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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA: TRENDS AND INDICATORS

Сажетак

Малолетничка деликвенција део је општег криминалитета у друштву, али по карактеристикама и последицама, такође је и својеврстан феномен. Циљ овог Рада јесте да пружи актуелан и свеобухватан поглед на малолетничку деликвенцију у Србији, у периоду од 2010. до 2012. године, а анализирајући податке о броју и врсти почињених криминалних аката од стране малолетних лица. Званични подаци Министарства унутрашњих послова Републике Србије садрже регистроване преступе и кривична дела почињена од стране малолетника и биће коришћени у овом Раду. Основни циљ Рада јесте да објасни тренутно стање у области малолетничке деликвенције и да пружи референтну полазну основу за даља истраживања и дискусије.

Кључне речи: малолетници; деликвенција; криминал; трендови; Србија

1. PHENOMENOLOGY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Crime, not only as an illegal but also as a dangerous human activity and phenomenon probably dates back to the beginnings of human society. Ever since the prehistoric communities all the way to the modern day society, there were always individuals or groups who strived to achieve their goals in socially or legally unacceptable ways. In ad-

dition to those who consciously break social and legal norms, criminal acts were also and still are perpetrated by those individuals who are unaware of the existing norms of conduct i.e. whose intellectual and mental capacities prevent them from comprehending their environment and accepting the rules that were laid down in order to facilitate the development and survival of that particular community. This makes a criminal act either an intentional and conscious or unintentional and unconscious, but in both cases a detrimental act perpetrated by an individual. Inappropriate, inadequate and dangerous behavior has been an integral part of human society since time immemorial while certain aggressive acts were survival motivated and aimed at providing protection against unfamiliar and disturbing events and creatures from the nature¹⁾. Criminality, as a set of different socially undesirable behaviors which were outlawed primarily by criminal codes and laws, takes its formal shape with the establishment of the state and the rule of law. In majority of cases violence accompanies crime and is the result of interaction between a large number of exogenous and endogenous factors whose interconnectedness at different levels is conducive to someone being violent or someone suffering violence²⁾.

There are many causes of criminal behavior and they come in different shapes and sizes. Their triggers, as well as their display, developed together with the society as did the problems with which groups and individuals were faced. In that respect, juvenile crime is of particular importance when considering the stability and prospects of a community or a country. Studying the causes, motives and forms of juvenile delinquency is aimed not only at uncovering and sanctioning these criminal acts, but also at preventing such acts from occurring in the future, developing social preemptive measures and finding the best forms and methods of social action³⁾.

Juvenile crime is part of overall crime in a society, but due to the characteristics associated with its perpetrators, it is also a phenomenon which requires meticulous security, social, psychological and pedagogical attention and scrutiny. Traits, number and diversity of juvenile crime are not only a reflection of the current security and socio-pathological state the society is in, but it can also serve as an indicator of immediate and more distant future of that particular society. Although it is unpleasant to express the terms child and crime together, juvenile delin-

1) Видети: Đorđević, Ivica, *Security Architecture in the Globalization Environment*. Faculty for Security Studies and PE Official Gazette, Belgrade, 2007.

2) Видети: Đurđević Zoran and Radović Nenad, "Determinants and Trends in Juvenile Violence", *Kultura polisa 1*, Novi Sad, 2012.

3) Видети: Ljubičić Stanko, "Juvenile Crime", *Kultura polisa 8-9-10*, Novi Sad, 2008

quency is still one of the major problems in many countries⁴⁾. The fact that in the USA alone 27,000 murders were committed by juveniles⁵⁾ in the period between 1980 and 1997, speaks volumes of how serious and widespread this phenomenon is not only globally, but within one single country. Juvenile crime is constantly on the rise in the Republic of Serbia and this trend started to emerge in 1973⁶⁾.

There are different theoretical, scientifically proven and insufficiently substantiated views as to the causes and motives of juvenile delinquency. Almost all relevant theories on the causes of juvenile delinquency can be grouped into three categories: a) theories of society, b) theories of family, and c) theories of personality. Several studies include different aspects of all of these theories which are understandable as the crime, including juvenile crime, is both a cause and consequence of different factors: socio-economic and political situation in a society, values held in high regard in such society, immediate environment and family, while personality traits also play an important part in exhibiting criminal behavior. This is the reason why a comprehensive knowledge on and understanding of different aspects of a society and micro-environment combined with interpersonal factors, is the best way to preempt juvenile crime.

Some authors see the cause for the increase in criminal behavior, including juvenile crime, in significant socio-political events and changes which oftentimes spill over across the borders of one country and into other countries. Following the end of the Cold War, Europe was faced with considerable geo-political and economic changes and challenges while the pace of modernization was rapidly accelerating, resulting in intensified feeling of public insecurity⁷⁾. Many authors see the shifts in economic and political systems as well as privatization and transition processes as the main causes of decrease in the quality of life which further leads to dissatisfaction, frustration and violence⁸⁾. One of the causes for the discontent of young people and consequently juvenile crime, can be found in distorted social, family and personal values and warped perception of life quality. One of the approaches adopted by

4) Ozen Sakir et al, "Juvenile Delinquency in a Developing Country: A Province Example in Turkey", *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 28, 2005. стр. 431

5) Loeber Ralf and Farrington David P, 2000, "Young Children Who Commit Crime: Epidemiology, Developmental Origins, Risk Factors, Early Interventions, and Policy Implications", *Development and Psychopathology* 12, 2002. стр. 739

6) Шире видети: Nikolovski Marjan, "Crimes Committed by Juvenile Offenders in Groups", *Collection of Papers – Peer Violence*, Laktaši, 2013.

7) Boehnke Klaus and Bergs-Winkels Dagmar, "Juvenile Delinquency under Conditions of Rapid Social Change", *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002. стр. 60

8) Шире видети: Campbell, Angus and Converse, Philip E, *The Human Meaning of Social Change*, New York: Russell Sage, 1972.

the group of authors advocating theories of society is that adolescents act out of subterranean values or impulses that are an accepted part of a culture, but nonetheless tend to be obscured and to a greater or lesser extent controlled in the mainstream society⁹⁾. The creator of this way of thinking was Sutherland (1949) with his studies. Violence is more common among groups whose subcultural attitudes, norms, and values favor aggressive solutions to problems¹⁰⁾. Some authors propose that economic inequality, not subcultural values, was the major cause of violence¹¹⁾.

Another approach, associated with the theories of society, as a cause of delinquency assumes the existence of oppositional groups in society and general conflicts between adults and adolescents¹²⁾.

Regardless of the character of socio-economic and cultural circumstances in a society, there is no doubt that the most important and influential one among a number of factors (e.g. norms, behavioral patterns, schools, the media), is the family itself. The structure of the family is important for both understanding and prevention of juvenile delinquency. In addition to the number of family members, their gender, education and age structure, family values, possible violent behavior, the occurrence of juvenile crime might be triggered by the low socio-economic status, unemployment, poor parental supervision, weak regulatory role of the family due to the weakness of the public regulatory system¹³⁾ and this is an example of the interpretation of causes in which findings and viewpoints of two different groups of theories are intertwined, in this case – theories of family and theories of society. The model of growing up which involves inadequate parental guidance, domestic violence, abuse and neglect as risk factors conducive to criminal behavior, was developed by Patterson, DeBaryshe and Remsey (1989) among others. Childhood neglect and abuse are indeed risk factors which increase the probability of violent behavior in later life. The synergy of risk factors that originate in the family setting and immediate environment as well as the individual's personality structure,

9) Boehnke Klaus and Bergs-Winkels Dagmar, "Juvenile Delinquency under Conditions of Rapid Social Change", *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002. стр. 64

10) Видети: Wolfgang Marvin E et al, *The Subculture of Violence*, Tavistock, 1967.

11) Blau JR and Blau Peter M, "The Cost of Inequality: Metropolitan Structure and Violent Crime", *American Sociological Review*, 47, 1982. стр.120

12) Шире видети: Mead Margaret, *Culture and Commitment: A Study of Generation Gap*. Garden City, NY: Natural History Press, 1970.

13) Lynam Donald et al, "The Interaction Between Impulsivity and Neighborhood Context On Offending: The Effects of Impulsivity Are Stronger in Poorer Neighborhoods", *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 109, 2000. стр. 569.

highlight the importance interpersonal factors have (personality traits) in addition to the previously mentioned different external factors (society, family, culture). The personality structure as well as the psychological or biological propensity for crime are the subject matter of studies dealing with theories of personality.

Certain authors stress that individual differences, which are established early in life, will make some children more likely than others to commit delinquent acts as they grow older¹⁴⁾. Yarvis (1991) developed a table of relevant intrinsic factors which can be useful for the analysis of all criminal acts with the element of violence. Some of those factors are as follows:

- a) the ability to find one's place in a society in accordance with the prevailing system of values;
- b) the skill to exert self-control in dangerous situations;
- c) the capacity to differentiate between the imaginary and the reality;
- d) the ability to comprehend the consequences associated with a particular decision at the time when that decision is made;
- e) the capacity to preserve personal integrity and stability¹⁵⁾.

The analysis of personality related cause of juvenile delinquency is a sensitive and complex area. The motives for committing crime vary among young people. Some children engage in minor delinquent acts for excitement, adventure, or other emotions common among children. For these children minor delinquency incidents are part of their games and it never evolves further into more significant or severe violence, namely as they age, children grow out of this kind of behavior. On the other hand, for some child offenders, early status offences and delinquency are stepping stones in a pathway to serious, violent, and chronic offending, particularly when the status offences first appear at a young age.

1.1 Minors in Criminal and Legal Definitions

In theory and in practical research of juvenile crime, there are different definitions of this phenomenon, but also there are different legal definitions of the age limit determining the age of a minor. Legal framework and practice, depending on the age group perpetrator

14) Lacourse Eric, et al., "Developmental Trajectories of Boys' Delinquent Group Membership and Facilitation of Violent Behavior During Adolescence", *Development and Psychopathology*, 15, 2003. стр.190

15) Видети: Yarvis Richard M, *Homicide: Causative Factors and Roots*, New York, Lexington Books, 1991.

belongs to and type of criminal act committed, recognize and clearly differentiate between different types and intensity of punishment.

As for different definitions of perpetrators' age, child delinquents are not necessarily legally defined in the same way across states in the United States¹⁶⁾. For example, age of criminal responsibility for child delinquency (at year 1997) shows that this was 6 years in North Carolina, age 7 years in Maryland or age 10 years in the state of Arkansas.. In Canada, a minimum is age of 12 years and in England the minimum age is 10 years. In Germany and in Japan it is 14 years, 15 years in Scandinavian countries, 16 years in Spain and 18 years in Belgium¹⁷⁾. In Serbia the law¹⁸⁾ defines several age limits, namely: a) a minor/juvenile shall be a person who was 14 years of age at the time when the crime was committed and has not turned 18 years of age; b) younger minor/ juvenile shall be a person who was 14 years of age at the time when the crime was committed and has not turned 16 years of age; and c) older minor/juvenile shall be a person who was 16 years of age at the time when the crime was committed and has not turned 18 years of age. Subject to this age classification of minors, adequate punishments have been defined. Minors and younger minors can be sentenced to correctional orders and correctional sentences, while older minors may be sentenced to juvenile detention but only in special cases. Correctional measures, among other include court warning, measures of increased supervision (by the family, caretaker) and/or detention at an adequate correctional institution. This makes it impossible to punish any juvenile with a prison sentence while an older minor may be sentenced to juvenile detention facility for committing more serious crimes. These legal provisions do not apply to a person who has not turned 14 years of age at the time when the crime was committed. Such persons are called "children" and they are not active entities of the criminal justice. These persons are not subject to criminal justice law, but are subject to provisions in other legal areas (for example, Family Law, The Law on Social Welfare).

The way the law sees juvenile delinquency is a source of numerous theoretical and practical debates. The major issue in the debates is whether legal intervention as administered by the juvenile justice system is an effective way to control juvenile delinquency and to promote

16) Видети: Snyder Howard N and Sickmund Melissa, *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile and Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1999.

17) Видети: Rutter Michael et al , *Antisocial Behavior by young people*, Chap. 3. Cambridge: CUP, 1998.

18) The Law on Underage Offenders and Legal Protection of Minors. Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 85/2005

legitimate social opportunities for reform. In certain states within the court system there are juvenile courts and courts for adults. In the criminal justice system of the Republic of Serbia there are special units of juvenile criminal justice system: special public prosecutor for minors and special judge for minors or chambers for minors with the District Court.

2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

Over the past years many papers on juvenile crime and peer violence have been published in the Republic of Serbia. Stevanović (2012), Kovačević (2012a), Kovačević (2012b), Banović and Joksić (2011) researched the legal aspect, in particular the character and the importance of punishments juvenile delinquents were sentenced to. Peer violence is on the rise not only in Serbia and in the Balkans, but in Europe and beyond (Radnović and Radović, 2013). In the modern world, characterized by a wide and permanent use of and addiction to new information technologies, peer violence occurs in the so called virtual sphere. In this case we are speaking about the electronic violence phenomenon— a specific form of peer violence brought on by the development of information technologies. The research into the problem of peer violence which is important for the analysis and the monitoring of the development of juvenile delinquency, was the subject matter of papers published by Gojković and Vukičević (2011), Popović (2010). At a recent conference on peer violence, held in Laktaši, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a paper by three authors, namely Đurđević, Bošković and Senić was presented. This paper analyses the character, number and variety of different criminal offences committed by minors in the period between 2006 and 2009 in the Republic of Serbia.

The aim of this paper is to offer an updated and more comprehensive insight of this problem in our country between 2010 and 2012, by analyzing the data on the number and type of criminal offences committed by minors. The official data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia (MoI) concerning recorded criminal offences committed by juveniles will be used for the analysis of juvenile delinquency. The purpose of this paper is to offer an analysis of the data on criminal offences committed by juvenile delinquents in the Republic of Serbia in the period between 2010 and 2012 and to compare this data with the data pertaining to the number of criminal offences committed by adult perpetrators. In addition, this paper will give a brief overview of juvenile delinquency situation in different cities and towns throughout the Republic of Serbia, so as to analyze this security issue by different regions in our country. The presented data will be elaborated and the main objective is to explain what is the current situation regarding

juvenile delinquency and to provide a reference point for future theoretical and practical researches and discussions.

3. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2010 AND 2012

In their paper dealing with juvenile delinquency in the Republic of Serbia, authors Đurđević, Bošković and Senić (2013), analyzed data on the number of criminal offences committed by juveniles and adults in the period between 2006 and 2009. The results of their study indicated the following:

- (1) The number of crimes committed by children in the period between 2006 and 2009 did not vary much and was between 9.87% and 9.14% of the total number of criminal offences committed.
- (2) Regarding the type of criminal offences committed by children they mostly concern offences against *property, public order, life and causing bodily harm*;
- (3) As for the criminal offences concerning offences against life and causing bodily harm, children have mostly committed offences such as *occasioning light bodily harm or grievous bodily harm and participation in a brawl*¹⁹⁾.

As the purpose of this paper is to analyze the number and structure as well as the regional character of juvenile delinquency in the Republic of Serbia in the period between 2010 and 2012, while at the same time taking into consideration the above stated study and its analysis, in this part of the paper statistical data received from the MoI will be presented followed by the resulting observations and conclusions.

As the first step, we analyzed the total number of committed criminal offences of general criminal nature and the number of juveniles who committed criminal offences of general criminal nature for the period between 2010 and 2012 to the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia as well as for certain cities belonging to different regions within our country. The data on the total number of committed criminal offences and juvenile delinquents as well as the data on certain types of criminal offences committed by juveniles, has been analyzed for the following cities: Belgrade (capital city of the Republic of Serbia), Novi Sad and Zrenjanin (cities located in the North part of the country),

19) Шире видети: Đurđević Zoran, Bošković Goran and Senić, D, "Characteristics of Criminal Offences Committed by Children and Juveniles Involving Elements of Violence", *Collection of Papers – Peer Violence*, Laktaši, 2013.

Kragujevac (central part of Serbia), Zaječar (East part of Serbia), Niš (South part of Serbia) and Užice (West part of Serbia). Criminal offences of general criminal nature include among other, manslaughter, murder, offences occasioning light bodily harm or grievous bodily harm, robbery, rape, domestic violence, drug offences. Those data indicate that the share of juveniles expressed in percentages is as follows: a) 5.12% in 2010; b) 4.99% in 2011; and c) 4.61 in 2012, of total number of committed criminal offences of general criminal nature, making it 4.9% on the average. This percentage of juveniles as perpetrators of the total number of criminal offences of general criminal nature has dropped almost by half when compared to the period between 2006 and 2009 when it was between 9.87% and 9.14%²⁰⁾. For the past three years the share of juvenile delinquents as perpetrators in the total number of criminal offences has been decreasing steadily. This trend reflects the situation not only on the whole territory of our country but also in cities and towns which have been selected for analysis (with minor variations in each city or town, the number of juvenile delinquents is certainly lower in 2012 than it was in 2010 and 2011).

The structure of juveniles who have committed criminal offences of general criminal nature in our country for the period between 2010 and 2012 was done according to legal classification which groups juvenile delinquents into older minors/juveniles, younger minors/juveniles and children. The downturn in the number of juvenile delinquents is most certainly reflected when juvenile delinquents are classified into the previously mentioned three age groups. The data indicates that older juveniles constitute the highest percentage in the structure of juvenile delinquents (55% - 59.76%), while the number of children i.e. persons younger than 14 years of age is considerably lower, but is not negligible in terms of sociological, psychological and security analysis (this percentage is between 12% and 8.97%). The percentage of older juveniles who have committed criminal offences when compared to the total number of criminal offences committed by juveniles was on the rise over the period between 2010 and 2012, while the percentage of crimes committed by younger juveniles and children, varied slightly. It should also be noted that the number of children who have committed criminal offences in 2011 and 2012 is lower than in 2010.

Regarding concrete criminal offences, juvenile delinquents have a tendency to commit the following criminal offences: theft and robbery; causing grievous bodily harm; causing minor body injury; drug related offences. The average number of previously mentioned criminal acts for period year 2010-2012 at Serbia are: theft and robbery 4.461;

20) Juvenile delinquency in the period between 2006 and 2009 was analyzed in a paper presented by Đurđević, Bošković and Senić, 2013.

causing grievous bodily harm 346; drug related offences 305; murder and manslaughter 20 and domestic violence 61.

Criminal offences most frequently committed by juveniles were theft and robbery, followed by offences such as causing grievous bodily harm or causing minor body injury. The number of juvenile perpetrators who committed drug related offences is lower when compared to two previous criminal offences, but in view of the fact how serious and grave drug related offences are, this data should not be neglected, particularly in Belgrade and in Novi Sad which are two cities where the incidence of drug related criminal offences is higher than elsewhere.

The number of juvenile delinquents, in terms of all three analyzed criminal offences (theft and robbery; causing grievous bodily harm; drug related offences) is highest in Belgrade (the largest city in the Republic of Serbia), followed by Novi Sad. According to the number of juvenile delinquents, towns of Zrenjanin and Niš are more or less the same, while towns in Central, East and West Serbia have the lowest number of juvenile delinquents. This data does not automatically mean that the number of juvenile delinquents in these parts of Serbia is necessarily lower, but rather that these are the towns with smaller population which does impact the overall picture of juvenile delinquency.

When compared to the previously mentioned criminal offences, the number of juvenile perpetrators of criminal offences such as domestic violence and murder is considerably lower, but due to the serious nature of these two types of criminal offences as well as the fact that juveniles tend to commit domestic violence related crimes, we think it would be important to include this data in the present paper.

We have already mentioned that the number of juveniles who have committed criminal offences of murder and domestic violence is far lower when compared to other types of criminal offences previously analyzed. However, the very fact that a certain number of juvenile delinquents have decided to commit murder or domestic violence against their family members, speaks volumes of how important this is. Violence perpetrated against close family members may in many cases be a stepping stone to committing other crimes and exhibiting aggression against other people.

In comparison to the total number of criminal offences as well as certain criminal offences that were committed mainly by juvenile offenders, the number of murders and manslaughters is significantly lower. However, we will compare data on the number of murders and manslaughters committed by juveniles with the total number of these criminal offences that were committed, which will enable us to see what is the percentage of juvenile delinquents who commit these serious types of criminal offences.

The analysis of these data indicates that the number of criminal offences committed by juvenile delinquents as compared to the total number of committed criminal offences such as murder and manslaughter can be expressed in following percentages:

- a) Out of the total number of murders and manslaughters committed in 2010, 20% were committed by juvenile offenders.
- b) Out of the total number of murders and manslaughters committed in 2011, 14% were committed by juvenile offenders.
- c) Out of the total number of murders and manslaughter committed in 2012, 11% were committed by juvenile offenders.

The number of juvenile delinquents who have committed serious criminal offences such as murder and manslaughter is decreasing but the figure that hovers around 15% gives cause for concern. These observations indicate that certain phenomena and data cannot be viewed in a vacuum, without taking into consideration other security issues and without making a more comprehensive analysis of the data.

Violence at sporting events, particularly at soccer games, continues to plague all European countries. This type of violence comes in many shapes and there is an increasing tendency for this violence to have a spill over effect and to spread beyond the soccer stadium and into urban areas. Our country too has not been spared from this ugly phenomenon. Republic of Serbia has every reason not only to be concerned but also terrified by the amount of violence at sporting events or sporting events related violence in the past ten years that has claimed nine young lives, thus ranking Serbia the first country in Europe. Bearing in mind the fact that violence at sporting events is a permanent and serious security risk to Serbia, we have analyzed the data on young persons who have engaged in violent behavior at sporting events and committing other criminal offences linked to sporting events.

Sports related criminal offences (at sporting events, including different sports competitions) have been defined by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia (Article 344/a) and by the Law on the Prevention of Violence and Inappropriate Behavior at Sporting Events (Article 20). Some of the criminal offences defined by the above mentioned Code and Law include unauthorized entry into the sports stadium and instigation of violence, physically assaulting the participants of a sporting event, bringing pyrotechnics to sporting events, causing damage to sports facilities or equipment (hereinafter referred to as a criminal offence: *sports related violence*). In the period between 2010 and 2012 a total of 1,117 criminal offences defined by the Criminal Code and the Law on the Prevention of Violence and Inappropriate Behavior at Sporting Events have been committed in the Republic of Serbia. The total

number of perpetrators of these criminal offences is 1,840 out of which 211 are juveniles. This data indicates that the percentage of juveniles who have committed criminal offence of sports related violence is as follows: 9.93% in 2010, 16.05% in 2011, and 10.25% in 2012. Unlike the decrease in the number of juveniles and criminal offences committed which was shown previously in this paper, the incidence of sports related violence and associated crimes has been steadily on the rise in the past three years.

The share of juvenile offenders in the total number of offenders was at 6.02% in 2010, 6.89% in 2011 and 12.84% in 2012.

4. CONCLUSION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

Regardless of the number or age structure of juveniles who have committed criminal offences, juvenile delinquency is not only a security but also a social, psychological and educational problem and a challenge each country and its society faces. Bearing in mind the fact that juveniles and children perpetrate different criminal offences, this phenomenon is a solid indicator of the structure, dynamics and values shared in the family, local community and a society as a whole in one particular country. The repression or sanctioning of juvenile delinquents is a necessary measure, but its educational potential and prevention are equally important. By promoting socially and legally accepted values and human rights, by strengthening local communities, social services and education institutions as well as by extending increased assistance and support to families, it is possible to make a difference as these elements constitute the basic steps in preempting bad habits from taking root, preventing the adoption of flawed values and the destruction of juvenile's personality as well as counteracting their violent and criminal behavior.

This paper analyzes different data pertaining to juvenile delinquency in the Republic of Serbia in the period between 2010 and 2012. Our analysis and comparisons partially rely on the study by the group of authors, namely Đurđević, Bošković and Senić (2013) who analyzed juvenile delinquency in our country in the period between 2006 and 2009.

Following the analysis of the presented data we have come to the following conclusions and results:

a) When compared to the period between 2006 and 2009, the percentage of juvenile delinquents perpetrating criminal offences has

dropped almost by half in the period between 2010 and 2012, while in 2012 the number of juvenile delinquents decreased.

b) Similarly to the period between 2006 and 2009, in the period between 2010 and 2012 (the period which was the subject of our analysis) juvenile delinquents mostly committed offences such as causing grievous bodily harm, inflicting minor body injury, theft and robbery.

c) When analyzed from the aspect of age structure of juveniles (as defined by the law), it would be safe to say that the highest percent of delinquents are older minors/juveniles (55% - 59.76%);

d) In the past three years juvenile delinquents perpetrated drug related criminal offences, but also murders, manslaughters, domestic violence and sports related violence;

e) As for the analysis by regions of our country, the highest number of juvenile delinquents has been registered in Belgrade, our capital city, followed by other cities in the North and South of our country;

f) When viewed as an individual type of criminal behavior, the number of murders committed by juveniles is by far lower than other criminal offences committed by delinquents; however, when comparing the number of murders committed by juveniles with the total number of committed murders, we can say that in the overall number of committed murders, those committed by juvenile are not insignificant;

g) The juvenile delinquency is on the rise in respect of crimes such as sports related violence. In view of the fact that this type of criminal offence is on the rise in our country in general, special attention should be attached to this.

In light of the fact that juvenile offenders are sentenced to prison sentences in juvenile correctional facilities only if they have committed serious crimes such as murder or manslaughter, we must ask ourselves whether the existing criminal and legal sanctions have been adequately defined, do they have sufficient preemptive capacity, correctional and educational effect. All of these questions require further study and analysis, but at the same time we hope that the presented data might serve as a basis and encouragement for further engagement and discussions of experts.

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МАЛОЛЕТНИЧКА ДЕЛИКВЕНЦИЈА У РЕПУБЛИЦИ СРБИЈИ: ТРЕНДОВИ И ИНДИКАТОРИ

Резиме

Разноврсност и број почињених дела из области малолетничке деликвенције нису одраз само тренутног безбедносног и социо-

патолошког стања у друштву, већ могу послужити и као индикатор ближе или даље будућности овог (млађег) дела једне заједнице. Мада непријатно, стављање појмова деца и криминал у исту реченицу, малолетничка деликвенција ипак је један од највећих проблема у многим земљама. У теорији и практичном истраживању малолетничке деликвенције, постоје различите дефиниције како овог феномена, тако и правног оквира старосног лимита којим се детерминишу млади. У Србији, законски се препознају 4 групе малолетних лица, у зависности од старосне доби и та, условно речено подела, поштована је и у овом Раду, у смислу анализе почињених криминалних аката малолетника различитог узраста. Циљ овог Рада био је да пружи разноврне податке о броју и врсти почињених дела из области малолетничке деликвенције, а имајући у виду да је слично истраживање спроведено од стране групе домаћих аутора и то за период 2006-2006. година; у том смислу, овај Рад пружа и анализира податке за период 2010-2012.година. Сви подаци о врсти и броју почињених дела малолетничке деликвенције добијени су од стране Министарства унутрашњих послова Републике Србије. У Раду је извршена анализа наведене врсте података и њихово поређење са подацима објављеним у научном раду групе аутора, а који се односе за период 2009-2012.година. Анализа и поређење података довели су до неколико закључака, између осталих и да је број почињених криминалних аката од стране малолетника значајније опао у анализираном периоду у односу на период 2006-2009.година, као и да су акти које малолетници чине у највећем броју наношење телесних повреда, плјачке и дела из области поседовања или продаје наркотика. Анализе података, поређења и изнети закључци имали су за циљ не само да пруже увид у стање и трендове у области малолетничке деликвенције, већ и да буду референтна основа за будућа истраживања и дискусије о овој проблематици.

Кључне речи: малолетници; деликвенција; криминал; трендови; Србија

* Овај рад је примљен 27. септембра 2014. године а прихваћен за штампу на састанку Редакције 27. новембра 2014. године.