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ASPECTS OF DEVIANCE IN MILITARY ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

The military institution represents a human group with its own traditions, cultural norms specific to a certain social status, with features from certain person that carries a specific gun to another one, but the rigors and privations are not easy to face and overcome.

The communication of persons who are for a determined period in military institution is a complex process that consists of a dynamic set de-socializing and socialization again - to waive some rules, behaviours, customs, habits and learning new ones. This process is obviously in conditions mastering military role, associated with a professional model, unique in its own way, and entry into a specific social environment.

The contact of the young man with the disciplined society, with prohibitions and frustration, with an authoritarian hierarchy could activate, for some, aggressive tendencies or signs of insubordination. The psychology of recruit person at adolescent age represents a great originality, which will result in particular difficulties for commanders. The independence and even opposition of parents and educational models and life down, and search their life style will spill over into this community that is authoritarian military. The isolation tendency arises particularly in the first three months of the incorporation, and if during this period the phenomenon represents a justified action, having gone through this stage he should give thought about. In this case it raises the question discovering the causes that have led to this situation and find the most effective ways of solving them.

Such behaviour may be labelled as deviant and should be treated as such. To deviate from the norms and patterns of behaviour - acting unanimously accepted by the members of the group can always generate failures at this level, establish unity of thought and action group and therefore establish group fighting force of group.

Keywords:

Communication, educational models, aggressive tendencies, dysfunction, behavioural patterns

1. INTRODUCTION

In any society deviant behaviour covers a large range of types, from the so-

called « eccentric » behaviour, defined by "unusual" gestures, particular clothing and behavioural disorder, until dysfunctional or altered behaviour, pertaining to delinquency area, to subcultures and to countercultures, deviant or marginal.

Deviancy and marginality phenomena, seen in terms of military specificity, present a number of specific features.

This paper approaches the problem of deviancy and marginality at military environment level: risk elements imposed by the integration of young persons within the soldierly groups, the manifestation of the phenomenon of marginality, and elements that can contribute to proliferation among soldiers of deviant behaviour.

The military institution constitutes a human group with its own traditions, specific cultural norms, with a certain social status, with features from a weapon to another but with rigors and privations not easy to face and overcome. Generally it is shown that the adaptation process is conditioned by psychological and socio-psychological features of young recruits: temperament, character, skills and inclinations, by the socio-psychological climate in military collectives, leadership, character and content of the command.

From the family environment to the environment at school and then at work or in the military service, the human being suffers several successive remodelling steps, it must give up certain habits, attitudes, values and interests to continuously acquire new ones, accepted and respected by the social group. It is a proven fact that adaptation to the military environment is even easier as there is more consistent motivation. Although the military environment is all new for those who join the service, it will be perceived differently depending on the time spent by the young man in community, on whether he was separated from his family or not, from work, whether he is dependent or independent of his parents, etc.

First of all it must be shown that the integration process is highly complex and, although unitary, it takes place at several distinct levels – at biological, physiological, mental level. On one hand it is about adaptation to a certain work and life regime by acquiring new skills, abilities and capacities, in accordance with the requirements of the new lifestyle, and about

the development of new skills and beliefs, in accordance with the requirements of the new social status, on the other hand.

Military service is performed in an environment requiring high adaptive resources from the young man at an age when his maturation process is not yet completed. Regardless of what is achieved at some point in terms of education, adaptation to the environment and to the new social status is an actual phenomenon in the life of the individual and in the life of the group.

Most young people go through this period of their life, achieving performance in preparation for battle and achieving disciplined conduct, favourable for their integration in the military environment. Data obtained from social surveys and based on documentary analysis reveal that for some young conscripts deviant behaviour, behaviour disorders or maladaptive reactions to the military environment – anxiety in the unit appear

Such maladaptive responses to the military environment usually occur within the first 4-5 months of active service, a period considered as adaptation of the person to the new life style. Maladaptive reactions appear also at the end of the military service, which shows the significance of contact with social perspective that the young person had before conscription; if this perspective is burdened by social problems - unemployment, material difficulties faced by the young person in general, these create prerequisites for disciplinary and behavioural disorders.

Military life is not spared from deviant moral acts, even if it takes place in a specific way in relation to other social activities. Military activity in its entirety cannot be regulated by laws, orders and directives.

Specialized studies and sociological studies reveal that behaviour disorders rarely derive from a single cause (monocausal explanation). The contribution of several factors shall be efficient (multicausal explanation). Only the contribution of several factors (variables), their mutual influence usually reveals abnormal behaviour (interactionist estimation) - this being also



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the type of explanation that is gaining more ground today.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research aims to provide an insight into the dimension of deviance phenomenon within the military system, to show risk factors and the causes determining young recruits to adopt behaviours inconsistent with the values and norms specific to military environment.

This research aims to:

Determine the relationships between personality types, areas of origin and predisposition of militaries to deviant behaviours;

Establish the relationship between the rough military lifestyle and the occurrence of deviance.

Highlight the psychological and moral features of militaries who show deviant behaviour.

Prepare a program to avoid (prevent) deviant behaviours, to rehabilitate militaries who show deviant behaviour.

The following hypotheses were developed:

If personal traits of the subject define a strong personality, the predisposition to deviant behaviour is reduced;

If militaries face issues in adaptation and integration within the military environment, the risk of occurrence of deviant behaviour increases;

If the IQ of militaries is superior, the risk of occurrence of deviant behaviour is reduced;

Survey sample

This study aims to be a correlation study, so the research was conducted in two military units and includes 28 subjects who perform military service. They are aged

between 20 and 22 years, general, secondary or post-secondary studies and come both from urban and rural areas. 14 of them have normal behaviour and 14 have different manifestations of deviant behaviour such as desertion, self-mutilation, theft, acts of aggression.

The research methods used are: observation, interview, questionnaire and test.

3. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Data obtained from the tests were processed monitoring any correlations between the variable "manifestations of deviant behaviour" and other variables used in research. The question is to assess the relationship between these variables, to express it in numbers.

Unlike the experiment, that reveals cause-effect relationships, the correlation study does not offer directly a measure of causality, but simply a measure of association method, covariance of features and it will reveal the deeper nature of the relationship. While in experimental studies the relationship is unidirectional (x causes y), in a correlation study variables are offered instead of being manipulated, and the relationship is not vectorized.

The statistical analysis performed shows the following conclusions: the first and second hypotheses are confirmed, and at hypothesis no. 3 there is no correlation.

Determination of correlation is always performed considering two variables.

Findings

The issue implied by the phenomenon of deviance that occurs, in one form or another, at each type of society or social group level, is too complex to be contained in the pages of a paper of this size. Addressing theoretical aspects and

the analysis of the phenomenon of deviance and marginality in the military division, allowed us to form an adequate image on their complexity. At the end of this study, we will try to systematize the main findings resulting from this approach.

Each type of society is characterized by a series of specific rules that present the behaviour of its individuals, and define it as consistent, marginal or deviant.

Deviance can be seen as a failure of social solidarity, which disrupts harmonious relationships between social roles that unite and integrate the individuals in the community they belong to.

Deviance depends on rules and values existing within the group, on its cohesion, degree of tolerance and social control. The best example from this perspective is represented by the military group.

Integration of young persons in the military environment means adapting to a specific regime of work and life by developing skills, abilities and requirements in accordance with the new lifestyle, and developing attitudes and beliefs specific to the new social role. Where appropriate integration is not performed there is a risk of deviations from prescribed behaviour, the

emergence of maladaptive reactions from recruits who are in such a situation.

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