INTERACTION BETWEEN STATE INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS IN PREVENTING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND ENSURING CYBERSECURITY IN THE DIGITAL SOCIETY

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Abstract. *This scientific article comprehensively examines the interaction between state bodies and civil society institutions in preventing juvenile delinquency, developing digital legal culture, and ensuring a cyber-secure environment among youth amidst modern digitalization and globalization. The study analyzes the statistics of cybercrimes committed in Uzbekistan in recent years and their impact on the youth demographic, categorizing key threats in the information space (cyber fraud, droppering, cyberbullying, drug bots, and radicalization). Systemic issues within current social partnership mechanisms between government agencies (the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Digital Technologies) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are highlighted. The research concludes with scientific and practical recommendations, including the establishment of a "Cyber-Volunteers" movement, gamified interactive legal platforms, and an enhanced "Drop-Prevention" social-legal prevention framework.*

Keywords: *Youth, crime prevention, cybersecurity, digital legal culture, cybercrime, droppering, state bodies, civil society, social partnership, non-governmental organizations.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu ilmiy tezisda zamonaviy raqamlashtirish va globallashuv sharoitida yoshlar o‘rtasida huquqbuzarliklarning oldini olish, ularda raqamli huquqiy madaniyatni shakllantirish hamda kiberxavfsizlik muhitini ta’minlashda davlat organlari va fuqarolik jamiyati institutlarining o‘zaro munosabatlari kompleks tadqiq etilgan. Tezisda so‘nggi yillarda mamlakatimizda sodir etilayotgan kiberjinoyatlar statistikasi va ularning yoshlar qatlamiga ta’siri tahlil qilinib, axborot makonidagi asosiy xavf-xatarlar (kiberfiribgarlik, dropperlik, kiberbulling, narkobotlar va radikal g‘oyalar) tasniflangan. Davlat organlari (Ichki ishlar vazirligi, Adliya vazirligi, Raqamli texnologiyalar vazirligi) va nodavlat notijorat tashkilotlari o‘rtasidagi amaldagi ijtimoiy sheriklik mexanizmlaridagi tizimli muammolar ko‘rsatib o‘tilgan. Tadqiqot yakunida "Cyber-Volunteers"*

(kibervolontyorlar) harakatini joriy etish, geymifikatsiyalashgan interaktiv platformalar va "Drop-Prevention" ijtimoiy-huquqiy profilaktika tizimini takomillashtirish bo'yicha ilmiy va amaliy takliflar ilgari surilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: *Yoshlar, huquqbuzarliklar profilaktikasi, kiberxavfsizlik, raqamli huquqiy madaniyat, kiberjinoyatchilik, dropperlik, davlat organlari, fuqarolik jamiyati, ijtimoiy sheriklik, nodavlat notijorat tashkilotlari.*

Аннотация. *В данной научной статье комплексно исследуются взаимоотношения государственных органов и институтов гражданского общества в условиях современной цифровизации и глобализации в сфере предупреждения правонарушений среди молодежи, формирования цифровой правовой культуры и обеспечения кибербезопасной среды. В статье анализируется статистика киберпреступлений, совершаемых в нашей стране в последние годы, и их влияние на молодежную среду, а также классифицируются основные угрозы информационного пространства (кибермошенничество, дропперство, кибербуллинг, наркоботы и радикальные идеи). Выявлены системные проблемы действующих механизмов социального партнерства между государственными органами (Министерством внутренних дел, Министерством юстиции, Министерством цифровых технологий) и негосударственными некоммерческими организациями. По итогам исследования выдвинуты научные и практические предложения по внедрению движения «Cyber-Volunteers» (киберв волонтеры), геймифицированных интерактивных платформ и совершенствованию системы социально-правовой профилактики «Drop-Prevention».*

Ключевые слова: *Молодежь, профилактика правонарушений, кибербезопасность, цифровая правовая культура, киберпреступность, дропперство, государственные органы, гражданское общество, социальное партнерство, негосударственные некоммерческие организации.*

1. Introduction and relevance of the research

The 21st century is characterized by the rapid development of information and communication technologies and artificial intelligence. At a time when all spheres of public life are moving into the digital space, new technologies create enormous opportunities for humanity while simultaneously generating complex and transnational threats that were previously unprecedented. In particular, young people, who represent the most active and technologically adaptable segment of the population but whose social and psychological development is not yet fully complete, are becoming primary targets of attacks in the information space and cybercrime.

Young people account for more than 60 percent of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan identifies ensuring the rights and freedoms of young people, realizing their potential, and creating the necessary conditions for their safe development as priority objectives. However, the widespread use of the Internet and social networks has fundamentally transformed the nature of juvenile delinquency. Traditional offenses committed in the offline environment are increasingly being replaced by covert, anonymous, remote, and high-tech cybercrimes.

Therefore, organizing crime prevention among young people and ensuring cybersecurity cannot be regarded as a narrowly specialized task that can be accomplished solely through the efforts of law enforcement agencies. This problem requires deep and integrated social partnership between civil society institutions, including public associations, non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs), mahalla structures, and IT communities, on the one hand, and state bodies, on the other.

2. Research objectives, tasks, and methodology

Research objective: The objective of the study is to develop scientific proposals and recommendations for improving the theoretical, legal, and practical foundations of cooperation between state bodies and civil society institutions in preventing offenses and cybercrimes committed among young people in the digital society, enhancing their digital legal culture, and ensuring cybersecurity.

Research tasks:

1. To identify and classify contemporary legal and security threats faced by young people in the digital environment;

2. To analyze the dynamics of cybercrime in Uzbekistan in recent years and its impact on the youth population based on statistical sources;

3. To examine the national legislative framework regulating crime prevention among young people and the mechanisms of social partnership;

4. To identify systemic shortcomings and functional gaps in cooperation between state and public organizations;

5. To develop innovative models of social partnership using cyber-volunteering, peer-to-peer approaches, and gamification methods.

Research methodology: The study employs systemic and structural-functional analysis, comparative legal analysis, statistical and sociological research methods, as well as logical and legal interpretation of normative legal acts.

3. Threats faced by young people in the digital society and statistical analysis

The development of information and communication technologies has also led to the transformation of criminal activity. In recent years, a significant increase in the number of cybercrimes has been observed in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Statistical analysis: According to official information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the number of cybercrimes in the country has increased significantly in recent years. While the financial damage caused to citizens by cybercriminals between 2021 and 2024 amounted to 1.9 trillion soums, this figure reached 603 billion soums in 2024 alone. In 2025–2026, the proportion of cybercrimes in the overall crime rate reached approximately 40–45 percent, meaning that nearly one out of every two crimes committed in the country is carried out through the Internet or information technologies.

Approximately 98 percent of these crimes are related to bank cards and online payment systems, while young people constitute a significant proportion of both perpetrators and victims.

3.1. Main Types of Threats in the Digital Environment

The main risks faced by young people in the digital environment, which may also lead them toward unlawful behavior, can be classified as follows:

4. Theoretical and legal foundations of cooperation between state and civil society institutions

Relations in the field of crime prevention among young people and cybersecurity are based on a unified and solid legislative framework:

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Article 79 of the Constitution, in its new edition, establishes as a constitutional provision that the state shall ensure the protection of the personal, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of young people and encourage their active participation in the life of society and the state.

2. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the Prevention of Offenses”: This law defines the types of crime prevention (general, special, and individual) and the range of entities involved in its implementation.

3. The Law “On State Youth Policy”: This law establishes the responsibilities of state bodies and non-governmental organizations in protecting the legal interests of young people.

4. The Law “On Social Partnership”: This law regulates the organizational and legal forms of cooperation between state bodies and non-governmental non-profit organizations, including grants, subsidies, and social commissions.

5. The Law "On Cybersecurity": This law establishes the legal foundations for ensuring the security of the national cyberspace and combating cybercrime.

While state bodies provide the legal and organizational framework and necessary resources, public associations and NGOs offer flexible approaches that are closer to the language of young people, creative content, and opportunities to work directly with the population.

5. Existing shortcomings and systemic problems

The analysis of the research findings and practical experience indicates that several systemic shortcomings exist in cooperation between state and public organizations in ensuring cybersecurity and preventing offenses among young people.

1. Outdated Awareness-Raising Methods and Formalism

Most preventive activities are still conducted in the form of compulsory meetings and lengthy, monotonous lectures in the assembly halls of higher and secondary specialized educational institutions. Such traditional methods fail to attract the attention of young people belonging to Generations Z and Alpha and do not produce the expected preventive effect.

2. Lack of Targeted Approaches in Cybersecurity Awareness

Legal awareness activities remain largely limited to socially active and academically high-performing students. As a result, young people belonging to genuinely at-risk groups, including unemployed, socially unorganized, economically disadvantaged, or academically underperforming individuals, remain outside the scope of attention. Criminals recruit precisely these categories of young people as "droppers" or "drug couriers."

3. Lack of Information and Resource Coordination

An effective system of rapid information exchange and monitoring has not been established between state bodies, such as the Cybersecurity Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and NGOs. Public organizations cannot obtain timely information about emerging phishing schemes or drug bots in the online environment, while state bodies demonstrate limited effectiveness in incorporating innovative ideas proposed by civil society.

4. Low Social Responsibility of the IT Sector and Private Businesses

Private IT companies and banking and financial institutions operating in the cybersecurity sector do not allocate sufficient sponsorship or grants to social projects and NGO activities aimed at improving the digital literacy of young people.

6. Comprehensive scientific and practical proposals and cooperation models

To eliminate the identified problems and elevate cooperation between state and civil society institutions to an entirely new level, the following proposals are put forward.

1. Establishment of a National "Cyber-Volunteers" Movement

It is necessary to establish volunteer groups consisting of students from law and IT universities, young programmers, and bloggers.

- Objective: Cyber-volunteers will assist state bodies in identifying illegal drug bots, phishing websites, and prohibited content on the Internet.

- Discipline and incentives: Volunteers who identify dangerous online sources through the "Cyber-Alert" platform will be encouraged by the state through special grants and scholarships.

2. Introduction of Gamification and Simulation Systems

Instead of academic lectures, engaging interactive digital content should be developed for young people.

- "Cyber-Safety Quest" Simulator: Develop mobile applications that allow young people to experience cyber threats encountered in everyday life, such as phishing links, fake prize games, and requests for bank card information, in a virtual environment and learn to make appropriate decisions.

- Public associations and NGOs will be responsible for promoting these applications in schools and mahallas.

7. Conclusion

Organizing crime prevention among young people and ensuring cybersecurity in the digital society is a continuous, dynamic, and comprehensive process that requires an integrated approach.

Only when the legal authority and resources of state bodies are combined with the flexible, creative, and youth-oriented approaches of civil society institutions can a robust "Synergistic Cyber Shield" be established.

By transitioning to such innovative models of social partnership, abandoning formalism, and widely implementing digital prevention methods in practice, we can not only prevent crime but also contribute to educating a well-rounded generation of New Uzbekistan that deeply understands its rights and obligations in the digital environment.

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