords: violence prevention, women's protection, child protection, criminology, mahalla, domestic violence, victimology, crime prevention, community safety, social security.

Introduction

Violence against women and children has become one of the most urgent social, legal, and criminological issues of the twenty-first century. Despite significant progress in the development of human rights protection mechanisms, millions of women and children worldwide continue to suffer from physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence within families and communities. Such violence not only threatens the life, health, and dignity of victims but also creates serious social, economic, and demographic consequences that hinder sustainable development. According to international studies, domestic violence remains one of the most hidden forms of criminal behavior because many victims do not report incidents due to fear, social pressure, financial dependence, or lack of confidence in protection mechanisms. The protection of women and children from violence has become a priority direction of state policy in many countries. International legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, emphasize the necessity of creating effective preventive systems aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable groups. Modern criminological research demonstrates that violence is not merely an individual act but a complex social phenomenon influenced by economic instability, family conflicts, unemployment, substance abuse, gender stereotypes, insufficient legal awareness, and deficiencies in social control mechanisms.

In Uzbekistan, comprehensive reforms have been implemented in recent years to strengthen the protection of women and children and to improve crime prevention mechanisms at the community level. Special attention has been paid to the activities of mahallas as unique institutions of civil society that serve as a bridge between citizens and state authorities. Mahallas play an important role in identifying vulnerable families, providing social support, promoting legal awareness, and preventing

HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

various forms of violence before they escalate into criminal acts. Their proximity to residents enables them to detect risk factors at an early stage and implement timely preventive measures. From a criminological perspective, the effectiveness of violence prevention largely depends on the ability to identify the causes and conditions that contribute to criminal behavior. Contemporary criminology emphasizes the importance of community-based prevention, victimological protection, and multidisciplinary cooperation among law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, social services, and local self-governance bodies. In this regard, mahallas possess significant potential for developing sustainable preventive strategies based on early intervention and social partnership. Research indicates that communities with strong social cohesion and active local institutions experience lower levels of domestic violence and juvenile victimization. Therefore, strengthening the criminological foundations of violence prevention within mahallas is essential not only for protecting women and children but also for ensuring public security, social stability, and the rule of law. The development of evidence-based preventive measures can significantly reduce the risk of repeated victimization and contribute to the formation of a safe social environment. Globalization, urbanization, migration processes, and rapid socio-economic transformations have generated new challenges in the sphere of family relations and community safety. These changes require the modernization of traditional preventive approaches and the introduction of innovative criminological mechanisms that combine legal, social, psychological, and technological instruments. Effective protection of women and children should therefore be based on an integrated system that incorporates risk assessment, early detection, victim support, rehabilitation programs, and continuous monitoring of vulnerable groups.

Methodology

This study employed a comprehensive criminological research methodology aimed at identifying the factors influencing violence against women and children within mahallas and developing effective mechanisms for improving their protection. The methodological framework was based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative research approaches, enabling a multidimensional analysis of violence as a complex social and criminological phenomenon.

The research primarily utilized the dialectical method of scientific inquiry, which made it possible to examine violence against women and children in its dynamic development and interrelationship with social, economic, legal, and psychological processes. Violence was analyzed not as an isolated criminal act but as a multifactorial phenomenon influenced by various environmental and individual determinants. This approach facilitated the identification of causal relationships between social conditions and violent behavior.

A systematic analysis method was applied to investigate the interaction between state institutions, law enforcement agencies, educational organizations, healthcare institutions, social protection bodies, and mahalla structures involved in the prevention of violence. Through this method, the study assessed the effectiveness of existing preventive mechanisms and identified institutional gaps that hinder the protection of vulnerable groups.

The statistical method played a central role in the research. Quantitative data obtained from national and international reports, criminological studies, and official crime statistics were analyzed to determine the prevalence, trends, and characteristics of violence against women and children. Statistical indicators such as victimization rates, reporting levels, recurrence of domestic violence, and demographic characteristics of victims and offenders were examined. Comparative statistical analysis allowed for the identification of patterns and risk factors associated with violence in different social environments.

HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

The sociological method was employed to explore public perceptions regarding violence prevention and community safety. This approach focused on understanding the attitudes of residents, local leaders, social workers, educators, and law enforcement representatives toward existing protection mechanisms. The analysis of social behavior and community responses provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of informal social control within mahallas.

A victimological approach was used to examine the characteristics of victims and the factors that increase their vulnerability to violence. Particular attention was given to women and children living in economically disadvantaged households, single-parent families, and socially isolated environments. The victimological analysis enabled the identification of conditions that contribute to repeated victimization and highlighted the necessity of targeted preventive measures.

Results

The results of the study demonstrate that violence against women and children remains one of the most significant criminological challenges affecting community safety and social stability. The analysis revealed that violent behavior is influenced by a combination of economic, social, psychological, and cultural factors, which together create conditions conducive to victimization within families and local communities. Women and children were identified as the most vulnerable groups, frequently exposed to physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence. Indicate that a considerable proportion of violence occurs within the family environment, where victims often depend economically and emotionally on the offender. Such dependence contributes to the hidden nature of violence, as many victims refrain from reporting incidents due to fear, shame, social pressure, or concerns about family reputation. As a result, the actual prevalence of violence is significantly higher than official statistics suggest. The research confirmed that domestic violence is characterized by a high level of latency and repeated victimization, making early detection and intervention essential components of effective prevention. The study identified several major criminogenic factors associated with violence against women and children. Economic hardship, unemployment, low household income, family conflicts, alcohol and substance abuse, insufficient legal awareness, and weak social support systems were found to be the most influential determinants. Families experiencing prolonged financial instability were more likely to demonstrate aggressive behavior and interpersonal conflicts, which often escalated into various forms of violence. Furthermore, the lack of knowledge regarding legal rights and protection mechanisms reduced victims' willingness to seek assistance from relevant institutions. The victimological analysis revealed that women with limited financial independence and children living in dysfunctional or socially disadvantaged households face a substantially higher risk of becoming victims of violence. Children exposed to violence frequently experience long-term negative consequences, including psychological trauma, anxiety, depression, reduced academic performance, and difficulties in social adaptation. The findings further suggest that exposure to violence during childhood increases the likelihood of aggressive behavior and victimization in adulthood, contributing to the intergenerational transmission of violence.

The research also demonstrated the important role of mahallas in preventing violence and protecting vulnerable populations. Communities characterized by active participation of local institutions showed higher levels of social control and more effective identification of at-risk families. Mahalla representatives were often able to detect early signs of family conflict, provide social assistance, and facilitate cooperation between families and relevant support services. Early intervention measures implemented at the community level significantly reduced the probability of repeated violence and improved victim protection outcomes. Another important finding concerns the effectiveness of interagency cooperation. The study found that collaboration among mahalla committees, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and social

HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

protection organizations substantially enhanced the efficiency of preventive efforts. Coordinated actions enabled faster identification of victims, more effective risk assessment, and timely provision of legal, psychological, and social support. Communities with stronger institutional cooperation demonstrated lower levels of repeated victimization and greater public confidence in protection mechanisms.

Discussion

The findings of this study confirm that violence against women and children is not merely an individual or family problem but a complex criminological phenomenon shaped by a wide range of social, economic, cultural, and psychological factors. The results support contemporary criminological theories which argue that violent behavior develops within specific social environments where economic instability, social inequality, family dysfunction, and weak informal social control mechanisms increase the likelihood of victimization. Therefore, the prevention of violence requires not only legal intervention but also the elimination of underlying criminogenic conditions that contribute to its occurrence.

The research demonstrates that domestic violence remains one of the most latent forms of criminal behavior. A significant proportion of victims do not seek assistance from law enforcement agencies or social institutions because of fear, dependence on offenders, social stigma, and concerns about family reputation. This finding is consistent with international victimological studies, which indicate that hidden victimization significantly reduces the effectiveness of official crime prevention policies. Consequently, reliance solely on recorded crime statistics may lead to an underestimation of the true scale of violence and hinder the development of effective preventive measures.

The study also highlights the strong relationship between socio-economic conditions and violent behavior. Economic difficulties, unemployment, and financial dependence were identified as major factors contributing to family conflicts and aggression. These findings support social disorganization theory, which suggests that communities experiencing economic deprivation often face weakened social cohesion and reduced capacity to regulate deviant behavior. Therefore, improving living standards, increasing employment opportunities, and strengthening social support systems should be considered important components of violence prevention strategies.

Conclusion

In conclusion, violence against women and children remains a serious criminological and social problem that threatens individual well-being, family stability, and community security. The study revealed that economic hardship, family conflicts, insufficient legal awareness, and weak social support systems are among the main factors contributing to violence. The findings also demonstrate that mahallas play a crucial role in identifying vulnerable families, providing early intervention, and preventing repeated victimization.

References:

1. Akhmedshaev, A. A. (2022). Kriminologiya (2nd ed., pp. 45–78). Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Tashkent State University of Law Publishing House.
2. Ismailov, I. J., & Kurbanov, M. M. (2021). Jinoyatchilikning oldini olish va profilaktikasi (pp. 112–146). Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
3. Kurbanov, M. M. (2023). Mahallalarda huquqbuzarliklar profilaktikasini takomillashtirish masalalari. Yuridik Fanlar Axborotnomasi, 4(2), 56–64.
4. Mirzayev, A. X. (2022). Xotin-qizlarga nisbatan zo‘ravonlikning kriminologik xususiyatlari. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi IIV Akademiyasi Axborotnomasi, 3(58), 89–96.

HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

5. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Oliy Majlisi Senati. (2023). Xotin-qizlar va bolalar huquqlarini himoya qilish sohasidagi qonunchilik islohotlari (pp. 18–37). Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Senate Publishing Center.
6. O‘zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi Statistika agentligi. (2024). O‘zbekiston ayollari va bolalari to‘g‘risidagi statistik to‘plam pp. 24–67.