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Vusal Ilyasov Vugarovich  
Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts s  
Master student  
[vilyasov35@gmail.com](mailto:vilyasov35@gmail.com)

## REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF YOUTH WITH DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN AZERBAIJAN

**Summary:** Deviant behavior refers to a social challenge that affects the lives of individuals while living in society. This article explores the main reasons for deviant behavior by addressing social, family-based, economic, and psychological factors. It emphasizes that deviant behavior emerges because of the interaction between social environment and personal characteristics, and youth are more affected because they are living in the most fragile stage of their lives. This paper highlights the important role of social work when preventing the emergence of deviant behavior and addressing it for early intervention. Social work focuses on improving social skills, promoting rehabilitation, and reintegration into society. Preventative measures, community-based programs, and early interventions are key strategies that are used to resolve emerging risks of deviant behavior.

**Key words:** youth, deviant behavior, rehabilitation, practice, family, environment, and reintegration.

Deviant behavior is one of the most widespread challenges in modern society. Characterized by violating the social norms and order, deviant behavior hinders the social adaptation process of an individual and it has a negative influence on the development of both individual and society. That's why it is not only considered individual, but also a complex phenomenon that relates to social structure.

Social work plays a vital role in this field. Social work aims to support the integration of people with deviant behavior back to society, to improve their

social skills, and support their positive behavioral change. This process is based on principles of respect for human rights, social justice, and equality.

This article mostly examines the essence of deviant behavior, its causes, and the activities that are implemented by social work.

The challenge of deviant behavior holds its relevance in global and national levels in modern days. Along with the social-economic development of society, new social risk factors emerge. Technological development, urbanization, influence of social media, and economic changes affect the behavior of individuals. The changes lead to weakening social ties and increase the risks of adopting negative behavior.

Deviant behavior, particularly in youth and adolescents, creates concerns in society. Because adolescence being the stage of development of the personality, youth are more likely affected by environmental factors. Negligence by family members, missing education, unemployment, and lack of social support are the main reasons that increase the risk of deviant behavior.

In cases like this, social work plays a vital role. Because it doesn't only focus on the solutions of the problems, but also it also develops strategies to prevent risk eve before emerging. That's why social work interventions in deviant behavior cases are important for the development and stability of society.

Various sociological and psychological theories have been stated to understand deviant behavior. These theories explain deviance related to the social structure rather than just being personal weaknesses.

One of the approaches is called anomia. This term refers to confusion in behavior and difficulty in social adaptation when the social norms and values start to weaken. (Emile Durkheim). Emile Durkheim was one of the sociologists who has experimented in this direction. He claimed gaps in social norms lead to deviance in behavior. (Emile Durkheim)

According to the strain theory, individuals tend to achieve goals that are seen vital in society, but if they fail or struggle to achieve those legally, they may engage

alternative or deviant ways to achieve them. This theory was suggested by sociologist Robert King Merton (Rober K Merton).

In contrast to sociologists, psychological approaches are more focused on internal factors of individuals. They emphasize that emotional sensitivity, low self-esteem, traumatic experiences, and low social skills have a huge effect on increasing risks of deviant behavior.

By combining both perspectives, we can see that deviant behavior can emerge from both social and psychological factors and their interventions with each other. So, deviant behavior can be specified as a comprehensive and complex phenomenon that requires social work interventions.

Deviant behavior cannot be identified by one cause. It emerges from the interaction of social, economic, family, and psychological factors. Due to every individual's life experience being different, deviant behavior can vary from person to person and can contain unique characteristics. Family environment plays a significant role; parents play role models for their children. Children can adopt behavior by observing their parents' actions. The adopted behavior models are crucial for the next stages of life, because they are the base foundation for development of behavior. Social workers avoid the development of negative behavior addressing and resolving family problems such as parent negligence, lack of emotional support, and broken ties in the family.

Socioeconomic problems such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality may lead to being left out of society. Academic failure, lack of social integration, and negative peer influence make changes in the behavior of individuals. Along with these, it is vital to consider psychological factors like trauma, stress, low self-esteem, and emotional instability.

Social work is a field of aid people may suffer issues in society to reintegrate them back to civilization, deviant behavior being included. Social work aims to achieve positive change in behavior for individuals, improve social skills, and ensure individuals can adapt to societal changes.

Social workers are required to be professionals in their field in many ways. They must be non-judgmental about clients' life choices while addressing needs and solutions in the planning sessions. This process is very vital for youth, because they are living in the most fragile stages of their lives. So, the main goal is not punishing negative behavior but preventing or removing the causes and helping individuals reach their potential. It is helpful for instilling the feeling of responsibility and confidence.

Social workers include both youth and their families while working with deviant behavior cases. Working with family, establishment of support groups, and guiding people to achieve resources are vital obligations of social workers. It proves that social work is not only about guiding youth but strengthening their ties with their environments.

Rehabilitation is one of the ways to improve adaptation and reintegration processes of youth back to society. It focuses on improving youth to become

functional and active alongside fixing behavior issues. In rehabilitation, the main directions are to provide psychological support and increase motivation. The expected result of rehabilitation is reintegration of youth. Reintegration refers to the stage of youth joining back to society and being socially accepted by other individuals. Reintegration is vital for youth joining the labor market, participating in social activities, and benefiting educational resources. It boosts the confidence and social responsibility of individuals when they are provided with jobs.

In this stage, social workers are required to monitor the development and intervene when it is necessary to change the plan or when providing resources. Teamwork increases effectiveness, because companionships with psychologists, pedagogues, and other professionals have better results.

Rehabilitation is a long-term process, and an individual's behavioral change happens step by step. During this period family and community support is essential for the effectiveness of positive behavior change.

Another term closely related to social work is preventative measures, and it focuses on acting against the symptoms of deviant behavior before they exist. It is considered vital for social work because it aims to address and remove risk factors before problems emerge. One of the aspects that makes preventative measures important is early interventions which help to prevent problems becoming more serious by socially in future.

Preventative measures usually involve enlightenment of youth. They promote social healthy lifestyles, forming socially appropriate norms and values among youth and adolescents, instilling social responsibility. Additionally, social enlightenment programs in schools, ongoing meetings with parents, and community-based activities increase the effectiveness of prophylactic work.

Prophylactic approaches can be implemented both at individual and public levels. Individuals with unique risk factors require one-on-one basis individual work, that makes the process more effective because social workers are more focused on individual and can create worker client bonds. Public level includes social policy which is about changing law according to benefit of society and it also includes social service programs. These approaches strengthen integration and reduce the rate of emerging deviant behavior. Prophylactic approaches ensure long-term benefits and support the common wellbeing of society.

The legal system of the Republic of Azerbaijan ensures the regulation of social work interventions with youth with deviant behavior. Social services are provided by state and non-governmental social protection institutions.

The Constitution of Republic of Azerbaijan ensures the rights of social protection of its citizens and the right to live in favorable conditions. 9. This principle is vital for social work activities such as social services for vulnerable risk groups that need social support such as shelter, food, and safe zones.

The states programs implemented in social policy sphere include rehabilitation, encouragement for employment, and social integration. These programs create opportunities for people with deviant behavior to adapt to society. The legal framework allows social workers to implement their work in a lawful sphere and protect clients' rights.

According to vital principles of social work practice based on human rights, social workers need to respect client's choices, dignity and background to prevent discrimination of people with deviant behavior.

Youth with deviant behavior may face various challenges which can be social and institutional. Sometimes these existing stereotypes and labeling issues can make it hard to reintegrate into society. Social stigma leads to self-doubt which reduces motivation and lowers confidence in the socialization process.

Another challenge is related to lack of resources. Social work interventions may lose their effectiveness when there is a shortage of financial support, which is important for equipment and financial aid. Professionals aim to solve the issue by training and improving their practical expertise.

In some cases, professionals can observe that youth with deviant behavior may refuse the change, and in these cases establishing relationships with youth is one of the steps that need to be considered by social workers. Because bonding helps social workers to motivate their clients to change. For those occasions, social workers need to be empathetic, and their communication skills play a necessary role.

For future perspectives such as improvement of social work requires, enlargement of prophylactic programs and promotion of community-based services are considered important. Multidisciplinary cooperation, developing relations between NGOs and state intuitions can bring out positive outcomes while resolving issues of deviant behavior of youth.

Additionally, with the development of technology new opportunities are created for social work practice. They include online counseling and digital

enlightenment programs which ensure prophylactic activities are provided in larger sphere.

### Conclusion

Deviant behavior is a complex phenomenon due to it being able to emerge because of risk factors such as individual characteristics, family, peer and community influence. Social work is the professional field that seeks solutions to these problems through rehabilitation and socially reintegrating people. Individual interventions, family and social support, and prophylactic activity are the main directions in this field. Additionally, the legal framework and state support improve social works effectiveness. The reduction of deviant behavior can happen through societal enlightenment, developing social work expertise.

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**Вюсал Ильясов Вугарович**

### **Реабилитация и социальная реинтеграция молодежи с девиантным поведением в Азербайджане**

**Резюме:** Девиантное поведение – это социальная проблема, затрагивающая жизнь человека в обществе. В данной статье рассматриваются основные причины девиантного поведения с учетом социальных, семейных, экономических и психологических факторов.

Подчеркивается, что девиантное поведение возникает в результате взаимодействия социальной среды и личностных характеристик, и молодежь страдает от этого больше, поскольку находится на наиболее уязвимом этапе своей жизни. В статье освещается важная роль социальной работы в предотвращении возникновения девиантного поведения и его раннем вмешательстве. Социальная работа направлена на улучшение социальных навыков, содействие реабилитации и реинтеграции в общество. Профилактические меры, программы на уровне сообщества и раннее вмешательство являются ключевыми стратегиями, используемыми для решения возникающих проблем, связанных с девиантным поведением.

**Ключевые слова:** молодежь, девиантное поведение, реабилитация, практика, семья, окружающая среда, реинтеграция.

**Vüsal İlyasov Vüqaroviç**

### **Azərbaycanda deviant davranışlı gənclərin reabilitasiyası və sosial reinteqrasiyası**

**Xülasə :** Deviant davranış cəmiyyətdə yaşayarkən fərdlərin həyatına təsir edən sosial problemə aiddir. Bu məqalə sosial, ailə əsaslı, iqtisadi və psixoloji amilləri nəzərə alaraq deviant davranışın əsas səbəblərini araşdırır. Sosial mühitlə şəxsi xüsusiyyətlərin qarşılıqlı təsiri nəticəsində deviant davranışın ortaya çıxdığını, gənclərin işə həyatlarının ən kövrək mərhələsində yaşadıklarından daha çox təsirləndikləri vurğulanır. Bu sənəd deviant davranışın yaranmasının qarşısını almaqda və erkən müdaxilə üçün ona müraciət edərkən sosial işin mühüm rolunu vurğulayır. Sosial iş sosial bacarıqların təkmilləşdirilməsinə, reabilitasiyaya və cəmiyyətə reinteqrasiyaya kömək edir. Profilaktik tədbirlər, icma əsaslı proqramlar və erkən müdaxilələr deviant davranışın ortaya çıxan risklərini həll etmək üçün istifadə olunan əsas strategiyalardır.

**Açar sözlər:** gənclik, deviant davranış, reabilitasiya, təcrübə, ailə, ətraf mühit və reinteqrasiya.