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THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGIST IN THE POLICE

Crime prevention involves any activity by an individual or group, public or private, which attempts to eliminate crime prior to it occurring or before any additional activity results. An analysis of international experience in combating crime shows what for in modern conditions, criminal acts pose a real threat to democracy development and national security of most countries.

In the world as a whole, violent crime is growing by 9% every year.

According to Kurke and Scrivner (2013), the main tasks of a police psychologist are evaluation, training and coaching of police officers, assisting organizational development and rendering psychological services.

Let's start with the concept «Evaluation». The evaluation role of psychologists in the police has laid the foundations of police psychology. Nowadays, most police agencies recognize and use psychological assessment as part of the selection of police officers. Psychologist provides guidance to police departments in case of conflict situations when the police officer in question is referred to a police psychologist who makes an assessment and makes recommendations for future functioning of the officer in question, quality police personnel and the employment of emotionally stable persons. Some specialist use a 'selection' assessment strategy, seeking candidates who demonstrate the qualities needed to succeed at work and recommending that police agencies admit them to law enforcement training. Other psychologists search for the applicants who show undesirable characteristics and recommend that police agencies no longer take them into consideration for employment. Evaluations typically include giving a series of psychological tests, interviewing, conducting situational tests and writing selection recommendations. Intelligence tests such as Stanford-Binet intelligence test, measure cognitive abilities. Psychologists also use personality tests to measure relatively stable characteristics or traits of the candidates. Such techniques are able to predict the behavior of police officers, for example: the use of excessive force, violations of police rules and procedures, substance abuse, as well as lateness or absence from work. Fewer psychologists still use projective tests that require candidates to seek answers to unstructured [1, p. 237].

Critical issues in police education and training to which psychologists have paid significant attention are negotiating in hostage situations, dealing with people with psychological difficulties, conducting criminal investigations and managing work related stress. These types of duties constantly involve the possibility of danger and the exposure of police officers to risk, hence requiring special education and training. Researchers have estimated that between 5% and 10% of police contacts with citizens are related to people with psychological difficulties. Contacts often take place in a person's home, and police usually process calls without incident.

Second concept is «Organizational development support». Type of development and counseling of a psychological support program. Job analysis determines what responsibilities a police officer has, what tasks he performs, what knowledge and skills he possesses and what results he achieves. Police agencies use information from job analysis to make informed decisions on organizational operations such as police selection and promotion procedures. Keeping up with consistent analyses of jobs provides police agencies with certain protection from requests for discriminatory selection procedures [1, p. 140].

Third – «Providing psychological services». Police psychologists can render a variety of psychological services which can be divided into three categories:

- a) clinical services for individual police officers and their families;
- b) program development support;
- c) operational support.

Individual services:

Clinical supervision

Crisis interventions

Emergency interventions for police officers and their families

Individual counseling

Individual, marriage and family psychotherapy

Stress management counseling

Well-being programs

Program / technical support:

Development of career advancement programs

Post crisis interventions support

Coordination with mental health services for persons in custody

Conducting research on organizational management

Selection and assessment of tests for physical readiness

Helping employees adjust

Seminars on stress management

Team building
Testing/interviewing candidates for police jobs
Psychological training / Lecturing
 Operational support:
Active function of police officer with regular police duties
Consulting / Training
Giving recommendations for disciplinary measures and complaints
Employee performance appraisal
Expert witness in connection with police management (e.g. in case of discrimination)
Assessment of ability to perform duties
Management consulting
Organizational evaluation / development
Member of governing board for organizational policies
Peer support team training
Pre-employment and advancement testing
Organizational policy advice
Keeping reports on post-traumatic incidents
Program development and evaluation
Psychological evaluations (for personnel selection or assignment of specific tasks)
Consultations on a specific case using psychological techniques
Criminal profiling
Investigation / analysis of crime scene
Deceit detection
Family violence support
Expert witness in a criminal trial
Hostage negotiation or other similar situations
Research on human factors and operations related to the legal improvement of equipment or systems
Interviewing suspects, victims and witnesses Consultations on research strategies
Investigative hypnosis
Support in the investigation of kidnapping or murder
Identification of perpetrators
Research on operational issues

Список використаних джерел:

1. Technium Social Science Journal. Vol. 17, 2021. P. 235–243.