

**YURIY KOMLEV**

Doctor of Sociological Sciences, Professor  
of the Department of Criminal Law  
and Process of the “TISBI” University of  
Management

**POLINA ALYUKOVA**

First year Master’s student of the  
Department of Criminal Law and  
Process of the “TISBI” University of  
Management

**THE ALCOHOLISM OF JUVENILES  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS A DEVIANTOLOGICAL PROBLEM:  
THEORY AND BASIC CONCEPTS**

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**Abstract.** *The problem of juvenile alcoholism in Russia has been relevant for decades. This issue has been dealt with by a number of scientists, conducting empirical studies. The article considers alcoholism from the point of view of deviant behavior; several definitions of the above definition are given, and the main deviantological concepts are given. The authors consider the historical aspect of the problem of alcoholism in Russia. The history of this addiction has deep roots: it originated in ancient Russia. The attitude to this kind of addiction was both negative and positive. Initially, scientists tried to identify the causes of alcohol addiction. The article states that all decisions of the highest authorities on the issue of counteracting alcoholism had a legislative basis. It is noted that the history of alcohol consumption in Russia has its socio-political and socio-cultural specifics. In order to clearly show the rootedness of the problem of alcoholism, the data of epidemiological studies were cited, which indicate the presence of alcoholism among the young population of the country.*

**Keywords:** *deviance, behavior, alcoholism, juveniles, young people.*

At the beginning, let us give a definition of deviant behavior in general. A number of scientists, especially: A. Yu. Egorov<sup>1</sup>, E. V. Zmanovskaya<sup>2</sup>, G. I. Makartycheva<sup>3</sup>, explain to us that deviant, or deviating, behavior is a stable behavior of a person, deviating from the most important social norms, causing real damage to society or the individual himself, as well as accompanied by his social disadaptation. Also, in the literature the following definition of this kind of behavior is often found: deviant (from Latin deviation — deviation) behavior in modern sociology means, on the one hand, a deed, actions of a person, not corresponding to officially established or actually formed in a given society norms or standards, and on the other hand — a social phenomenon expressed in mass forms of human activity, not corresponding to officially established or actually formed in a given society norms or standards<sup>4</sup>.

Ya. I. Gilinsky gave the following definition of deviant behavior: “Deviant behavior is a social phenomenon expressed in relatively massive, statistically stable forms (types) of human activity that do not conform to officially established or actually established in a given society norms and expectations”<sup>5</sup>.

Systematic use of alcohol causes addiction, dependence, which spills over into a toxic disease, which is defined by the results of medical diagnosis as alcoholism. The consequences of this disease are mental and physiological disorders leading to disability and, in special cases, to death. People of all ages are susceptible to alcohol dependence. The most severe manifestation of alcoholism, detrimentally affecting the internal organs of a person and mental health, is “teenage alcoholism”. Alcoholism is not only a disease, but also a form of negative deviant, self-destructive behavior — a complex social problem, as it has a statistically significant character and far-reaching social (isolation, degradation, disintegration of family ties, loss of employment) and legal (crimes while intoxicated, traffic accidents, traumatism) consequences.

At all times alcoholism has been and remains a serious problem of society and the subject of not only medical, but also socio-psychological, legal and deviantological research.

<sup>1</sup> Egorov A. Yu. *Neyropsikhologiya deviantnogo povedeniya. Uchebnik* [Neuropsychology of deviant behavior. Textbook]. — SPB.: Rech, 2006. — 224 p.

<sup>2</sup> Zmanovskaya E. V. *Deviantologiya: (sotsiologiya otklonyayushchegosya povedeniya): uchebnoe posobie* [Deviantology: (sociology of deviant behavior): textbook]. — M.: Izdatelskiy tsentr “Akademiya”, 2003. — 228 p.

<sup>3</sup> Makartycheva G. I. *Korreksiya deviantnogo povedeniya. Treningi dlya podrostkov i ikh roditeley* [Correction of deviant behavior. Trainings for teenagers and their parents]. — SPB.: Rech, 2007. — 368 p.

<sup>4</sup> Uzeirov A. A. *Deviantnye formy povedeniya lichnosti: uchebno-metodicheskoe posobie* [Deviant forms of personal behavior: educational and methodological manual]. FGBOU VO RostGMU Minzdrava Rossii, kolledzh. — Rostov N/D: Izd-vo RostGMU, 2017. — 30 p.

<sup>5</sup> Gilinskiy Ya. I., Afanasyev V. S. *Sotsiologiya deviantnogo povedeniya. Uchebnoe posobie* [Sociology of deviant behavior. Textbook]. — SPb., 1993. — 167 p.

Let us consider the historical aspect of this complex problem. Speaking about the history of drunkenness in Russia, it should be pointed out that the cult of drinking appeared in ancient Russia. Such drinks were not supposed to be consumed on weekdays, but only on pagan holidays. In Christianity, the use of alcoholic beverages was already commonplace, people believed that wine made life brighter and more joyful, it is also worth pointing out that alcohol influenced the strengthening of religious feelings, which was used in the sacred service. Alcoholic drinks were prepared from various plants — it was grapes, apples; stronger drinks were made from grain. It is known that there were such local customs as making wine from milk, most often from mare's milk.

Earlier, before the 19th century, there was a negative attitude towards alcohol abuse, in particular, some religions criticized and condemned excessive drinking, but they did not regard it as an illness. Already at the beginning of the 19th century, with the development of medicine and the emergence of the possibility to study the quality of life and causes of mortality of the population, the attention of doctors was attracted by excessive use of alcohol: they began to regard it as a pathology, that is, as a fact of deviation from the norm. So, in 1804, a foreign scientist, T. Trotter<sup>1</sup> was one of the first to give a scientifically based definition of this illness. Following him in 1819, B. Kramer tried to do it, sharpening his gaze on the attraction to alcohol. In the same period, M. Huss in a study entitled “Chronic alcoholic illness” proposed the term “chronic alcoholism” and began to consider it as an illness that is accompanied by changes in the nervous system<sup>2</sup>.

As for analyzing the causes of alcohol addiction, the scientist I. G. Pryzhkov was the first to try to identify them. In his essay “History of Russian taverns”<sup>3</sup> he collected a lot of historical material. The author argued that alcoholism spread because of the decrees of Ivan IV Grozny, which prohibited the manufacture of alcohol at home and introduced the concept of “king's taverns”, which replenished the treasury, but in them, you could only drink alcohol without snacks<sup>4</sup>. Due to the bans imposed reduced the monetary allowance of the country. The main dawn of alcoholism came during the reign of Peter the First, he himself honored Bacchus and preferred strong drinks. As a result, the cult of drinking, thanks to decrees and free distribution

<sup>1</sup> *Kannabikh Yu. V. Istoriya psikhiiatrii* [The history of psychiatry]. — M.: AST, 2002. — 559 p.

<sup>2</sup> *Lisitsyn Yu. P., Sidorov P. I. Alkogolizm (mediko-sotsialnye aspekty): rukovodstvo dlya vrachey* [Alcoholism (medical and social aspects): a handbook for doctors]. — M.: Meditsina, 1990. — 527 p.

<sup>3</sup> *Pryzhkov I. G. Istoriya kabakov Rossii* [The history of Russian taverns]. M.: Tipograf, 1968. — 47 p.

<sup>4</sup> *Ivanov Yu. A. Narod i “tsarev kabak”* [The people and the “king's tavern”] // *Narodnaya borba za trezvest v russkoy istorii: materialy seminar, provedennogo obshchestvami borby za trezvest* [People's struggle for sobriety in Russian history: materials of the seminar held by societies of struggle for sobriety]. BAN SSSR, LGU i LOII AN SSSR 18 dekabrya 1987g. — 1989. — 47 p.

(one cup a day was given to builders, loaders, sailors), was further spread. The Emperor also introduced the possibility to engage in winemaking for the upper classes, maintaining the monopoly and providing profit to the state. This allowed to accelerate reforms in the country. But despite the decrees and orders on the free issue of alcohol, Peter the First attempted to regulate the issue of drinking: in fact, he encouraged and punished at the same time for immoderate drinking. But already during the reign of Alexander the Second, drunkenness in Russia became a mass phenomenon and a big problem<sup>1</sup>. Alcohol consumption per capita was 4.5 liters per year. In 1885, resolutions were adopted on the possibility of closing wine shops in rural settlements<sup>2</sup>.

During the reign of Alexander the Third, the monopoly on vodka was restored. Alcohol began to be sold in state-owned shops for takeaway. This formed a new type of alcohol consumption — street drinking<sup>3</sup>.

After the revolution in 1917, due to the dawn of moonshining and uncontrollable drunkenness of all segments of the population, there was a need to eradicate the possibility of making alcohol at home, but it was impossible to do this, because the people had a habit of drinking strong alcoholic beverages on holidays and weekdays. At the same time, the local authorities started anti-alcohol propaganda, drunkards were expelled from the Komsomol. Working youth also actively fought against drunkenness. But the lack of funds in the budget due to the loss of profit from the sale of alcohol in 1930 prompted the authorities to stop the fight against alcoholism. Public movements of alcohol opponents were banned, scientific initiatives of the struggle for sobriety were destroyed, societies against alcoholism were closed down, and anti-alcohol journals were discontinued<sup>4</sup>.

Already during the reign of I. V. Stalin there was no excessive consumption of alcohol, only 1.9 liters per person<sup>5</sup>. During the war there was a decrease in alcohol

<sup>1</sup> Oruzhiye genotsida: samoubiystvo lyudey i ego mekhanizmy. Kniga 2-aya red. [The weapons of genocide: human suicide and its mechanisms. Book 2 ed.] — M.: Izd-vo "NOU Akademiya Upravleniya", 2008. — 136 p.

<sup>2</sup> Strikalov A. V. Alkogolizm: Khitrosti i tonkosti [Alcoholism: The tricks and subtleties]. — M.: Buk-press, 2006. — 347 p.

<sup>3</sup> Oruzhiye genotsida: samoubiystvo lyudey i ego mekhanizmy [The weapons of genocide: human suicide and its mechanisms]. Prognozno-analiticheskiy tsentr Akademii Upravleniya. 2013. 256 p.

<sup>4</sup> Lebina N. B. Povsednevnost 1920–1930-kh godov: "borba s perezhitkami proshlogo": v 2-kh tomakh. Tom 1 [Everyday life of the 1920s–1930s: "struggle against the vestiges of the past": in 2 volumes. Volume 1] // Sovetskoe obshchestvo: vozniknovenie, razvitiye, istoricheskiy final. — 1997. — 291 p.

<sup>5</sup> Semenov D. V. Sotsialno-psikhologicheskie osobennosti podrostkov s addiktivnym povedeniem: avto-ref. dis. kand. psikh. nauk [Social-psychological features of adolescents with addictive behavior: thesis of the dissertation of the Candidate of Psychological Science]. — Kursk, 2001. — 90 p.

consumption. However, after the war it increased. In 1950, the amount of alcohol drunk per capita was 1.58 liters, and in 1952 it was already 2 liters and further on upwards. In 1958, bans on the sale of bottled alcohol were introduced, but this only worsened the situation.

In 1980, with the connivance of M. S. Gorbachev, the USSR adopted prohibitionist anti-alcohol legislation — the “dry law”. Vineyards were cut down en masse, alcohol production was closed, which could not but lead to moonshining and illegal production, which not always gave a low-quality product, which in turn greatly affected the health of the population. At first, the “dry law” led to a decrease in mortality and an increase in life expectancy, but low-quality alcohol often led to death. Public dissatisfaction matured in a society with established “drinking traditions”, and budget revenues from the sale of alcoholic beverages decreased significantly. As a result, the reform was stopped in 1988.

In the period of perestroika and the subsequent “social anomie” — loss of value orientations and norms, according to E. Durkheim, many people lost their jobs, inflation devalued savings, rampant banditry and fear of tomorrow pushed people to leave, or even “escape from reality” with the help of alcohol. Under the conditions of anomie, various forms of retreatism developed rapidly, according to R. Merton. Among them: suicide, drug addiction, and, of course, alcoholism. Due to the high cost of alcoholic beverages, people began to use various chemical and psychoactive substances more often. Lack of control and participation of parents in the life of their children led to active vagrancy, the young generation was actively involved and forced to participate in various OCGs, in which one of the levers of control was the introduction of the fashion of drinking alcohol. As a consequence, teenagers began to use alcohol and psychotropic substances more actively.

As we can see, the history of alcohol consumption in Russia has its own socio-political and socio-cultural specifics. Later in the post-perestroika period, alcohol became even more entrenched in society. That is why, by the end of the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century, deviancy based on alcohol addiction acquired critical proportions. Data from epidemiological studies indicate that in 1990 6 liters were consumed, in 1992 — 14 liters, in 1994 — 18 liters, and in 2006 already more than 25 liters<sup>1</sup>. Starting from 1984-1990, the population aged 30 to 35 years suffered from alcohol dependence, while in 2006 already 20–25 year olds suffered from this disease. As we can see, there is a rejuvenation of alcoholism. This leads to early legal nihilism, committing crimes, sometimes with a high degree of public danger.

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<sup>1</sup> Lektsii po antinarkoticheskomu vospitaniyu [Anti-drug education lectures] / pod red prof. A. N. Mayurova. — M., 2007. 276 p.

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### Information about the authors

**Yuriy Komlev (Kazan, Russia)** — Doctor of Sociological Sciences, Professor of the Department of Criminal Law and Process of the “TISBI” University of Management (13 Mushtari St., Kazan, 420012, Russia; e-mail: levkom@list.ru).

**Polina Alyukova (Kazan, Russia)** — First year Master’s student of the Department of Criminal Law and Process of the “TISBI” University of Management (13 Mushtari St., Kazan, 420012, Russia; e-mail: aly-polina@mail.ru).

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