

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.57125/FEL.2023.12.25.07>

How to cite Daanov, C. A. oglu (2023). Aspects of the Use of Forensic Methods and Techniques in the Investigation of Acts of Theft of Property Committed by Minors. *Futurity Economics&Law*, 3(4). 103-116. <https://doi.org/10.57125/FEL.2023.12.25.07>

Aspects of the Use of Forensic Methods and Techniques in the Investigation of Acts of Theft of Property Committed by Minors

Daanov Canpolad Ali oglu

PhD student of the Police Academy, Baku-Azerbaijan, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1159-1171>

Corresponding author: canpolad.daanov@mail.ru.

Received: August 8, 2023 | **Accepted:** October 28, 2023 | **Available online:** November 17, 2023

Abstract: At the present stage, theoretical issues of forming basic methods and techniques for investigating property crimes committed by minors are relevant; general patterns of theft of other people's property by them and the general trends in their detection and investigation related to this type of crime are relevant. The purpose of the study is to develop the concept of a basic methodology and technique for investigating property crimes committed by minors. In accordance with the stated purpose of the study, its tasks are: to assess the current state and determine the directions for further improvement of the theoretical support for the practice of combating property crimes committed by minors; to determine the content of the basic forensic characteristics of acts of theft of other people's property, to identify the relationship between its elements, to determine their role in putting forward typical versions in the investigation of these crimes. In the course of the study, the following methods of scientific knowledge were used: analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, logical and systemic analysis. The study found that the forensic characterisation of crimes committed by minors is important, since minors react more sharply and quickly to negative social changes, and this factor is the reason for the differentiation of criminal liability, which separates minors into a separate category of criminals. The study has revealed a significant criminogenic role of the immediate negative environment in the formation of the personality of a juvenile criminal who. Since the moral formation of a juvenile's personality begins in the school and continues in the educational or labour collective, there is a close connection and continuity between these stages. A person's personality is determined by his or her lifestyle, level of spirituality, social, material and other values, including the informal status in a social group. The orientation of a personality largely depends on such negative factors associated with the

emergence of a mercenary orientation as the influence of previously convicted persons who are organisers or active participants in thefts.

Keywords: crimes against property, juvenile delinquency, law enforcement activities, minors.

Introduction

The problem of juvenile delinquency has always been in the focus of criminologists' attention, as its solution often determines the future recidivism. Preventing and suppressing crimes committed by minors is of paramount importance in the Republic of Azerbaijan as a whole and plays an important role not only for its law enforcement agencies but also affects the economic and social spheres of life of the entire society. The key to international legal cooperation between states in the prevention of juvenile delinquency and domestic policy in this area is that one of the most important rights of children in the field of combating juvenile delinquency is their right to protection from crime and its harmful consequences (Smirnykh, 2021).

The quality and standard of living of the entire society of the Republic of Azerbaijan depends on how efficiently and effectively the goal of effectively reducing the level of criminal activity of juveniles is addressed and achieved, in particular, through this process, the number of acts of theft of other people's property committed by them. At the same time, it should be noted that this problem of juvenile delinquency is typical not only for the post-Soviet countries in general and this country in particular but also for the whole world. Juvenile delinquency is a universal problem that has serious personal, economic, and social consequences that go beyond national borders (Pechorro et al., 2019).

From a criminal law perspective, theft of property has specific differences that differ in the form of theft, such as theft, robbery, assault, and fraud; in the special subject, for example, a criminal who has stolen property entrusted to him; in the special object of criminal encroachment, in the event that the subject of theft is particularly valuable, prohibited and other objects. In turn, the increase or decrease in the number of crimes against property is due to a complex of reasons of internal social (specific to a particular country) and foreign policy nature (typical for countries around the world). For example, globalisation processes in the world significantly increase the impact of crime on this area (juvenile delinquency), and therefore, new approaches to preventing them are needed, including the use of the latest information and communication technology tools as one of the most progressive methods (Baymakhanov et al., 2022).

In all countries of the world, the fight against theft of other people's property is extremely important and urgent, and it requires to be addressed by means and methods that can be used depending on the particular social, political, and economic situation in a particular country. Preventive and preventive measures to combat it are among the most effective. The study of penitentiary recidivism is also an important topic for crime prevention at the present stage, as at the time of release, prisoners with a high risk of committing crimes usually do not have the necessary tools to overcome the challenges of social life on their own (Molina-Coloma et al., 2021).

To confirm the global recognition of the relevance of the article's subject matter, we will describe the research attempts that have been conducted on different continents and countries. Thus, in Brazil, a country with one of the highest levels of juvenile delinquency, the issue of defining the main characteristics of property crimes, first of all, the factors that directly affect it, is central to scholars' discussions. According to Figueiredo et al. (2021), "the results show that the element related to the population's employability directly and significantly influences the control of crime rates, intentional homicides, and crimes against property". In turn, Effendi et al. (2021) argue that property crime "raises the issue of development problems, which is a sense of security for the community". The researcher also notes that the lack of a sense of security violates the goals of sustainable development: achieving peace

and justice, as well as establishing strong civil society institutions. In addition, “perceived insecurity, fear of crime, and avoidance have been studied in relation to different types of crime, crime in different time perspectives, concentrated disadvantage, collective efficacy, urbanity, age structure, and neighbourhood disorder” (Camacho Doyle et al., 2021).

This study was conducted to determine the impact of a number of economic factors on juvenile delinquency, namely unemployment, financial security among different segments of the population, and the cost of living in the region, on the level of growth in the number of property crimes, including among minors. In practice, law enforcement agencies in a particular country need to take into account all the factors that affect juvenile delinquency, as “in practice, the success of legal protection for children in the implementation process of children as perpetrators of the crime of theft is not solely related to the applicable law, but it is also very dependent on the constraints that affect its implementation” (Heriyanto et al., 2022).

Thus, we can agree with the view that, in addition to the general factors that influence the spread of property crime, there are a number of other social, legal, and economic factors that have a much narrower meaning. Thus, as Ige and Okunola (2021) noted, “the concentration of research effort on urban crime patterns with unjustified neglect of regional crime impedes the search for analytical explanations and effective strategies to eradicate crime”. This study examined the changing pattern of property crimes in the Oke-Ogun region of Oyo State, Nigeria, and also assessed the direction and speed of property crime in the region to understand the impact of changes over time (time factor) and other factors (errors in the education and upbringing system, erosion of traditional values, insecure borders, unemployment, etc.)

Using the tools of statistical analysis, a study was conducted on the relationship between age and crime rates after the 2008 financial crisis with a sample of 24 European Union (EU) countries; an empirical analysis of the factors that influenced crime in the EU was conducted based on a robust methodology. According to Torres-Tellez, “the results coincided with the existing literature: young people aged 15 to 19 are more likely to commit crimes and, as they age, their criminal activities decrease” (Torres-Tellez, 2022). This study highlights the controversy in the literature about the impact of the state of the economy on crime, as it confirms that the deteriorating economic situation is a factor that stimulates crime in the European Union, especially the increase in property crimes. A similar situation is observed in India, “results show that state income per capita has a non-linear impact on incidences of juvenile crime across Indian states - rising when the income starts growing for relatively poorer states but increasing at a diminishing rate when state income per capita rises further” (Dutta et al., 2020).

Khilus (2020) is devoted to the study of the theoretical foundations of building private methods of investigating various forms of property crimes (theft, robbery, extortion, and fraud), which traditionally constitute their forensic characteristics. The scholar notes that “the elaboration of the investigation methodology based on the forensic characteristics does not contribute to the disclosure of the content of the material elements of the structure of the theft committed during its investigation”. In his opinion, the most rational are those information models of criminal acts that combine information about the elements of their material structure and, at the same time, data on the forensic characteristics of these crimes, and the correlation of the available information about these elements with their description in the forensic characteristics of the crime, in turn, allows to choose the direction of investigation, put forward appropriate versions and determine the set of tactical means necessary for their verification.

Indeed, we should agree with the view that combating juvenile delinquency, including juvenile theft of property, is part of the child protection policy in any civilised country as a form of law enforcement. In turn, it is “criminology that plays an important role in this case because it is also called criminal sociology because it is the study of humans in their opposition to certain social norms” (Basuki

et al., 2023). Accordingly, the maximum number of forensic aspects should be taken into account when investigating property crimes committed by minors.

Research Problem

The analysis of scientific works on the topic under study has shown that the following aspects of the problem of the initial stage of investigation of acts of property theft committed by minors require further development and comprehensive research: investigative situations and circumstances to be proved in cases of this category, initiation of criminal cases against them; tasks of the scene inspection and tactical recommendations aimed at improving the tactics of this investigative action; institutional appropriateness of the suspect's detention and forensic assessment of the evidentiary value of the evidence. This approach ensures the comprehensiveness, completeness, and objectivity of the investigation of all the circumstances of the case.

In the context of the modern development of society in the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is important to study and address the problem of increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in combating crime, including acts of theft of property committed by minors. An analysis of investigative and judicial practice shows that there is a significant rejuvenation of members of criminal groups.

Research Focus

In order to determine the analysed qualifying features, it is necessary to establish the manner in which the theft of another's property was committed. The social danger of crimes against property lies not only in their prevalence but also in the fact that there is a high proportion of recidivism among juveniles who have committed them.

Research Aim and Research Questions

The purpose of the study is to identify certain criminological aspects of property crimes committed by minors which are not well studied in the scientific literature, and also to formulate practical recommendations for addressing these shortcomings.

The main issue of the study is to identify the internal and external factors that shape juvenile delinquency.

Research Methodology

General Background

The general theoretical, criminal law, criminal procedure, forensic and other aspects of the problem were analysed from the standpoint of the general provisions of philosophy and logic. In the course of the study, modern methods of scientific cognition were applied: the methods of logical analysis were used to determine the characteristics of juvenile delinquency, as well as the factors that cause its occurrence. The methods of analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, and systemic methods were used to reflect the peculiarities inherent in acts of property and property crimes in general committed by minors.

The author analysed a number of scientific works by foreign scholars covering various aspects of juvenile delinquency, as well as the provisions of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. To search for scientific papers for the study, the search service ScienceDirect was used, thanks to which scientific articles for 2019-2023 were selected.

The legal basis of the study is the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, international legal acts containing generally recognised provisions on the problems of combating juvenile delinquency, other regulatory legal acts, current criminal, penal, and administrative legislation of Azerbaijan.

Research Results

The crime that is widespread at the present stage and continues to grow today is property crime (Muntaha & Kartono, 2020). From a criminal law perspective, property crimes, such as theft, robbery, assault, and fraud, are unlawful, gratuitous seizure and/or conversion of another's property in favour of the perpetrator or other persons who have caused damage to the owner or other holder of that property. At the same time, there is a view that neither the legislative definition of theft and other crimes against property in the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan nor the one provided by modern legal doctrine corresponds to the reality and realities of the time, as there is a heated debate in academic circles about the crisis of practice and doctrine due to the uncertainty of civil rights that may become the object of criminal encroachment due to the emergence of new property goods (virtual assets, digital rights, etc.) and the forms of property encroachment itself, which are not covered by any of the current signs of theft (Kochoi, 2021).

In criminal law, the term “embezzlement” is studied in two aspects: on the one hand, it means one of the ways of committing crimes against property; and on the other hand, it is used as a legal category that characterises any type and form of embezzlement. The second aspect of this term is disclosed in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan: the articles of this Code define theft as unlawful, gratuitous seizure and/or conversion of another's property in favour of the perpetrator or other persons who have caused damage to the owner or other holder of this property. The features mentioned in this definition constitute the concept of embezzlement (Imanly, 2019). Thus, property crimes, which were usually committed in the traditional way, can now be committed using the capabilities of the cyber world (Gupta & Kumar, 2020).

In other words, theft under the influence of the latest information and communication technologies is also gaining new significance. Accordingly, it is becoming increasingly important to study theft and criminal behaviour using spatio-temporal, big data, demographic, and crime data from other countries to guide security prevention and control on a transnational scale (Jiang et al., 2023). Thus, forensic research shows that any criminal acts that contain signs of acts of theft of property of all forms and types have common features (Table 1):

Table 1

Characteristics inherent in acts of property theft

| Title | Contents |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| The presence of a mercenary purpose | Indicates the perpetrator's desire and intent to obtain property or other material benefit for himself or herself or another person through illegal means. |
| Illegality of the seizure | Means that the perpetrator has no legal right to seize the property, either actual or desired. In this case, the property must be seized in the manner specified by law. In particular, among the methods of unlawful seizure of property, non-violent methods can be distinguished: theft, misappropriation, fraud, embezzlement, and robbery without the use of violence. In turn, the law classifies robbery and robbery with the use of violence as violent methods of seizure. |
| Seizure of other people's property | It means that the guilty person has actually deprived the owner of the right to own, use, and |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| | dispose of the property belonging to him or her and has not acquired legal rights to it, and has moved this property to another place. In establishing this element, it is necessary to prove that the owner of the property has the right of ownership, and that the property was actually moved from the owner. |
| Recourse to other people's property | Means that the illegally seized property is for the benefit of the guilty person or other persons who actually own and use it. |
| Free of charge | It means that when the property was seized, no proportionate equivalent was provided either before or after the theft was committed. |
| Causing harm | It is understood as the existence of real harm caused to public relations in the field of property |

Source: authors' own development.

The objects of civil rights include things, including cash and certificated securities, other property, including non-cash funds, uncertificated securities, property rights; results of works and services; protected results of intellectual activity and equivalent means of individualisation (intellectual property); and intangible goods. At the same time, new objects of civil rights, such as virtual assets, are emerging, and accordingly, future research directions should be classified into three topics: (1) distinguishing between cybercrime and traditional crime, (2) classifying cybercrime and traditional crime, and (3) measuring the impact of cybercrime and traditional crime on victimisation (Borwell et al., 2021).

The objective side of embezzlement is formed by actions aimed at the gratuitous seizure and/or conversion of another's property in favour of the perpetrator or other persons. Therefore, from the objective point of view, embezzlement forms the material element of the crime. The exception is robbery, which is a formal crime. The objective aspect of embezzlement is distinguished by its forms, enshrined in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 1999):

1. Theft is the secret removal of property;
2. Fraud is the theft of property by deception or breach of trust;
3. Assignment of entrusted property;
4. Expenditure of trust property;
5. Robbery is the open seizure of someone else's property;
6. Robbery is a violent way of seizing property.

Unlawful actions aimed at taking possession of someone else's property not for mercenary purposes, but, for example, for the purpose of its temporary use with subsequent return to the owner or in connection with the alleged right to this property, do not constitute the elements of theft or robbery. In addition, the correlation between the general concept of "theft" and certain types of theft is debatable. This is evidenced, for example, by the fact that at present, both at the doctrinal and regulatory levels, the issue of the terminological content of the "special type of theft" has not been resolved (Borovskikh & Brashnina, 2022), despite the practical need for definitions of certain types of theft.

Indeed, the approach to the study of crime in an interdisciplinary context has been of concern to practitioners in recent decades (Magherescu, 2020). The reason for its relevance is that the development of a methodology for investigating embezzlement is complex in nature and is based on the study, analysis, and generalisation of a significant number of criminal cases involving theft of other people's property, the identification of their most common features and properties, grouping with other features, establishing interconnections and interdependence between them. The more one learns about the specifics of theft, the more sophisticated the investigation methodology will be. After all, the process of creating private methods is based on the study and analysis of a significant number of criminal cases. All this implies a rather narrow specialisation of methods for investigating the theft of other people's property.

At the same time, the greater the specialisation of the developed methods, the greater the effectiveness of recommendations for detecting and investigating embezzlement. This tendency can be explained from the point of view that when investigating similar crimes, an investigator usually interacts with the same persons, carries out the same investigative and procedural actions, makes the same procedural decisions, and uses the same type of specialised knowledge. All this has allowed the creation of private methods of investigating crimes related to the theft of other people's property, and their effectiveness directly depends on the use of more advanced software, complex mathematical methods, as well as detailing by individual types, subtypes of crimes, and individual regions in which they are committed (Algazin, 2018).

It is believed that the basic methodology for investigating theft of other people's property should include the following elements:

1. a list of circumstances that are established in all cases of embezzlement;
2. the procedure for organising work to identify these circumstances;
3. the investigator's procedure for proving these circumstances;
4. typical actions of an investigator in these situations.

The need to develop a common, group methodology for a group of thefts united by a single feature will have a positive effect and will allow the investigation of crimes of certain types and subtypes of theft of other people's property. Accordingly, together with law enforcement agencies, the scientific community should actively research and develop innovative methods that are more effective against these new types of crime (Gruber et al., 2022).

The availability of a general methodology covering the investigation of embezzlement of other people's property will orientate the investigator and help him to carry out the necessary procedural actions. Investigation as a type of law enforcement activity ensures both the detection of crimes and creates conditions for exposing the perpetrators of crimes. That is the complexity of investigative actions, as well as the need for significant efficiency in collecting evidence of a person's guilt and clarifying the circumstances of the criminal offence, necessitate a thorough and theoretical study of this issue (Chyzh, 2023). Accordingly, two components (parts) of the pre-trial proceedings can be distinguished, one of which is aimed at the objective, complete, and comprehensive establishment of the circumstances of the commission of crimes (acts prohibited by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan) for the purpose of their legal qualification; and the other - at the criminal prosecution of persons who have committed a crime in order to apply criminal liability measures to them.

By their legal nature and content, these types of activities are diverse, pursue different legal goals, and cause different legal consequences. However, the study of this issue is important, since the issue of optimising investigative (detective) activities is closely related to the use of innovative approaches, contributes to the effectiveness of the investigation, and is at the same time one of the conditions for the effectiveness of criminal proceedings and justice in general (Shevchuk, 2021).

In addition, the legislator's uncertainty in understanding the nature and correlation of preliminary investigation and prosecution puts law enforcement in a difficult position. In general, it is worth noting that fear of crime is a concern in developing countries, those in which the rule of law is not sufficiently respected (Dyer, 2022). In addition, it concerns both investigators who have to simultaneously carry out criminal prosecution (indictment) and preliminary investigation, and prosecutors whose powers to prosecute at the pre-trial stage have been transformed into procedural supervision of investigative bodies.

It seems necessary to design a different model of pre-trial proceedings which ensures the effective solution of the tasks of criminal procedure based on the specifics of each of these types of activities and formalisation of their procedural (procedural, subjective, stage) autonomy in the system of procedural activities. One of the arguments justifying the need to reorganise pre-trial proceedings in terms of separation of investigation from criminal prosecution is the sequence (priority) of their implementation. Indeed, the investigator who establishes the event of a crime should be procedurally free from the accusatory tasks of the court proceedings. The ultimate goal of his/her activity should be a complete and objective establishment of the circumstances of the committed act, only at the level of the event, including the object, objective side of the event under investigation, and identification of persons involved in its commission.

It is worth mentioning that the forensic characterisation of a crime is a system of objective information about criminal acts of one group, which was obtained from scientific research, as well as from the analysis of investigative practice in solving and preventing crimes. For example, recent research suggests that certain locations may be more attractive for car theft depending on how many people regularly visit them, as well as other factors (Oróstica & Poblete, 2019).

Applying this definition to juvenile delinquency, it can be noted that the forensic characterisation of juvenile delinquency is a set of data on crimes committed by minors that have been identified from scientific research and practice of preventing and solving criminal acts of this type. At the same time, it is obvious that the prevention of juvenile delinquency must be holistic and coordinated at the same time (Muranenko, 2019).

The content of the forensic characteristics of crimes committed by minors includes several elements:

1. the object of a criminal attack;
2. the circumstances of the criminal act;
3. characteristics of the offender's personality;
4. characteristics of the victim's personality;
5. typical methods of committing a crime (they are the main element of the forensic characterisation of crimes);
6. typical traces left at the scene of the crime;
7. the result and consequences of a criminal act.

Under the object of a crime, criminal law means specific interests of a person, as well as a society or the state, which are mediated in social relations, and which are protected by criminal law, and which are targeted by a criminal offence. For example, when money is stolen from a bank card, it is possible to distinguish objective signs of two *corpus delicti* that fall under the definition of bank card embezzlement: the theft itself from a bank account and fraud using electronic means of payment (Goncharov & Boyko, 2021).

Despite the diversity of objects of criminal offences, the types of which can be identified by analysing the titles of chapters and sections of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in practice, there is a well-established opinion about the general features of the objects of crime that are characteristic of juvenile delinquency. In recent years, the rate of juvenile delinquency has been steadily increasing worldwide and thus poses a hidden threat to the harmonious and orderly development of countries and societies (Zhang, 2022). As a rule, the object of a crime committed by a minor is property, personality, the right to life, health, and sexual inviolability. Additional objects may also include human health, public safety, and morality. Thus, this study expands on previous research by examining different types of households and parent-child relationships, as well as three categories of offences: status offences, property offences, and violent offences (Jacobsen & Zaatut, 2020).

Discussion

The legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the treatment of juvenile offenders is characterised by a humane attitude to crimes committed by them. Despite the presence of legislative foundations for early prevention of juvenile delinquency, they require improvement.

The spread of illegal behaviour among minors is particularly dangerous, as they are one of the most active social groups that commit socially dangerous acts because many of them believe that they are not subjects of a crime and will not be held accountable for their actions, or generally have no idea about the norms of criminal law. This conclusion is in line with Li et al. (2021), who identify crime as one of the main threats to society today. Juvenile delinquency is a part of crime in society, which develops under the influence of the same factors that characterise it in general.

One of the key factors in the formation of juvenile delinquency is the negative influence of adults. It is not uncommon for parents in dysfunctional families to show their children an anti-social lifestyle and disregard for their responsibilities, which leads to the child's belief that this model of behaviour is acceptable and the only correct one. This is in line with the findings of Hazra (2019), who found that higher levels of poverty contribute to higher rates of juvenile delinquency; domestic violence against minors has a similarly harmful effect; while education, on the other hand, has a deterrent effect on juvenile delinquency.

In addition, a destructive factor that determines the deformed legal consciousness of adolescents is their social circle. In this case, more global issues at the state level play an important role: unemployment, wages, and the ability to pursue their interests in sports or creative fields. This view is supported by Warsifah and Mangatur (2021), who argue that unbalanced and unequal economic growth in a society often generates social and social envy within it. This, in turn, can lead to an increase in property crimes, including those committed by minors. In addition, the quantitative indicators of juvenile delinquency have always been subject to changes due to the direction of criminal policy and punitive practice in relation to them, which are implemented by a particular state, due to the socio-economic situation of the country, with the decline or development of the spiritual and moral potential of the population.

The results of the study are also confirmed in the works of K. Muranenko, who argues that the prevention of juvenile delinquency should be holistic and coordinated by the state, taking into account all possible social, economic, and political factors (Muranenko, 2019). The peculiarity of juvenile delinquency, which consists primarily in a special approach to the investigation of crimes committed by minors, as well as taking it into account when bringing them to justice, as studied in the study, is also emphasised in the work of H. Andonova. The scholar notes that the introduction of alternative punishment measures, as well as achieving better results in the resocialisation of juvenile offenders, is a more appropriate and effective means of combating juvenile delinquency (Andonova, 2021).

The relevance of the study is confirmed in the scientific works of R. Krasnova, who notes that crimes have a negative impact on the social situation, health, and mortality of the population, and

juvenile delinquency, among other things, is the basis and reserve of adult crime (Khasanova et al., 2020). In addition, the study concluded that innovative information and communication technologies are changing the causes of juvenile delinquency, which is also stated in the scientific work of T. Anjaswarni, who notes that in the current digital era, there has been a significant shift in the causes of juvenile delinquency: from family and peer factors to technological factors, as technology is one of their main needs (Anjaswarni et al., 2019).

They indicate that unlawful behaviors of minors with a selfish and violent nature in the Republic of Azerbaijan, despite their overall rarity, still occupy a place in the overall juvenile delinquency structure, despite several preventive and precautionary measures organized by law enforcement agencies. The way out of this situation involves improving the investigative practice of analyzing available information, planning initial investigative actions and operational-search measures, as well as putting forward forensic hypotheses and organizing cooperation in property investigations.

Conclusions and Implications

The conclusion of the study is the argumentation of the position that the object of a criminal offence, the setting of the criminal act, the characteristics of the criminal and the victim, typical methods and traces of committing a crime - all these being the main elements of the forensic characteristics of juvenile delinquency, affect the degree of elaboration of investigative actions during the commission of a crime by minors. As a result of the study:

- 1) The following factors have been identified as contributing to juvenile delinquency:
 - the influence of socio-demographic factors (family, environment);
 - the impact of socio-economic factors (youth employment opportunities);
 - the influence of socio-political factors (state policy on juvenile delinquency).
- 2) The need to ensure systematic control over convicted juveniles by specialised bodies (juvenile affairs units and penal inspectorates) was established; specialists from all prevention actors should be involved in the prevention of repeat offences committed by juveniles.

Without the implementation of these conditions, it is problematic to exercise proper control over juvenile offenders and prevent them from committing repeated crimes against property.

Suggestions for Future Research

Thus, all of the above emphasises the importance of optimising the investigation in the practical activities of law enforcement agencies and the need for further scientific research in this area and the study of group mercenary and violent crimes committed by minors, as this is one of the primary tasks being addressed by law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the present stage.

Crimes, including property crimes, committed by minors exhibit specific forensic characteristics in post-Soviet countries, including the Republic of Azerbaijan. The traditional system of combating crime in Azerbaijan, based on a developed structure of public control over various types of offenses, is a thing of the past. New institutions for countering the criminal environment require a more active implementation to effectively protect society from criminal threats.

To enhance the fight against crimes, more appropriate measures are needed, based on scientifically substantiated theoretical developments. Curbing the rise of criminal activity and minimizing its consequences is still possible, but it requires efforts not only from law enforcement agencies but also from legislative bodies, executive authorities, civil society organizations, and the entire population.

All this testifies to the relevance of the problem under study and obliges to look for optimal ways to solve it. The results of the works of scholars analysed in this study show that they have a high level of scientific and practical significance. Meanwhile, these studies focused on the problems of juvenile delinquency in general or property crimes in terms of studying a specific property crime committed by juveniles. They did not provide detailed coverage of many issues relevant to theory and practice, and there are no comprehensive studies of acts of theft of property by minors.

Thus, the analysis of scientific literature indicates that the research problem has been studied either in general or in its individual aspects and that there is insufficient study of the specifics of juvenile delinquency who have committed crimes against property. The study of the specifics of delinquency of this category of juveniles is necessary to develop practical proposals for improving criminal legislation and criminological prevention measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the activities of prevention actors, as well as intensifying educational and preventive activities.

Acknowledgements

None.

Conflict of Interest

None.

Funding

The Author received no funding for this research.

References

- Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No. 787-IQ. (1999). https://continent-online.com/Document/?doc_id=30420353
- Admaja, W. A., & Gunarto, G. (2019). Law enforcement on combating the crime of motorized vehicle theft in jurisdictions Police Central (case study to be treated by Central Java Police). *Jurnal Daulat Hukum*, 2(3), 355–358. <https://jurnal.unissula.ac.id/index.php/RH/article/view/5657>
- Algazin, I. I. (2018). On the efficiency of criminalistic characteristics of crimes of individual species and groups. *Siberian Law Review*, 15(4), 466–471. <https://doi.org/10.19073/2306-1340-2018-15-4-466-471>
- Alkrimeen, A., Aljbour, R., & Alkhawaldeh, A. (2023). Interpretation of the crime of theft in the light of the theory of rational choice. *Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences*, 50(2), 410–425. <https://doi.org/10.35516/hum.v50i2.4951>
- Andonova, G. (2021). Development of juvenile delinquency - causes and conditions. *Vestnik of Saint Petersburg University. Law*, 12(4), 1069–1081. <https://doi.org/10.21638/spbu14.2021.416>
- Anjaswarni, T., Widati, S., & Yusuf, A. (2019). Retracted: Analysis of risk factors occurrence of juvenile delinquency behavior. *Jurnal Ners*, 14(2), 129–136. <https://doi.org/10.20473/jn.v14i2.12465>
- Basuki, A. R., Sari, I. N., Arifin, R., & Nte, N. D. (2023). Minors and crime: Law and criminological analysis on theft by children (case of central java, Indonesia). *Law Research Review Quarterly*, 9(1), 71–88. <https://doi.org/10.15294/lrrq.v9i1.65730>
- Baymakhanov, A., Badanova, A., & Begaliyev, Y. (2022). Project Management as a tool in prevention of juvenile delinquency. *Philosophy, Economics and Law Review*, 2(1), 139–147. <https://doi.org/10.31733/2786-491x-2022-1-139-147>

- Borovskikh, R. N., & Brashnina, O. A. (2022). Special types of theft: Terminology and identification issues. *Juridical Science and Practice*, 18(1), 71–80. <https://doi.org/10.25205/2542-0410-2022-18-1-71-80>
- Borwell, J., Jansen, J., & Stol, W. (2021). Comparing the victimization impact of cybercrime and traditional crime. *Journal of Digital Social Research*, 3(3), 85–110. <https://doi.org/10.33621/jdsr.v3i3.66>
- Camacho Doyle, M., Gerell, M., & Andershed, H. (2021). Perceived unsafety and fear of crime: The role of violent and property crime, neighborhood characteristics, and prior perceived unsafety and fear of crime. *Deviant Behavior*, 43(11), 1347–1365. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2021.1982657>
- Chyzh, A. P. (2023). Procedural tactics in the investigation of property damage to a law enforcement officer. *Law and Safety*, 89(2), 43–53. <https://doi.org/10.32631/pb.2023.2.04>
- Dutta, N., Jana, D., & Kar, S. (2020). Does state-level per capita income affect juvenile delinquency? An empirical analysis for Indian states. *Economic Modelling*, 87, 109–120. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econmod.2019.07.011>
- Dyer, J. (2023). The fruits (and vegetables) of crime: Protection from theft and agricultural development. *Journal of Development Economics*, 163, Article 103109. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2023.103109>
- Effendi, A. I., Aan Julia, & Meidy Haviz. (2021). Faktor ekonomi yang mempengaruhi kejahatan properti di pulau Jawa Tahun 2014-2019 [Factors of economic influence on property crime in Java Island 2014-2019]. *Jurnal Riset Ilmu Ekonomi Dan Bisnis*, 1(1), 41–47. <https://doi.org/10.29313/jrieb.v1i1.172>
- Figueiredo, S. O., Sincorá, L. A., Leite, M. C., & Brandão, M. M. (2021). Fatores determinantes do controle da criminalidade em gestão de políticas de segurança pública [Determining factors in crime control in public security policy management]. *Revista de Administração Pública*, 55(2), 438–458. <https://doi.org/10.1590/0034-761220200058>
- Finebone, P. P., & Temi, N. H. (2022). Effects of family structure on juvenile delinquency in Rivers State: A theoretical review. *Central Asian Journal of Social Sciences and History*, 3(10), 75–94. <https://www.cajssh.centralasianstudies.org/index.php/CAJSSH/article/view/461>
- Goncharov, A. A., & Boyko, A. I. (2021). Objective signs of crimes against property: Theft of funds from a bank card. *Science Vector of Togliatti State University. Series: Legal Sciences*, (2), 14–19. <https://doi.org/10.18323/2220-7457-2021-2-14-19>
- Gruber, J., Voigt, L. L., Benenson, Z., & Freiling, F. C. (2022). Foundations of cybercriminalistics: From general process models to case-specific concretizations in cybercrime investigations. *Forensic Science International: Digital Investigation*, 43, Article 301438. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsidi.2022.301438>
- Gupta, C. M., & Kumar, D. (2020). Identity theft: A small step towards big financial crimes. *Journal of Financial Crime*, 27(3), 897–910. <https://doi.org/10.1108/jfc-01-2020-0014>
- Hazra, D. (2019). Determinants of juvenile crime – evidence from India. *International Journal of Social Economics*, 48(12), 1740–1767. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSE-08-2020-0528>
- Heriyanto, A., Hermansyah, E. O., & Atmoko, D. (2022). Legal protection for children in the crime of theft. *International Journal of Law Reconstruction*, 6(1), 137–146. <https://doi.org/10.26532/ijlr.v6i1.21546>

- Ige, J. O., & Okunola, B. K. (2021). A time series analysis of the trend of crime against property in Oke-Ogun Region of Oyo State, Nigeria. *Journal of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences*, 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.36108/laujoces/1202.70.0220>
- Jacobsen, S. K., & Zaatut, A. (2020). Quantity or quality?: Assessing the role of household structure and parent-child relationship in juvenile delinquency. *Deviant Behavior*, 43(1), 30–43. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2020.1774241>
- Imanly, M. N. (2019). Criminal responsibility of minors under the criminal code of the Russian Federation and the criminal code of the Azerbaijan republic: Comparative characteristics. *Actual Problems of Russian Law*, (4), 174–185. <https://doi.org/10.17803/1994-1471.2019.101.4.174-185>
- Jiang, X., Zheng, Z., Zheng, Y., & Mao, Z. (2023). Spatiotemporal distribution and influencing factors of theft during the pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 periods: A case study of Haining City, Zhejiang, China. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*, 12(5), Article 189. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijgi12050189>
- Khlus, A. (2020). Problem aspects of understanding the information model of crimes against property. *Siberian Law Review*, 17(3), 402–410. <https://doi.org/10.19073/2658-7602-2020-17-3-402-410>
- Kochoi, S. M. (2021). The doctrine and legal positions developed by the courts in theft of someone's property cases. *Lex Russica*, 74(6), 108–117. <https://doi.org/10.17803/1729-5920.2021.175.6.108-117>
- Khasanova, R., Tsatsura (Kovalenko), E., Sereckina, E., & Vyugovskaya, E. (2020). *The influence of the AUE subculture on the level of juvenile delinquency*. SSRN. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3710515>
- Li, J., Weng, Y., Wang, Z., & Gu, S. (2021). Scaling analysis of crime rate with large scale judgments of China. *2021 16th International Conference on Computer Science & Education (ICCSE)*. IEEE. <https://doi.org/10.1109/iccse51940.2021.9569374>
- Magherescu, D. (2020). Criminal investigation of the corruption crimes: Evidence and procedure in an interdisciplinary approach. *Revista Brasileira de Direito Processual Penal*, 6(3), 1239–1270. <https://doi.org/10.22197/rbdpp.v6i3.394>
- Molina-Coloma, V., Salaberría, K., & Pérez, J. I. (2021). A comparative study between recidivism offenders and non-recidivism offenders in a prison sample. *Anuario de Psicología Jurídica*, 32(1), 33–39. <https://doi.org/10.5093/apj2021a19>
- Muntaha, M., & Kartono, K. (2020). Pertanggung jawaban pidana terhadap pelaku penggelapan dengan menggunakan jabatan menurut pasal 374 KUHP dalam pendekatan teori pemidanaan (Analisis Putusan pengadilan negeri Jakarta Selatan nomor 1316/pid.B/2017/pn.jkt.sel) [Criminal accountability for embezzlement perpetrated by exploiting one's position according to Article 374 of the Indonesian penal code in a punitive theory approach (Analysis of South Jakarta District Court verdict number 1316/pid.B/2017/pn.jkt.sel)]. *Rechtsregel: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, 3(1), 86–104. <https://doi.org/10.32493/rjih.v3i1.6622>
- Muranenko, K. (2019). Juvenile delinquency prevention in foreign countries. *Psychological Journal*, 5(2), 85–98. <https://doi.org/10.31108/1.2019.2.22.6>
- Oróstica, K., & Poblete, B. (2019). Mining the relationship between car theft and places of social interest in Santiago Chile. In L. Liu & R. White (Ed.), *Companion proceedings of the 2019 world wide web conference* (pp. 811–814). Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3308558.3316464>

- Paliska, D., Mušič, K., Čeklić, J., & Mekinc, J. (2020). Theft crimes against tourists and visitors in Slovenia. *Tourism and Hospitality Management*, 26(1), 15–32. <https://doi.org/10.20867/thm.26.1.2>
- Pechorro, P., Moreira, K., Basto-Pereira, M., Oliveira, J. P., & Ray, J. V. (2019). The self-report delinquency scale from the National Longitudinal Study of adolescent to adult health among at-risk for delinquency youths. *Violence and Victims*, 34(1), 120–135. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.vv-d-17-00165>
- Saldana, M., Escobar, C., Galvez, E., Torres, D., & Toro, N. (2020). Mapping of the perception of theft crimes from analysis of newspaper articles online. In Á. Rocha, B. E. Pérez, F. G. Peñalvo, M. del Mar Miras, & R. Gonçalves (Eds.), *2020 15th Iberian conference on information systems and technologies (CISTI)*. Iberian Association for Information Systems and Technologies. <https://doi.org/10.23919/cisti49556.2020.9141154>
- Smirnykh, S. E. (2021). Prevention of juvenile crime in the changing world order. *Issues of Juvenile Justice*, 1, 17–20. <https://doi.org/10.18572/2072-3695-2021-1-17-20>
- Shevchuk, V. (2021). Innovative Optimization Directions of investigative (detective) activity in modern conditions. *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics*, 24(2), 8–25. <https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.2.2021.02>
- Torres-Tellez, J. (2022). El efecto de la desigualdad económica en los homicidios en la Unión Europea. *Dados*, 65(1), Article e20200011. <https://doi.org/10.1590/dados.2022.65.1.253>
- van de Werve, I., Blokland, A., & Weerman, F. (2022). Crime, families and the economy: Micro-conditions as moderator of macro-effects. *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 8(1), 96–123. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40865-022-00191-1>
- Warsifah, W., & Mangatur, J. (2021). The implementation of material criminal law toward the crime of trafficking in persons. *Iblam Law Review*, 1(1), 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.52249/ilr.v1i01.1>
- Wüllenweber, S., & Giles, S. (2021). The effectiveness of forensic evidence in the investigation of volume crime scenes. *Science & Justice*, 61(5), 542–554. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2021.06.008>
- Zhang, T. (2022). Juvenile delinquency from the perspective of socialization and social control. *Journal of Environmental and Public Health*, 2022, Article 8657491. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/8657491>