



### Annotation

This article analyzes the specific characteristics of implementing the prevention of neglect and offenses among minors in Uzbekistan. The study examines the legal foundations, institutional mechanisms, and criminological approaches directed at protecting juveniles from deviant behavior and social neglect. Particular attention is paid to Article 27 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Prevention of Offenses and the Law “On the Prevention of Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency.” The article also explores international scientific approaches to juvenile prevention, the role of family and educational institutions, and modern preventive strategies aimed at reducing juvenile crime. Official statistical data and scholarly opinions from internationally recognized academic sources are used throughout the research.

### Keywords

juvenile delinquency, prevention, minors, neglect, criminology, juvenile justice, Uzbekistan, social rehabilitation, family supervision, youth policy.

The issue of preventing neglect and offenses among minors has become one of the most important priorities of modern criminal policy because juvenile delinquency directly affects the future stability of society and the state. Young people represent the social foundation of every nation, and their lawful development is closely connected with public security, social harmony, and economic progress. In recent years, Uzbekistan has paid significant attention to strengthening mechanisms aimed at protecting minors from criminal influence, social neglect, and deviant behavior. The state recognizes that effective prevention among juveniles requires not only legal measures but also educational, social, and psychological support systems [1].

The legal basis for preventing neglect and offenses among minors in Uzbekistan is reflected in Article 27 of the Law “On the Prevention of Offenses.” According to this provision, the prevention of neglect and offenses among minors shall be implemented in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the Prevention of Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency,” the current law, and other legislative acts [2]. This legal norm demonstrates that juvenile prevention in Uzbekistan is based on a comprehensive and specialized approach aimed at protecting children’s rights while simultaneously reducing criminogenic risks.

Juvenile delinquency differs significantly from adult criminality because minors are more vulnerable to social influence, emotional instability, and environmental pressure. Criminologists emphasize that adolescence is a critical stage in personality formation during which antisocial behavior may emerge if proper supervision and education are lacking. Travis Hirschi’s social control theory explains that weak attachment to family, school, and social institutions increases the likelihood of delinquent behavior among youth [3]. This theoretical approach is highly relevant to Uzbekistan, where family and community institutions traditionally play an important role in the upbringing of children.

One of the key features of juvenile prevention is the necessity of early intervention. Preventive measures among minors are more effective when implemented before criminal habits become stable behavioral patterns. Scholars such as David Farrington argue that early preventive programs significantly reduce long-term criminality and improve social adaptation among vulnerable children [4]. Therefore, Uzbek legislation emphasizes the timely identification of minors who are exposed to neglect, antisocial environments, or risky behavior.

Neglect among minors often arises from dysfunctional family conditions, poverty, lack of parental supervision, domestic violence, or social instability. Children deprived of proper care and attention become more susceptible to criminal groups, substance abuse, and unlawful activities. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), social neglect remains one of the primary risk factors contributing to juvenile delinquency worldwide [5]. Consequently, prevention policies in Uzbekistan increasingly focus on strengthening family support systems and improving social protection for children.

Educational institutions occupy a central role in preventing juvenile offenses. Schools not only provide academic knowledge but also shape moral values, discipline, and legal awareness. Teachers and school psychologists often become the first individuals capable of identifying behavioral problems among students. Uzbekistan has therefore introduced preventive cooperation mechanisms between schools, parents, neighborhood committees, and law enforcement agencies. Such coordination enables early identification of problematic situations and timely assistance to minors at risk.

The institution of the "mahalla," which represents a traditional neighborhood self-governance system in Uzbekistan, also performs an important preventive function. Mahalla committees participate in monitoring family conditions, assisting vulnerable children, and organizing educational activities for youth. This local approach strengthens social supervision and promotes community-based prevention. International criminological studies confirm that community involvement significantly increases the effectiveness of juvenile prevention programs [6].

Another distinctive feature of juvenile prevention is its educational orientation. Unlike adult criminal policy, which often emphasizes punishment, juvenile prevention prioritizes rehabilitation and social adaptation. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules) stress that juvenile justice systems should focus primarily on the well-being and reintegration of minors rather than punitive sanctions [7]. Uzbekistan increasingly incorporates these international standards into its legal and institutional reforms.

Psychological support constitutes another essential component of juvenile prevention. Adolescents frequently experience emotional instability, identity crises, and peer pressure that may influence unlawful behavior. Professional counseling and psychological assistance help minors overcome social difficulties and develop lawful behavioral patterns. According to developmental psychologist Laurence Steinberg, adolescent decision-making is strongly influenced by emotional and social factors because cognitive control mechanisms are not yet fully developed during youth [8]. Therefore, preventive measures among minors require specialized pedagogical and psychological methods.

Digital technologies and social media have created new challenges in the sphere of juvenile prevention. Modern minors are increasingly exposed to cyberbullying, online

extremism, harmful content, and internet-related crimes. Social networks may negatively influence adolescents by encouraging violence, aggression, or illegal behavior. Consequently, preventive policy must adapt to contemporary technological realities. Uzbekistan has introduced educational campaigns aimed at improving digital literacy and protecting children from online threats.

The prevention of juvenile offenses also includes combating substance abuse among minors. Alcohol consumption, smoking, and narcotic substance use often contribute to aggressive behavior, school absenteeism, and criminal activity. The World Health Organization notes that substance abuse during adolescence significantly increases the probability of future criminal involvement and social marginalization [9]. Preventive activities in educational institutions therefore include awareness programs concerning the harmful consequences of addiction.

Family influence remains one of the most decisive factors in juvenile behavior. Numerous criminological studies demonstrate that stable and supportive family environments reduce the risk of delinquency. Diana Baumrind's research on parenting styles indicates that authoritative parenting characterized by supervision, emotional support, and reasonable discipline contributes to positive social development [10]. In contrast, neglectful or abusive family conditions often create criminogenic tendencies among children. Uzbekistan's family-centered prevention policy therefore emphasizes parental responsibility and family education.

Official statistics also demonstrate the importance of preventive work among minors. According to reports published by the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, preventive programs conducted in schools and communities have contributed to reducing certain categories of juvenile offenses in recent years [11]. Nevertheless, experts continue to identify challenges related to youth unemployment, migration, family instability, and internet-related risks affecting minors.

Juvenile prevention requires cooperation among multiple institutions. Law enforcement bodies alone cannot effectively address the social and psychological causes of delinquency. Effective prevention depends on coordinated activities involving schools, healthcare institutions, social services, local governments, and civil society organizations. Scholars such as John Braithwaite emphasize that restorative and community-oriented approaches are often more successful in juvenile prevention than purely punitive methods [12].

One of the distinctive aspects of Uzbekistan's preventive policy is the increasing use of individualized preventive measures. Instead of applying uniform sanctions, authorities seek to evaluate each minor's social environment, psychological condition, and educational needs. Such individualized approaches correspond with modern international standards emphasizing child-centered justice systems. Preventive inspectors and social workers cooperate with families and schools to develop personalized rehabilitation strategies for at-risk minors.

The role of legal awareness in preventing juvenile offenses is also extremely important. Minors who understand legal norms and social responsibility are less likely to engage in unlawful behavior. Educational campaigns, legal seminars, and youth forums organized throughout Uzbekistan contribute to strengthening legal culture among adolescents. These initiatives help minors develop respect for law, human rights, and civic responsibilities.

International experience demonstrates that countries achieving low levels of juvenile delinquency usually invest heavily in education, social support, and youth development



programs. Scandinavian states, for example, prioritize social welfare and rehabilitation over punitive sanctions, resulting in comparatively low juvenile recidivism rates [13]. Uzbekistan has increasingly adopted similar approaches through educational reforms, youth employment programs, and community-based preventive systems.

At the same time, preventive activities must comply with constitutional guarantees and international human rights standards. Preventive measures toward minors should respect the dignity and best interests of the child. Excessive surveillance or discriminatory practices may negatively affect children's psychological development and social integration. Therefore, balancing public safety and children's rights remains a crucial principle of juvenile prevention policy.

Economic and social factors also significantly influence juvenile behavior. Poverty, unemployment, poor housing conditions, and social inequality may contribute to neglect and deviant conduct. Robert Merton's strain theory explains that social pressure resulting from unequal opportunities may increase the likelihood of unlawful behavior among disadvantaged youth [14]. Consequently, improving social welfare and creating educational and employment opportunities for young people are essential preventive strategies.

The COVID-19 pandemic also created new challenges in juvenile prevention worldwide. School closures, social isolation, and increased internet use affected children's psychological stability and educational development. International organizations reported growing risks of domestic violence, cybercrime, and emotional disorders among minors during the pandemic period [15]. Uzbekistan responded by strengthening online educational programs and social support mechanisms for vulnerable families.

In conclusion, the prevention of neglect and offenses among minors represents one of the most significant directions of criminal and social policy in Uzbekistan. Article 27 of the Law "On the Prevention of Offenses" establishes the legal framework for implementing specialized juvenile prevention measures based on national legislation and international standards. The specific characteristics of juvenile prevention include its educational orientation, emphasis on rehabilitation, individualized approach, and strong involvement of families and communities. Effective prevention requires coordinated cooperation among schools, law enforcement agencies, healthcare institutions, and civil society organizations. Furthermore, modern challenges such as digital threats, substance abuse, and social inequality demand innovative preventive strategies capable of protecting minors from criminogenic influences. Strengthening social support systems, improving legal awareness, and ensuring child-centered policies will further enhance the effectiveness of juvenile prevention in Uzbekistan and contribute to building a safer and more stable society.

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