

The dynamics of the spread and extent of criminality in Kosovo 2011 - 2014

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Abstract

Criminality as social complex phenomenon can be characterized from different points of view, among which the most important are: volume, structure, tendencies and its dynamics. The criminal behaviour as individual phenomenon or criminality as massive phenomenon, from the scientific point of view, is studied today from a range of disciplines of social, natural and humanitarian sciences. Debates which take place associated with criminal behaviour and criminality start from different starting points of scientific arguments, with a whole range of definitions from sociological, psychological, biological, anthropological, legal, economic and many other aspects. The branch of criminology, which is inseparable from aetiology is phenomenology, namely the group of scientific studies on the phenomenology of criminality. Thus, this specific sphere of criminology studies and analyses forms of phenomena, structure, structural and dynamic appearance of criminality in general. Also, with treatment and study of criminality is necessary to study and enlighten the dynamics of criminality movement through time periods and in different places.

Keywords: Criminality, volume, dynamics, criminal phenomenology.

Introduction

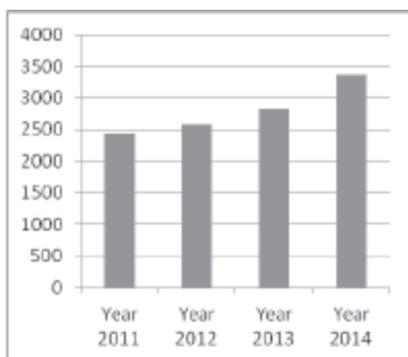
The criminal phenomenology is part of criminology and deals with the study of forms of criminality appearance, with structure and its dynamics. Many authors who have analyzed the problem of criminal phenomenology, emphasise that it is the manifestation of crime science. Thus, these authors prove that criminal phenomenology should concentrate on the study of statics, dynamics and typology of the forms of manifestation of crime and delinquent behaviours. Also, according to them, it should also deal with the description of the manner of committing various crimes, study and recognition of the personality of perpetrators respectively to study the life of delinquents and, finally, the typology and classification. The term "phenomenology" (derives from the Greek word "feinomen" - by what is seen, what is displayed, and "logos"- teaching, research and science). This encyclopaedic understanding of this term is different to special meanings within individual science (Vilic & Ristanoviæ, 1997, 21).

Volume and structure of criminality

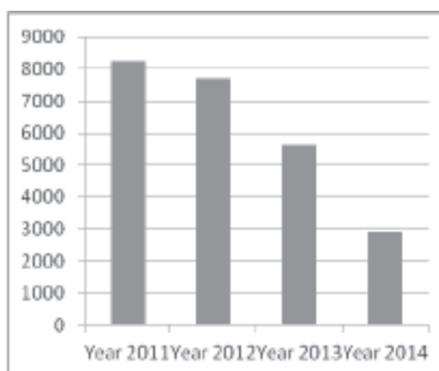
When it comes to volume, dynamics, types, kinds and forms of criminality in a country, usually criminal statistics serve as indicator of these characteristics, whether national or international (Halili, 2011, 116). Court records should be used for studies and criminological researches. Data on criminality were taken from the Kosovo Statistical Institution about capacity and structure of criminality and types of listed crimes,

such as: murders, severe attacks against personality, rapes, aggravated thefts, vehicle thefts that occurred within a year. For example, only during the year 2014, 17.490 persons were found guilty of illegal actions, which means that within an hour approximately 2 cases (1.99 cases). The statistics received by Kosovo Judicial Council Secretariat (KJCS), are presented as follows:

Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013	Year 2014
VP, against life and body 2442	VP, against life and body 2589	VP, against life and body 2829	VP, against life and body 3371
VP, against property 8260	VP, against property 7722	VP, against property 5613	VP, against property 2899



Against life and body



Against property

Basic features of the criminal phenomenon

Criminality in different periods of human society development is manifested in different forms. Each period had certain social characteristics (Gassin, 1996, 435-436). On the other hand, it is noticed that each socio-economic formation, regarding this problem has had some peculiarities of its own and is qualified with forms and special structure of criminality, which has not been characteristic for society and other later formations. In this regard, in the criminological literature it is stressed that the capacity and forms of crime and criminal behaviours, have been closely related to the development and transformation of societies and certain socio-economic systems (Ponti, 1997, pg, 78-80).

Time and seasonal features of criminality

Criminality as a complex social phenomenon, expresses some features and peculiarities of time and season. Many authors have researched and proven in their

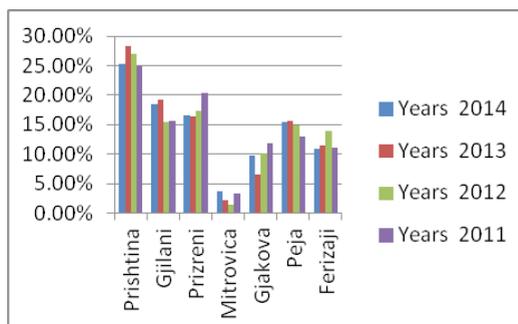
empirical researches that criminality differs from time to time and that there are special features of the criminality during night, day, season, from region to another region etc., although some forms of criminality are made nearly universal for all regions of the world. This deals especially with organized and professional crime, which once was characteristic only for developed states and for major industrial cities, for e.g. USA, France, Japan, etc. (Gassin, 1996, pg, 233-235). Some criminological researches in the USA that are associated to the time characteristics of criminality have shown that some forms of criminality appear during the day, while others during the night, while according to the time, their frequency is much emphasized during seconds, minutes and hours. Crime and its movement show also few peculiarities regarding appearance during the night and during the day. Thus is concluded that serious crimes against property such as thefts, robberies, mugging are carried out with more overnight. According to ascertains of the American criminologist Leonard Glick, appears that in the USA the greatest frequency of the crimes occurs in August, while the lowest amount of crimes occurs during February (Glick,1995, 53-54).

Regional peculiarities of criminality

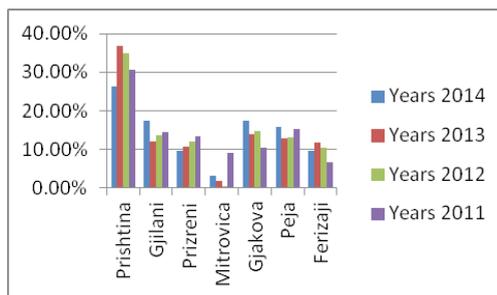
In criminological literature, there are few thoughts that some forms of criminality are expressed more in several regions. Prostitution, Violence, trafficking of narcotics are familiar in industrial regions and major centres, where the density of the population is higher, while crimes against life are more present in some regions, smuggling of prohibited items is more spread in border regions (Glick, 1995, 75-76). In this regard, often in criminological literature the term "criminal area" is used, through which is wished to highlight some regions where criminality is more present than in other regions. (Halili, 2011, 128).

Comparisons of VP against life and body through years and regions

<i>Comparisons of VP against life and body through years and regions</i>				
Years	2014	2013	2012	2011
Prishtina	25.22%	28.35%	26.96%	24.98%
Gjilani	18.39%	19.26%	15.49%	15.56%
Prizreni	16.52%	16.47%	17.23%	20.27%
Mitrovica	3.74%	2.16%	1.47%	3.36%
Gjakova	9.67%	6.54%	10.20%	11.83%
Peja	15.51%	15.69%	14.79%	12.98%
Ferizaj	10.95%	11.52%	13.87%	11.02%



Years	2014	2013	2012	2011
Prishtina	26.42%	36.84%	35.04%	30.58%
Gjilani	17.56%	12.13%	13.65%	14.41%
Prizreni	9.69%	10.60%	12.11%	13.47%
Mitrovica	3.14%	1.78%	0.60%	9.18%
Gjakova	17.56%	13.86%	14.89%	10.38%
Peja	15.90%	12.86%	13.17%	15.34%
Ferizaji	9.73%	11.92%	10.54%	6.65%



Data are taken from the Kosovo Statistical Institute, (for 2014)

Criminality village - city

Multiple researches were undertaken with the aim to prove that the appearance of criminality and its distribution in rural regions differs from its appearance and distribution in the city regions, different industrial centres. These distinctions do analyze not only the representation volume, but also the causes and consequences of such criminal behaviours. Thus, delinquency of minors, prostitution, narcotics, criminality of violence, is more spread in urban and industrial centres than in the peasant and rural centres. This is so, because, life in the villages is less dynamical. It exists a more highlighted report of connections between people and inhabitants and a greater solidarity among them. The village inhabitants are known among themselves. While in the city environments, industrial centres always have a greater movement, greater mobility, and the city atmosphere for inhabitants running for profit is noticed. Life is more anonym, automated and few moral standards and norms are applicable (Ponti, 1997, 93-97).

Age and criminality

Age is another important characteristic of criminality. A larger part of empirical criminological research notes, have shown that younger age is more prone in conducting criminal behaviour. As it is known, age of offenders of criminal acts can be divided according to positive legal determinations. According to the criminal laws of different countries, age of offenders of criminal acts, is divided in minor and adult persons (Halili, 2011, 129). Most criminal acts are present in the ages of 25-30 years, then the group age 30-50 years and less the group age over 60 years. It is worth to mention that age from 18-25 is very present and it is considered as a so-called youth crime, which in the modern world shows special characteristics, as for the manner of performance, as well as the intensity of the presentation towards criminal actions (Ponti, 1997, 81-84). In this context, the age group 25-30 and 30-50, is on the other hand, also the most active group of population in daily life in every society (Ignjatovic, 2001, 191-192).

Gender (females-males)

There is an overall impression, based on statistical data, that crime is a typical male phenomenon. According to criminological researches undertaken in many countries such as: USA, Germany, France, England, Japan and other countries, male gender has dominated in absolute manner. But, nowadays, the situation has changed significantly since women, are more and more participating in conducting different criminal behaviours (Gassin, 1996, 287-288).

In the past, women were less involved in committing various criminal behaviours and were less involved in various social activities. They have been more preoccupied with the birth, growth and care of children and family members. With the emancipation and increasingly inclusion of women in all walks of life and work, it is noticed an increase of women participating in criminal activities. The statistics of the Kosovo Statistical Office (2014), regarding the participation of genders in criminal activities show that by a total of 26,498 accused, 25,471 are male and 1,027 are female or in percentages 96.1% are male and 3.9% female. Based on these statistics if we compare the statistics of other countries where women's involvement in criminal activities reaches 8-10%, it appears that Kosovo with 3,9 % is in a much better favourable position.

Social situation

In the criminological literature, for a long time dominated an opinion that criminality is a characteristic of the lower classes, especially the category of workers, unemployed and poor people. These findings are based on records of the number of persons against whom criminal charges have been undertaken, indictments have been raised or sentences were imposed by courts. It is noted that the participation of workers and other professions of low and middle layers of population in committing crimes, is greater in many countries of the world. This category of the population, takes part particularly in committing crimes against property, life and other crimes. However, in recent decades, crime has become more familiar to persons belonging to higher classes, business circles and those in power (Glick, 1995, 58-59).

Conclusions

The objective of this paper was the notion criminology and assessment of the potential contribution of criminology in practice. The analysis showed that the pattern of crime has changed through the years. In this sense, criminology must engage critically in this area and expand outside the framework of limited government needs to research with the aim of enhancing the mechanisms of social control, it should not be reduced to providing technical alibis (Cohen, 1985), about limited traditional definitions of criminality which are offered by the state. Instead, we should go further, to look critically to the issue of a broader context of social damage. This requires recognition of the way in which the criminological discourse is undertaken and the way how government programs are stipulated in the area of academic criminology. It is

necessary that the harmonization of data made by statistical state institutions should be done in harmony with the criminality. Based on statistical data of Kosovo, this paper gave an overview of criminality in general. Therefore its urgent for Kosovo to create a strategy and different programs for combating criminality in general, investigate criminogenic factors, aetiology and phenomenology.

In Kosovo there is lack of criminologists, that in scientific and professional way could present and fight the causes and factors of crime in Kosovo. I also suggest a better specialization and profiling of staff in relevant areas in order to better understand the external and internal factors of criminality appearance starting from family, school institutions and civil society.

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