

## **SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND A PERSON: PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM OF EXISTENCE AND SURVIVAL**

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**Summary.** In the article the problem of interaction of social environment and a person is considered. Factors which considerably influence and complicate the person's existence and survival in the conditions of the information society are analyzed. The social-psychological analysis of displays of violence at interpersonal level is carried out and psychological means of minimisation of the given displays are described.

**Key words:** a victim, a person, violence, the social environment.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Understanding is not panacea from all troubles,  
but it definitely helps, especially when it is  
necessary to struggle with the uttermost  
darkness.

*Karl Jung*

The problem of the person's survival and all mankind as a whole has sharply risen in the modern world recently, with all its severe evidence. Nowadays nobody from us can feel today comfortably enough and be assured that nothing will happen with him but if it happens it won't be him. Globalisation, information of social space, political, cultural, scientific, religious manipulations and many other things become factors which objectively and inevitably influence the person, changing him and his environment.

The given problematic accents a question of the person's survival rate the possibility of preservation of his autonomy and existence. Together with it, we consider that the problem of the person's existence and survival shouldn't be considered exclusively in the plane of macrosocial parametres. The important role is played by microenvironmental factors which the person faces every second. Therefore the problem of existence and survival of the person in the modern world – the violence world, is not less, but more actual if it is looked through the psychological prism of interpersonal relations.

## OBJECTS AND PROBLEMS

The concept of violence leaves the roots in the ancient times. So, in an iconographic scene about Avel and Kaine, we comprehend the dramatic nature of a situation caused by that Avel, realising the danger proceeding from his brother, but owing to a certain psychological condition (the aggravated sense of guilt) does not oppose to circumstances, but goes with Kaine to the field where he perishes from his hand.

The Great Russian writer M.F. Dostoevsky was able to describe the refined psychological images of various types of victims and those social situations which promoted their occurrence. One of such works is his novel "Crime and punishment" in which Rodion Raskolnikov, Alena Ivanovna and other characters become victims both destructive interpersonal relation, and their impulsive promptings.

As a kernel of such relations acts the violence phenomenon in its most different displays. In the Russian dictionary of S.I. Ozhegov violence is defined as a physical strength application to somebody, the compulsory influence on somebody or something, oppression, lawlessness [Ozhegov, 1985]. Together with it, many researchers identify the given concept with murder, aggression, sadism, social and individual disstructure as a result of which a person turns to a victim.

The American sociologist F. Vertham marks: «Violence is represented already not as something extreme and unnatural but on the contrary is given as the ordinary, natural phenomenon in the life of modern society. It is made in such scales and means that the richest human imagination. Today, Americans couldn't think about in previous times are influenced by such propagation of violence any generation any civilised nation have never been influenced on» [quote by Blackburn, 2004, p. 261].

In Ukraine the violence problem is not less actual. The growth of quantity of violent crimes, in many respects severe, cynical character of each of them, in our opinion, is not less, than in the USA, is a projection of those social relations which are inherent to the Ukrainian society.

Together with it, it is necessary to notice that the violence is more primitive and natural way of solving of conflicts, rather than a nonviolence or compromise search. In this connection, R. May noticed that the violence in itself is the form of a dialogue and it is a special language, whatever primitive and rudimentary it is [Frager, Fadiman, 2007]. Moreover, when the feeling of anxiety increases when a person faces to a problem of realisation of his possibilities, but he denies them and it is impossible to distinguish correctly needs of other people or when he neglects the dependence from his environment the sense of guilt accrues in him. There observing the violence, one of fault types presents (according to R. May «Mitwelt») which grows from human inability correctly to understand the world of other people.

A person sees other people only by his eyes and he can never precisely define what it is necessary for them. Therefore with his estimation the person makes violence over their true personality, that is, transforms others into a victim. Thus the person also dooms also himself in to internal suffering which, in turn, becomes the reason of his increase victim vulnerability that is an aggravation of mental and social characteristics and features which do his predisposed to the transformation into a victim.

On the other hand, contemplating the problem of a victim in social-psychological measurement it is important to isolate such psychological features of a person, which is possible to correspond to his characteristics fully. In this connection, under psychology of a victim it is accepted to consider a set of individual-psychological, social-psychological features which do possible the transformation of the individual into a victim.

Without going deep into social-psychological, criminal-psychological differentiation of victims, we will notice only that acts as a central element of the given concept the individual victimity which as D.V. Rivman marks, develops from personal and situational components, and the qualitative characteristic of the first is in a system dependence on the second one [Rivman, 2002].

The raised degree of vulnerability at the expense of a personal component of victimity is the consequence of predisposition of an individual (social, psychological, biophysical qualities), to become a victim in this or that social situation. Thus, such personal component of victimity as psychological qualities of the person represents the most essential side of the studied phenomenon.

To psychological characteristics of a person which determine his raised victim vulnerability the majority of researchers carry out the following:

- Mental pathologies.
- Defects of informative mental processes (memory, perception, thinking).
- Emotional unbalance.
- Low anticipation (possibility to expect an end result and consequences of the behaviour).
- Lowered reflexion and self-checking.
- Propensity to unjustified risk and its extreme form –adventurism.
- Raised conformity (inability to resist to psychological influence from outside environments).
- Accentuation character according to hysterical, demonstrative and raised types.
- Disbraking organic needs [Rivman, 2002].

However and psychological characteristics of the person which produces violence in-many are represented similar. So, to a tyrant is peculiar the following: mental pathologies, defects of informative mental processes, emotional unbalance, low anticipation, lowered reflexion and self-checking, accentuation of character jamming according to hysterical, demonstrative and raised types [Blackburn, 2004]. That is, it is possible to speak about certain psychological identity of a tyrant and his victim. And only the form of display of activity places all in the places (someone escapes, and someone catches up).

Together with it, conditions of the social environment not simply create a background to behaviour of the individual, but directly influence on him thereby raise or lower a degree of violence and a general victim vulnerability. Thus we speak about two aspects of destructive influence of the social environment. They are: influence owing to which the emotional instability of the individual increases and influence which conducts to increasing of the level of his conformism. The basic mechanism which produces the specified aspects, is, a so-called information exchange. The last one realises the deliberate and purposeful, direct or mediated influence through: belief; suggestion; infection; imitation and fashion.

As a result of the information exchange there qualitative changes of person's representations about the surrounding validity take place. But, more over, the information, being projected on his psychological characteristics, can raise the emotional instability or promote the development of conformist tendencies.

So, the individual with the raised level of nervetisation will be more vulnerable before the information which has a bright emotional context. Accordingly, it will result in his increasing of the victim vulnerability. As the data of foreign researches prove that people possessing high level of nervetizm get in to various road and transport accidents much more often after receiving the emotional painted information. The same information also determines a set of disputed interactions which come to an end with grave crimes.

The interesting data are given by the American researcher G. Block. He having analysed several hundreds cases of robbery in the American mega cities has come to a conclusion that people, who are more inclined to the irrational perception (a peripheral way) become in several times more often victims of such crimes, rather than people, (the central way) perceiving it rationally [Blackburn, 2004].

As it was already marked, in Ukraine the violence level is high enough. However, in our opinion, it is still above in sphere of the information exchange. And it is connected not only with demonstration of various actions or programs on television channels, in which violence scenes dominate. It is enough to use in public transport to experience the Ukrainian features of interpersonal relations on the verbal level. But if, one researchers try to connect display of scenes of violence with growth of grave crimes (especially among minors) we pay attention to increase in quantity of people which thereof raise the emotional instability and, accordingly the level of victim vulnerability.

The second aspect of destructive influence of the social environment, takes place when the information exchange leads to displays of conformism and hyperconformism of the person. So, the American social psychologist E. Aronson and his colleagues give an example of the destructive display of conformism when the victim could not wait for help from neighbours, who having heard his calls for help, have not reacted to them [Aronson, 2002]. The reason of this is information social influence. It promotes that the individual considers other people as a source of information necessary for definition of a correct choice of behaviour in an ambiguous situation. That is, in a case, when a person does not know how to arrive correctly, he pays the attention to others and follows their choice.

In a case with «not heard victim» ambiguity of a situation has also led to that neighbours, looking out from windows or leaving on a ladder platform, and could not define a degree of danger of such situation. And, as anybody from them has not shown other behaviour everyone came to the opinion that it acts, as the others acts correctly.

However, a person can become a victim and in an absolutely other situation. So, if we are in a panic state or are frightened and we do not know what to do, others whom we consider the valuable sources of information can be even more irrational. Then consequences become catastrophic. Examples of such behaviour are especially tragic, when we deal with displays of not structured violence (act of terrorism, vandalism etc.).

The less confidence a person feels, the more he relies on others, and the possession in necessary volume of knowledge (how to act in this or that ambiguous situation) is the important condition of the correct choice of his behaviour. Moreover, it

is always very important to consider carefully, whether is the reaction of other people in the present state of affairs more correct, than own. But, even more powerful counterbalance to destructive influence of environment are own common sense or the internal moral reference points prompting to the person what is right, and what – is wrong.

As it is known the influence of interiorizing experience on human activity explains mechanisms after arbitrary (afterwill) behaviour. The given concept is entered into L.I. Bozhovich's scientific turn and its essence is that behavioural elections which go through a stage of the motivational conflict in the childhood and strong-willed effort and stably were encouraged turn to steady programs of thinking and practical activities [Bozhovich, 2008]. Thus the social-desired behaviour «gets visibility involuntary, even impulsive» and subjectively is not endured as the conflict between living and social needs. And, as A.P. Nazaretjan marks in the psychological model a strong-willed action, which is oriented at the motivational conflict on optimisation of a reflective self-estimation to the detriment of "natural" requirements – for example, is connected with physical safety [Nazaretjan, 2008]. That is, for example, a person who has decided to revenge the offender (a peripheral way) does not possess the steady prosocial program of thinking and ability of a deep reflexion is not found out in it. Really, as well-known Spanish playwright Calderon de la Barca wrote: «Person often resorting to a revenge, does not receive anything as a result, except publicity of the shame: the revenge in this case finds out that the insult concealed in itself».

The violence in interpersonal relations is always a vector outside. Thus environment creates and sets conditions of such projection, and, as it is known, more the technology facilitates violence, more cognitive complexity is necessary for stable the selection of simple decisions. Therefore the revenge, acting as a simple (irrational) form of violence, can be localised on the cognitive level.

Thus, the psychological problem of existence and survival of a person in the modern world consists in emphasising the rationalisation of his thinking which productively enough supersedes rough forms of display of individual violence. The cognitive complexity of mentality is capable to constrain impulsive promptings of the person qualitatively. Perhaps, it is necessary to agree that only presence of coincidence between growth of the power of reason and accruing ranks of the reflexion promotes control increasing over natural impulses and that is even more significant – only a combination of power and wisdom leads to the universalisation of mind.

## CONCLUSION

1. The behaviour of a person who tests violence or which produces violence, is necessary to be considered through a prism of both his personal properties and qualities, and influencing external background factors of the social environment.

2. In a modern society it is observed lack of coincidence between human thinking, impulsiveness of actions and the reflexion level. As we consider, it is a consequence of influence of background factors of the social-information environment that substantially determines growth of displays of individual victimity and various forms of violence in human relations.

3. Social environment and a person are the interconnected categories. However environment should give a person the possibility for sublimation of negative impulsive promptings which can be realised in various forms of "prosocial violence" (sports, games, dances, etc.). Thus the absence of «social aspects» leads to accumulation of human neuroses and psychoses. And, as it is known, accumulation of negative emotions leads to reduction of dimension of consciousness, thinking of world's pictures and by that generates still more amplitude of displays of violence, and first of all, at the level of interpersonal relations.

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#### СОЦИАЛЬНАЯ СРЕДА И ЛИЧНОСТЬ: ПСИХОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ ПРОБЛЕМА СУЩЕСТВОВАНИЯ И ВЫЖИВАНИЯ

Третьяченко В.В.

**Аннотация.** Статья посвящена проблеме существования и выживания человека в условиях современного развития информационного общества. На основе социально-психологического анализа факторов социальной среды сделана попытка рассмотреть проблему насилия на межличностном уровне, которая является одной из наиболее актуальных для постсоветской Украины.

**Ключевые слова:** виктимность личности, межличностное насилие, социальная среда.