

PERSONALITY FEATURES OF CONVICTS WITH ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR

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Abstract. *In the recent years the significant increase in number of convicts with addictive behavior is observed in correctional establishments of the Russian Federation. Addictive behavior is often caused by anomalies of the identity of convicts and is expressed in escape from reality by change of their mental state by means of use of narcotic and psychotropic substances, alcohol, game addiction, sexual addictions that is followed by intensive emotions development. Nowadays the modern society requires that correctional establishments of the penal system of Russia should become social clinics which are carrying out psychosocial rehabilitation of convicts with addictive behavior. The purpose of this research is studying psychological features of convicts with addictive behavior. The methods and techniques of the research are observation, conversation, analysis of personal records, expert poll, psychodiagnostic testing (the test of addictive indicators of MGAA, K. Leonhard – H. Shmishek's test, L. N. Sobchik's technique "The individual and typological questionnaire", the LSI test of Kellerman-Plutchik-Konte), methods of mathematical statistics. It is defined that convicts with addictive behavior are conflictive, quick-tempered, insincere, show high levels on the scale of addictive indicators, have high indicators of exaltation, demonstrativeness and excitability. They have dominating conflict emotional states which are followed by high introversion and psychological protection as denial, rationalization, cognitive mapping. Such personal profile of convicts with addictive behavior testifies to the aggressive manner of self-affirmation contrary to the interests of people around, the increased suspiciousness and vigilance in the relations, high proneness to conflict. We consider that psychological features of convicts with addictive behavior are the indicator of success of their psychosocial rehabilitation.*

Keywords: *addictive behavior, correctional facilities, convicted, personality characteristics, psychosocial rehabilitation.*

Introduction

The relevance of the research is caused by the fact that now convicts with addictive behavior are one of the most problem categories of convicts requiring special attention from psychological, educational, social workers of the penal system of Russia. Addictive behavior of convicts is expressed in escape from reality by change of mental state by means of use of narcotic and psychotropic substances, alcohol, game addiction, sexual addictions that is followed by addiction development and manifestation of intensive emotions.

According to the Penal Code of the Russian Federation, the most important area of focus of the penal system officers is correction of convicts, change of negative traits of their personality, formation of respect for the person, society, labor, norms, rules and the existing traditions.

In the Concept of development of the penal system of the Russian Federation till 2020 the need of search and implementation of new personal forms of work is stated, providing rendering the direct specific social, psychological and pedagogical assistance to each convict taking into account his/her social and demographic, criminal and legal and personal and psychological characteristics. The development of the psychotherapeutic area of work of a psychologist and the creation of departments of social and psychological rehabilitation in penal establishments in order to render profile psychological assistance for the convicts having alcohol or drug addiction, mental anomalies are also pointed out.

Nowadays there is a need in the modern society to reorganize correctional facilities of the penal system of Russia into social clinics which are providing psychosocial rehabilitation of convicts with addictive behavior. However it is impossible to organize and to hold rehabilitation actions with convicts with addictive behavior without taking into account their personality features.

The aim of this research is to study personal features of convicts with addictive behavior.

The research *problems* are definition of theoretical bases of the study of convicts with addictive behavior; selection of psycho-diagnostic methods; detection of social and demographic, criminal and legal and psychological features of convicts with addictive behavior.

The object of the research is personal features of convicts with addictive behavior.

The research *methods and techniques* are observation, conversation, analysis of personal records, expert poll, the test of addictive indicators of MGAA, K. Leonhard– H. Shmishek's test, L. N. Sobchik's technique «The individual and typological questionnaire», the LSI test of Kellerman-Plutchik-Konte, methods of mathematical statistics (correlation analysis).

Theoretical bases of the research of addictive behavior of convicts

The problem of addictive behavior was investigated by native and foreign scientists Ts. P. Korolenko (1991), V. Segal (1967), E. V. Zmanovskaya (2011). Ts. P. Korolenko and N. V. Dmitriyeva emphasize the following types of addictions: 1) non-chemical, 2) disturbance of alimentary behavior; 3) chemical. Non-chemical addictions include gambling; The Internet - addictions; sex addictions; workaholism; relation addictions (groupsof interests); shopaholism; time-urgent addiction (state of constant lack of time); religionism, sectarianism. Disturbances of alimentary behavior are divided into anorexia; bulimia; obesity. Among chemical addictions are alcoholism; narcomania; toxicomania; tobacco smoking (Korolenko & Dmitriyeva, 2001).

Representatives of the psychoanalytical school were engaged in studying mechanisms of emergence of addictive behavior (Freud, 1998; Erikson, 2008; Fromm, 1955), as well as the behaviorists (Watson, 1924; Bandura, 2000; Thorndike, 1929), the gestalt-school psychologists (Perls, 2000), representatives of individual psychology (Adler, 1964), transactional analysis (Burn, 2000), stress and coping theories (Lazarus, 1966), theories of personal constructs (Kelly, 1969), the theory of locus of control (Rotter, 1988), ontopsychology (Meneghetti, 2015), transpersonal psychology (Grof, 1985), activity approach (Rubenstein, 1999), (Leontyev, 1983), systemic focused theories (Eydemiller, 1989; Eydemiller & Yustitskis, 2001) etc.

Personal changes of chemically dependent people are described by S. V. Berezin (2000), B. S. Bratus (1988), A. E. Lichko (1999), K. Evans (Evans & Sullivan, 1995), R. Monti (1989), N. Roche (1989), C. Stewart (1996), V. Thomas (Thomas, Melchert, & Banken, 1999) and others. Penitentiary psychologists investigated some personal features of convicts with addictive behavior. Features of the valuable and semantic, motivational and volitional sphere of the personality of convicts are studied by A. A. Istomin (2011), A. N. Sukhov (2017), A. I. Ushatkov (1990), V. V. Yakovlev (1999) and others; the models and basic programs of psychological correction of their personality are investigated in domestic and foreign penitentiary psychology (M. G. Debolsky (Debolsky & Kokurin, 2005), S. D. Khachaturian (Khachaturian, 2001). The research of psychological features of the motivational sphere of drug-addicted convicts was conducted by A. A. Zharkikh (2013), A. I. Ushatkov, I. S. Ganishina (2015). It is established that the identity of a drug-addicted convict is characterized by loss of the social status.

In the context of the studied problem it is important to note that the Russian penitentiary psychologists studied the general regularities of the behavior of convicts with addictive behavior and proved the main directions of improvement of psychological work with them (Vlasova, 2006; Sochivko & Savelyeva, 2009;

Ganishina & Zharkikh, 2013; Ganishina, 2014; Ganishina, 2015; Ganishina, 2016; Ganishina & Ushatkov, 2016; Ganishina, 2017) which can be used in places of detention for the purpose of psychosocial rehabilitation of convicts with addictive behavior.

Analysis of the empirical research of addictive behavior of convicts

The empirical research of addictive behavior of convicts has been organized and conducted by us in places of detention. It included the following stages:

1. Research of social and demographic and criminal and legal features of convicts with addictive behavior.
2. Carrying out psychological diagnostics of addictive behavior of convicts.
3. Processing of the obtained data with the help of methods of mathematical statistics.
4. Analysis and interpretation of the results of the research (Aksenova & Kuptsov, 2016).

The results of the expert poll of the staff of the correctional establishment show that convicts with addictive behavior have low status among other convicts, are conflictive, quick-tempered, insincere and adapt to imprisonment conditions more difficultly.

Observation has shown that change of mood phases is typical for convicts with addictive behavior (high activity is combined with the periods of lower mood) together with fixing on the gloomy life side and mental block. Numerous violations of the emotional sphere are shown in the form of sharp mood instability, irritability, irascibility, impossibility to constrain themselves at disorders, ease of emergence of “breakdown” in an insignificant occasion.

The results of the conversation with convicts with addictive behavior show that during a conversation on alcohol and drugs they considerably liven up that proves the remained addiction features. Primitiveness of judgments, insincerity of answers to questions is characteristic of them at a conversation. They adhere to externally accusatory position just as in the analysis of the reasons of addiction developing, so concerning the committed crime. Criticality in relation to their own acts is sharply reduced, however they easily make contact that is explained by curiosity and understanding of special attention to their person.

The carried-out analysis of personal records has allowed us to reveal social and demographic and criminal and legal features of convicts with addictive behavior. We will consider social and demographic features of convicts with addictive behavior such as age, education, marital status in a more detailed way.

The analysis of age features has allowed us to draw a conclusion that most of convicts with addictive behavior is in age range of 20-34 years (Figure 1):

- age of convicts with addictive behavior of 18-19 years makes 4 %;
- 20-24 years –28 %;
- 25-29 years – 37 %;
- 30-34 years – 11 %;
- 35-39 years – 8 %;
- 40-44 years – 6 %; 45-49 years – 4 %;
- over 50 years – 2 %.

Therefore, the age up to 35 years is characteristic of 80 % of convicts with addictive behavior.

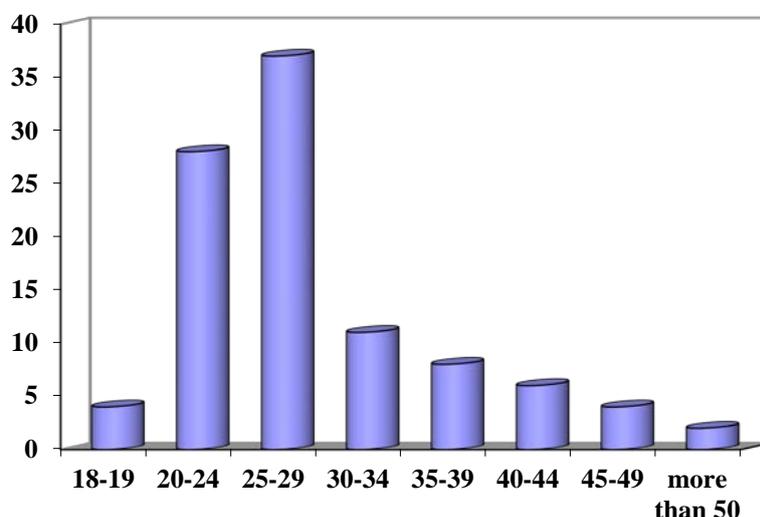


Figure 1. Age of convicts with addictive behavior

The analysis of education level made us possible to come to a conclusion that the vast majority of convicts with addictive behavior has incomplete secondary and secondary education (Figure 2):

- among them 61 % have incomplete secondary education;
- 33 % have secondary education;
- 6 % have higher education.

Therefore, the low education level is characteristic for 94 % of convicts with addictive behavior.

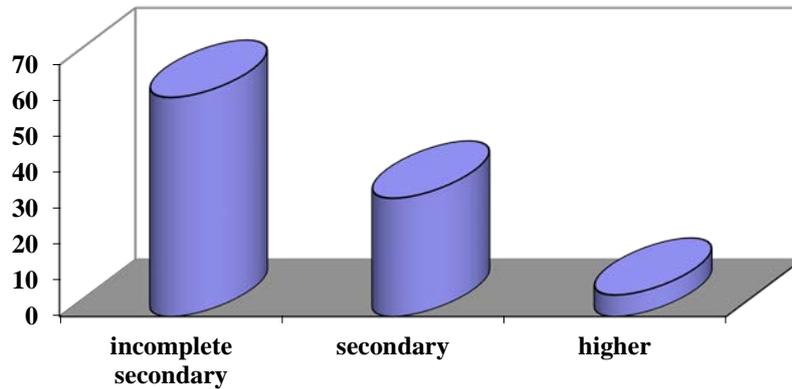


Figure 2. Education of convicts with addictive behavior

The analysis of marital status of convicts with addictive behavior (Figure 3) has allowed us to draw a conclusion that most of convicts (62 %) are single, 28 % of convicts are married, 8 % have civil marriage, 2 % are divorced.

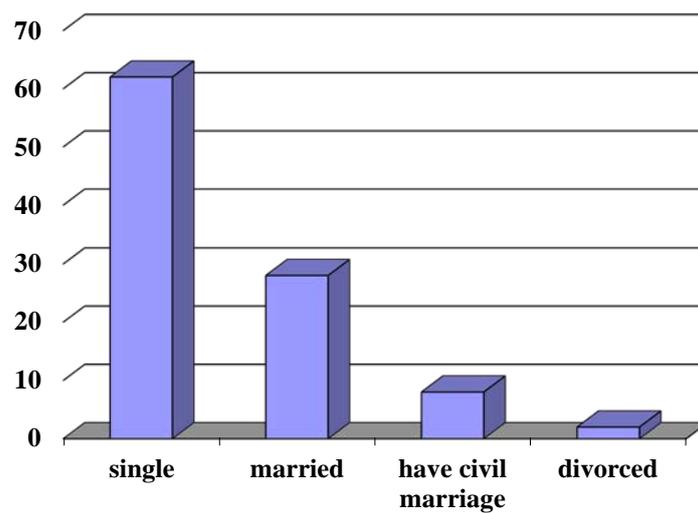


Figure 3. Marital status of convicts with addictive behavior

The most part of convicts with addictive behavior (77 %) have no children (Figure 4).

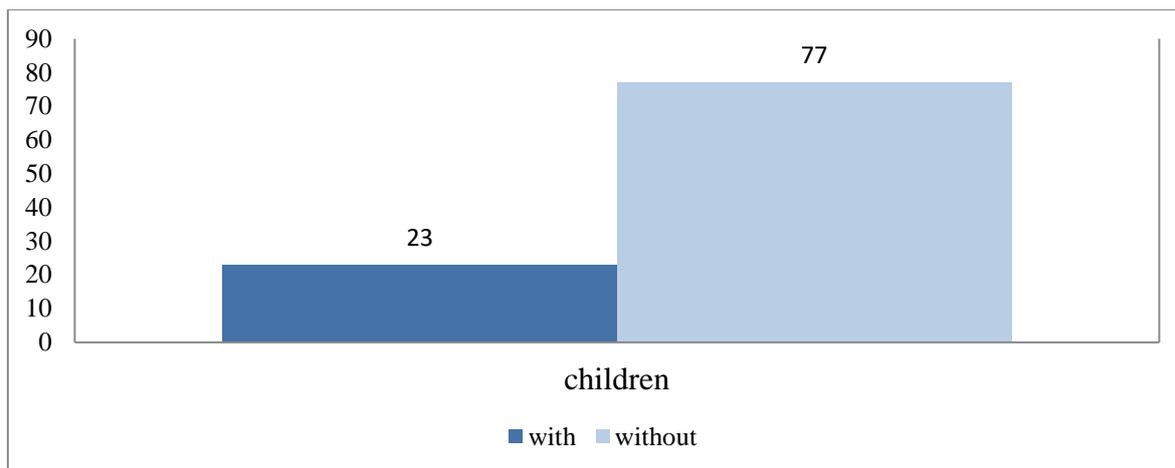


Figure 4. Convicts with addictive behavior with or without children

Concerning a type of the committed crime the following criminal and legal features of convicts with addictive behavior are observed(Figure 5):

- murder – 41 %;
- theft of property – 14 %;
- an attack to steal someone else's property, committed with the use of violence dangerous to life or health, or with the threat of such violence, robbery – 12 %;
- deliberate causing heavy harm to health -10 %;
- sex crimes – 8 %;
- open stealing of someone else's property, robbery – 7 %;
- illegal manufacturing, acquisition, storage, transportation, transfer or sale of drugs or psychotropic substances – 4 %;
- other types of crimes – 4 %.

Therefore, for convicts with addictive behavior violent crimes (77 %) are dominating.

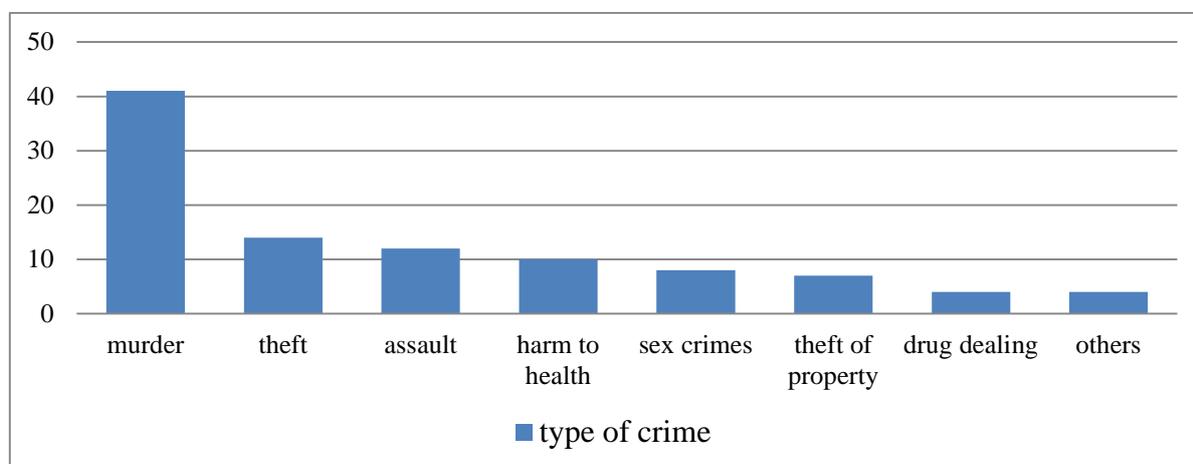


Figure 5. Type of the crime committed by convicts with addictive behavior

The analysis of personal records, medical records and expert poll of the staff of the correctional establishments showed that convicts with addictive behavior have mostly chemical addictions: drug dependency and alcoholism. The most part of convicts (83 %) smokes, believing that this addiction will help them to endure the psychological distress connected with their imprisonment.

All interviewed convicts do not have non-chemical addictions and disturbances of alimentary behavior. An insignificant part of convicts (less than 5 %) show sex addictions. We consider that the absence of non-chemical and alimentary addictions in the studied group is due to change of the personal features of convicts caused by their stay in places of detention, emergence of the restrictions which were earlier not available outside, such as the Internet dependence, implications of addictive behavior, different relations, including sex behavior, sectarianism, etc.

To assess the addictive orientation of the convicts, we used the McMullan-Galehar addictive technique (MGAA) (Figure 6). All convicts with addictive behavior have high values of addictive prescriptions, therefore, at the organization of psychosocial after-treatment special attention should be paid to depression.

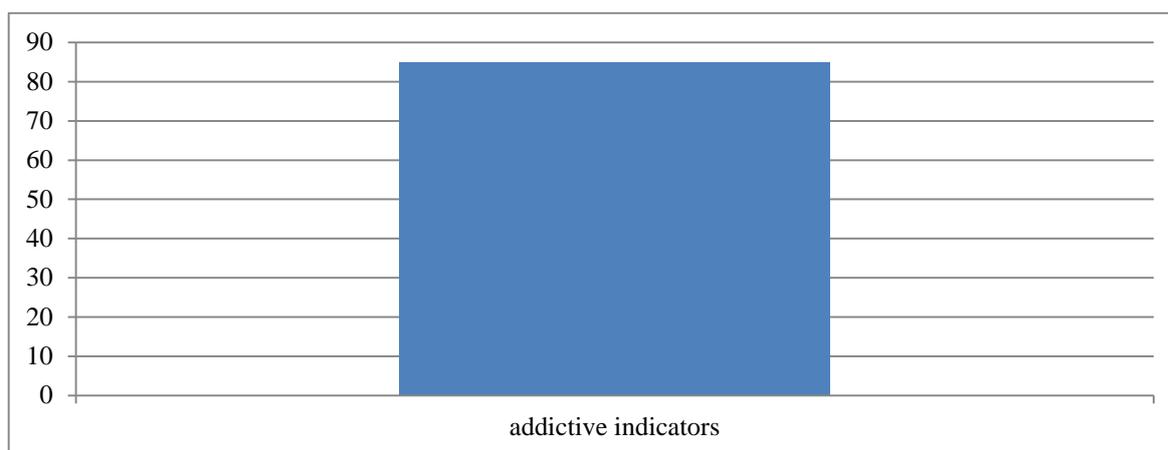


Figure 6. Showing the severity of addictive attitudes among drug addicted prisoners

The conducted research by means of K. Leonhard - H. Shmishek's (Figure 7) technique has allowed us to reveal the dominating types of accentuation of character at convicts with addictive behavior. The investigated convicts have high indicators on the scales of exaltation, demonstrativeness and excitability. Drug-addicted convicts show tendency to affect, emergence of the conflict emotional states and experiences having long emotional response. They can be alarmists, are subject to momentary moods, are gusty, easily pass from a condition of delight to a condition of grief, have lability of mentality. They are also inclined to a fantasies, falsity and pretense, adventurism, virtuosity, peacockery. Increased impulsiveness, an instinctivity, roughness, tediousness, gloom, irascibility,

tendency to rudeness and abuse, friction and conflicts are characteristic of them. They are irritable, quick-tempered, inflexible in a collective. Drug-addicted convicts are concentrated on the gloomy, sad parts of their life, the level of their activity is considerably reduced, painful sensitivity, unwillingness to reconstruct the behavior in a new situation are inherent in them, as well as inability to fast changes, accepting responsibility for own behavior.

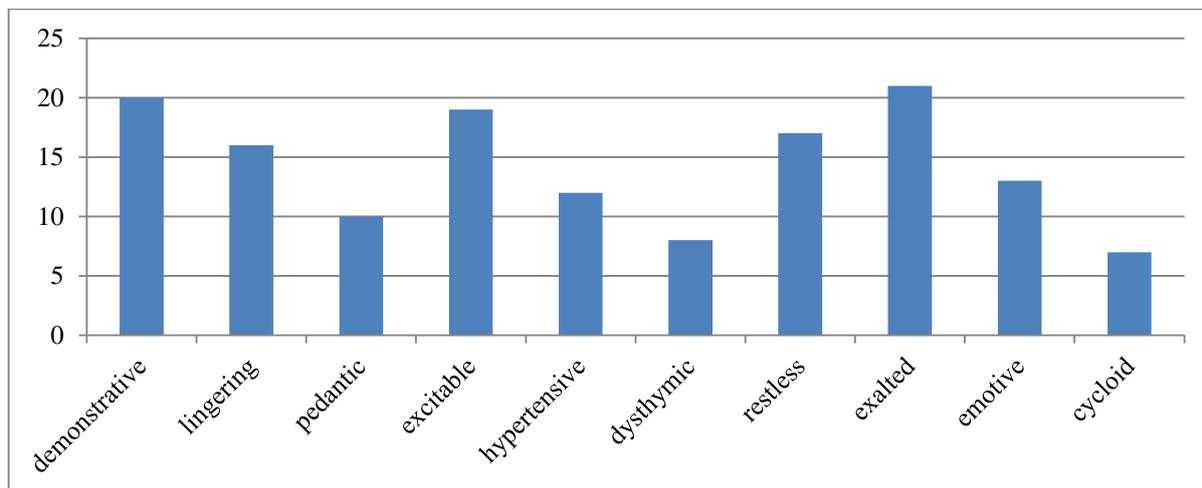


Figure 7. **Dominating types of accentuation of character of drug-addicted convicts**

The research conducted by us by means of the L. N. Sobchik's technique "The individual and typological questionnaire" (Figure 8) has allowed to reveal the leading personality tendencies disclosing the nature of cognitive and individual and typological features of convicts with addictive behavior. The analysis of the received results shows that convicts with addictive behavior have rather high rates on scales "Lie" and "Aggravation" that shows their desire to meet social expectations of other convicts. They show high indicators on scales "Aggression", "Rigidity", "Sensitivity", "Uneasiness", "Introversion". Therefore, conflict emotional states which are followed by high introversion dominate. Such personal profile testifies to an aggressive manner of self-affirmation contrary to the interests of people around, the increased suspiciousness and vigilance in relations, high propensity towards conflict.

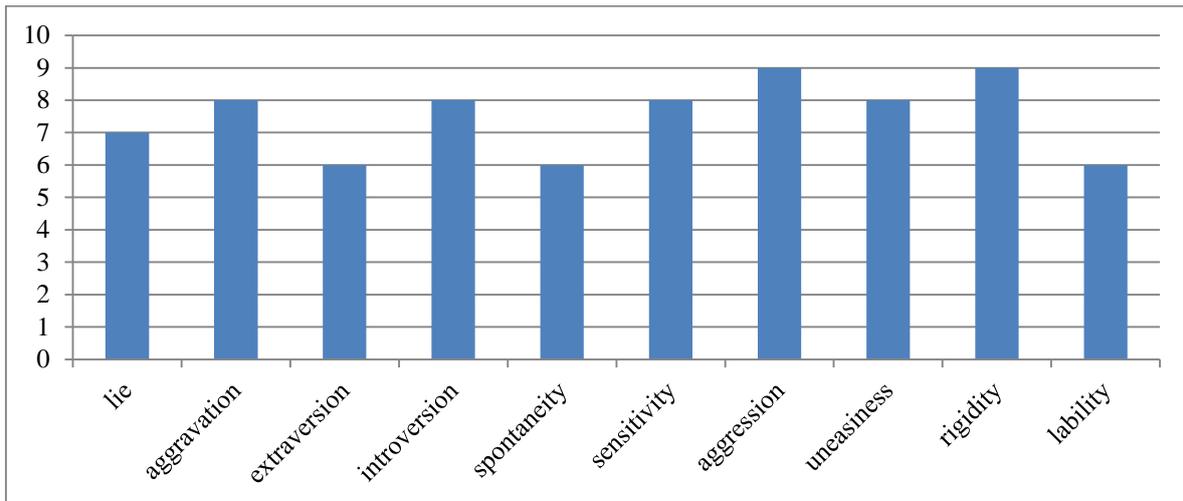


Figure 8. Leading personality tendencies of drug-addicted convicts

The research conducted by means of the LSI technique of Kellerman-Plutchik-Konte (Figure 9) has allowed us to establish that the following types of psychological protection are dominating: denial, rationalization, cognitive mapping. Therefore, in order to solve inner conflicts and contradictions convicts with addictive behavior deny their dependence, existence of the frustrating circumstances, stop the experiences caused by unpleasant or subjectively unacceptable situation by means of logical prescriptions and manipulations or attribute negative feelings and thoughts to other people. Convicts with addictive behavior draw only those conclusions thanks to which their behavior is perceived by the surrounding as well controlled and not contradicting to objective circumstances.

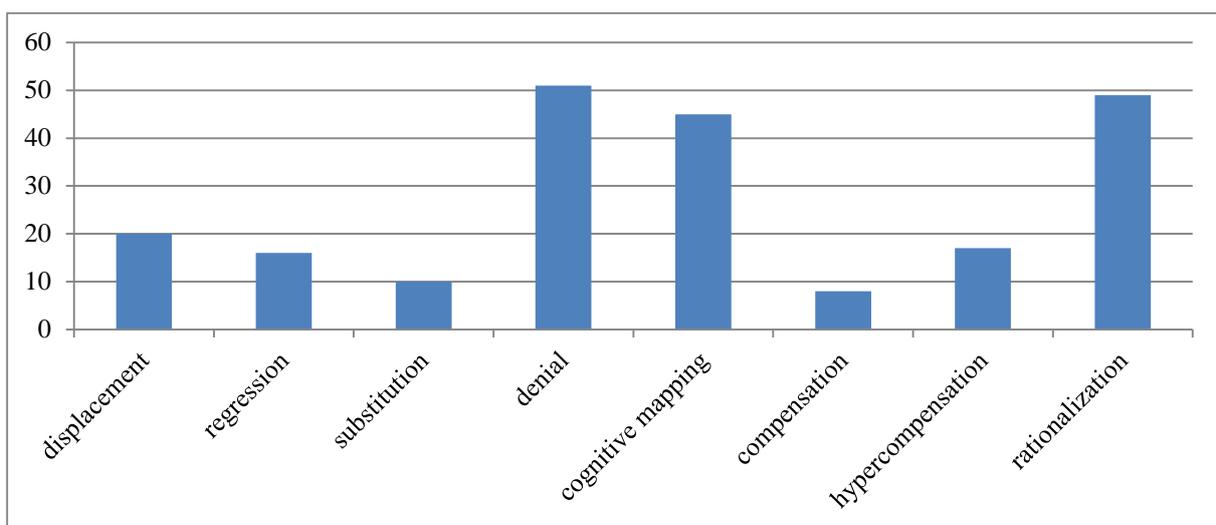


Figure 9. Prevailing types of psychological protection of drug-addicted convicts

Thus, social and demographic, criminal and legal and psychological features of convicts with addictive behavior need to be considered by drawing up and implementation of programs of their psychosocial rehabilitation in places of detention.

Implications

The theoretical bases of the analysis of the problem of addictive behavior of convicts are presented in the article. The social and demographic, criminal and legal psychological features of their personality revealed during the empirical research are given. For the purpose of determination of personal features of convicts the authors tried out psycho-diagnostic tools including observation, conversation, analysis of personal records, expert poll, psycho-diagnostic testing (the test of addictive prescriptions of MGAA, K. Leonhard– H. Shmishek's test, L. N. Sobchik's technique “The individual and typological questionnaire”, the LSI test of Kellerman-Plutchik-Konte), methods of mathematical statistics. The received results can be applied for psychosocial rehabilitation of convicts with addictive behavior in places of detention.

Conclusions

Nowadays there is a need in the modern society to reorganize correctional facilities of the penal system of Russia into social clinics which are providing psychosocial rehabilitation of convicts with addictive behavior. However it is impossible to organize and to hold rehabilitation actions with convicts with addictive behavior without taking into account their personal features.

For the purpose of diagnostics of personal features of convicts with addictive behavior we defined their social and demographic, criminal and legal and psychological characteristics.

We established that convicts with addictive behavior have low status among other convicts, are conflictive, quick-tempered, insincere, adapt to imprisonment conditions more difficultly. Change of mood phases, mental block, irritability, irascibility, impossibility to constrain at disorders, “breakdown” emergence in insignificant occasions is typical of them.

Most convicts with addictive behavior have chemical dependences (narcotics and alcohol). All respondents do not have non-chemical addictions and disturbances of alimentary behavior; an insignificant part of convicts show sex addictions.

The analysis of age features has allowed us to draw a conclusion that the age up to 35 years and low education level are characteristic of most of convicts with

addictive behavior. For convicts with addictive behavior violent crimes are dominating. Most of convicts are not married and have no children.

All convicts with addictive behavior have high indicators of addictive prescriptions, very high indicators on the scales of exaltation, demonstrativeness and excitability. Their personal profile testifies to the aggressive manner of self-affirmation contrary to the interests of people around, the increased suspiciousness and vigilance in the relations, high proneness to conflict. For convicts with addictive behavior the following types of psychological protection are dominating: denial, rationalization, projection. Therefore, in order to solve inner conflicts and contradictions convicts with addictive behavior deny their dependence, existence of the frustrating circumstances, stop the experiences caused by unpleasant or subjectively unacceptable situation by means of logical prescriptions and manipulations or attribute negative feelings and thoughts to other people.

The staff of the penal system need to consider the investigated social and demographic, criminal and legal and psychological features of convicts with addictive behavior by drawing up and implementation of programs of their psychosocial rehabilitation in places of detention.

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