

Studying Advanced Experiences in The Prevention of Theft Crimes in Foreign Countries

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of theft crime prevention strategies in Uzbekistan, focusing on adapting international best practices to local legal, social, and cultural contexts. **Method:** Utilizing comparative criminological methods, the study incorporates doctrinal analysis and policy comparison, examining prevention models from the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Singapore, and select European countries. **Results:** The analysis reveals that theft prevention is most effective when integrating modern technologies such as video surveillance, biometric identification, digital monitoring systems, and data-driven policing with social measures like community engagement, neighborhood watch programs, environmental design, and preventive education. The study shows that countries with strong policies on early intervention, public involvement, and technology experience fewer robbery-related offenses. **Novelty:** This research highlights the failure of direct transplantation of international models without adaptation to local realities and proposes a contextually framed application of advanced preventive practices, supported by legal education and community-based initiatives. The findings provide a solid foundation for policymakers and law enforcement to implement modern, sustainable, and society-oriented crime prevention strategies.

INTRODUCTION

In today's rapidly developing information age, studying and applying the experience of advanced foreign countries in the fight against and prevention of crime in the conditions of Uzbekistan is of great importance in crime prevention.

It is generally accepted that it is better to prevent a crime than to punish it. This is the main task of any positive legislation. Currently, terms such as "prevention," "prophylaxis," "warning," "suspension," and "elimination" applied to offenses and other antisocial, negative phenomena are frequently encountered not only in specialized literature but also in various regulatory documents, including periodicals [1].

In criminological literature, much is said about the concept of crime prevention, but there is no universally recognized definition of this concept [2].

The author of a major study on crime prevention, G.A. Avanesov, named the first edition of his book "Criminology and Social Prevention" [3]. One of the first scientific studies devoted to the problem of crime prevention is the monograph "Prevention of Crimes - the Basis of the Fight for the Elimination of Crime" by I.A. Gelfand and P.P. Mikhaylenko from Kiev [4].

In it, the authors, speaking about the terms used in the field of crime prevention, emphasize that it is inappropriate to look for differences in the content of the terms "prevention," "elimination," "prevention," "suspension," the unity of the content of these terms - in this sense, they are synonyms expressing the idea that it is necessary to take measures to prevent the commission of acts harmful to society by certain persons and subsequently completely eliminate such cases.

Criminologist K.Abdurasulova **defined crime prevention or crime prevention** as the activity of state bodies (including law enforcement agencies), public associations, organizations, institutions, and citizens aimed at neutralizing or eliminating the conditions and causes that contribute to the commission of crimes, encompassing various measures (measures of influence), aimed at objective external factors and specific individuals [5].

Studying the experience of advanced foreign countries in combating and preventing crime, identifying the directions and systems of early crime prevention, and conducting a comparative analysis play an important role in improving crime prevention.

Russian criminologist V.V.Luneev *comparative criminology* classification of criminology as a global, regional and national characteristics and other specific features, its causal basis and measures to combat it, as well as the main theories about the origin, conditions, and ways to prevent crime [6].

Subject of comparative criminology to the composition:

1. Comparative crime;
2. Comparative theories about the causes of crime;
3. International cooperation in the field of combating crime.

RESEARCH METHOD

General The methods of this study are based on a qualitative comparative criminological analysis to identify effective foreign practices in preventing theft and their transferability to the surrounding conditions of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The study is based on scientific literature analysis, criminological theories, official analytical reports, and practical materials of law enforcement agencies. An applied comparative analysis is used to explore crime prevention models in the U.S., U.K., Germany, Japan and Singapore and selected European and post Soviet countries with a focus on technological, organizational and social prevention modes. To study the conceptual foundations of crime prevention, doctrinal legal analysis is applied, which encompasses the understanding of prevention, prophylaxis, and early intervention in criminological theory. This embodied investigation of potential impact in minimized theft crimes is highlighted from the description revolving around publication on theft crimes and especially in terms of impact assessment, it is reliant on a handful collection of empirical data available within the mainstream. Focus is also on community based prevention, environmental design strategies, digital monitoring systems, and public participation

initiatives. The paper adopts a contextual adaptation approach as well, evaluating the resonance of overseas experiences with national laws, cultural customs, and institutional capabilities of Uzbekistan. Such a methodology combines elements of International Best Practice Identification (IBPI) while steering away from mechanical borrowing. The findings of the methodological review serve as a basis for formulating practical recommendations that are focused on measures to prevent theft crime that are integrated, evidence based and socially oriented.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first comparative studies of crime were conducted in 1901 in Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, England, Scotland, and Ireland, and in 1911 a unified system of indicators for international comparative studies was proposed. This system was subsequently improved in terms of increasing the comparability of the analyzed data. Foreign law enforcement agencies. The experience of interaction between the police and the media is significant, and the police of the USA, England, Germany, Sweden, India, and other countries prioritize strengthening interaction with the media [7]. From this point of view, today it is important to study the activities of law enforcement agencies of foreign countries in the fight against theft crimes. Therefore, we will focus on the best practices of some countries in this area.

United States, the use of NCR corporation's special technology has been established to prevent theft crimes in public catering establishments (cafes, bars, restaurants) and other shopping centers.

This software monitors the behavior of clients and automatically sends a message to the mobile phone or email address of the head of the complex about the identified illegal situation. Notably, after the software was installed in various parts of the country, theft crimes decreased by up to 30 percent.

In this country, in the USA, security systems are very developed in carrying out propaganda work aimed at preventing theft crimes through public platforms on social networks, and mechanisms have been established that allow determining the withdrawal of funds from bank plastic cards through biometric systems. This system helps prevent cyberthefts.

Security programs have also been strengthened among the public, particularly local authorities. **Neighborhood Watch** (*Local Watch*) programs, community engagement to ensure that activists in neighborhoods help fight theft.

Mahalla control not only allows citizens to assist in combating crime, but also provides an opportunity to connect communities through service. The "Neighbors' Control" program asks ordinary citizens to help their neighbors. The National Neighborhood Watch program is designed to assist law enforcement agencies and their communities, provide technical support, source documents, network access, and industry support.

Since 1972, the National Neighborhood Monitoring Program (located within the National Sheriff Association) has sought to unite law enforcement agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens in nationwide efforts to reduce crime and improve local communities. The program's success defines "Neighbors' Watch" as the country's main program for crime prevention and population mobilization. The program's visible signs are visible on street signs, windows, public organizations, and service projects throughout America.

Police officers in the UK and South Korea are authorized to block stolen, lost, or illegally acquired mobile devices within 24 hours, identify altered IMEI codes, and blacklist them. This serves to prevent and quickly expose theft crimes.

Also, at the Bluewater shopping mall in the county of Kent, UK, a ban has been imposed on customers entering the shopping mall wearing a cap or a hood. The reason for this is that when identifying offenders from surveillance camera recordings in the shopping complex, their clothing caused certain problems. As a result of the ban, petty theft decreased by 60 percent, and the retail complex's revenue increased by 23 percent.

In Great Britain in **1982**, sociologists George Kelling and James Wilson created the "**Fragmented Windows**" theory. According to it, insufficient attention to insignificant offenses promotes the occurrence of even more dangerous crimes. In **1995** there was a widespread installation of **immobilizer** and other safety devices on vehicles theft of vehicles and damage to them has had a serious impact on the reduction of crimes [8]. The increase in the number of houses with **electronic security systems on windows and doors** has led to a high degree of protection from illegal actions. The crime prevention strategy in the UK is aimed at eliminating the possibility of committing crimes and minimizing their causes.

In addition, law enforcement agencies attach particular importance to the development of modern high-tech systems for the digital prevention and investigation of crimes, including the capabilities of artificial intelligence. Such measures will increase access to information from open sources, including social networks, mobile phones and computer equipment seized as a result of criminal investigations and operational-search activities.

Also in the UK "**Track My Crime**" online app (*this is a special online service application, in which a person who is a victim or witness of a crime can follow the investigation process through the Internet based on the circumstances they reported*) which allows victims of crime to follow the criminal proceedings through the police.uk website. In this case, the victim, concerned for their own safety and witnesses will be able to give their testimony within the framework of the criminal case without going to the police station [9].

In France, the USA, Great Britain, Australia, China, and other developed countries, the environment by designing based on the ideas of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), the conditions that allowed this type of crime to be committed are eliminated. For example, the use of this method in the example of the

Australian experience allows one to identify the crime of theft caused a decrease from 30% to 69% [10].

In France, special police departments operate to combat theft, actively participating in identifying and combating criminals. Police play an important role in the use of security cameras. These cameras systematically detect crimes and helps with early prevention.

In Great Britain, video surveillance systems have also been effectively implemented in preventive work. In large cities, almost 80% of public spaces are equipped with video surveillance. In addition, programs for the reintegration of convicts are widely used.

German police have been actively working with the public since the 1960s, **focusing on the independent protection of citizens** in the form of public consultations and how to use technical means to rescue property from thieves and how not to become victims of crime. For this purpose, advice on crime prevention is distributed free of charge, broadcast on the radio, and shown on television in the program "Criminal Police Advises."

Required electronic immobilizers for new cars in this country (*Electronic immobilizer - a device that allows or prohibits engine starting via a key, chip, or special code if the correct alarm is not detected, the engine will not work.*) has reduced car theft by 80%.

In Germany, public programs have been developed to combat theft crimes, and public security initiatives have become popular. Special public organizations, in order to prevent theft and other crimes, visit the sites and perform the task of ensuring safety and providing assistance to people.

In addition, great importance is attached to educating the population about the consequences of theft crimes and ways to combat them. There are programs aimed at the rehabilitation of criminals. In banks and shopping centers, video surveillance systems and new technologies are used to protect against theft and fraud devices and ensure property security.

In small German towns, "Neighborhood Watch" (Neighborhood Watch) has been established, forming a system for immediately reporting unfamiliar and suspicious cars or persons in the neighborhood or on the street.

In Western European countries "*You, your family, your home and how to protect your property from criminal attacks.*" popular articles and manuals on this topic will be published extensively, and preventive work will be carried out among the population.

As a result of efforts to prevent smartphone thefts in the EU, the implementation of a system for blocking these devices by IMEI code throughout the EU has led to a sharp decrease in smartphone thefts.

New Zealand's law enforcement activities are characterized by a comprehensive and innovative approach aimed at crime prevention and ensuring public safety. For

example, **smartly managed police activities** (Intelligence-Lead Policing) have been established.

New Zealand **Safe Communities Foundation** (Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand, SCFNZ) promotes initiatives to create safe communities through collaboration between NGOs, businesses, and government entities [11]. This **will help raise public awareness** and collaborate on crime prevention.

Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is fully covered by surveillance cameras and integrated into police structures.

This system allows for the prevention or detection of any crimes.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the practice of installing special GPS devices on livestock has been established.

This will allow monitoring the movement of livestock, as well as the prompt detection of cases related to their abduction [12].

Japan has a practice of installing pots with flowers in the entrances and windows of multi-story buildings to prevent apartment burglaries.

This is considered a preventive measure aimed at influencing the psychology of persons intending to commit theft. That is, the cleanliness and orderliness of the surroundings made it clear to the persons who wanted to steal that the area was under constant surveillance, and this itself prevented the crime.

Family also plays a role in crime prevention in this country and educational institutions play a key role. The formation of legal awareness among young people, collective control, and the "*neighborly control*" system are the main directions of prevention.

In addition, the police system in Japan is subdivided into counties and districts, where the "*stationary cabin*" system operates. The activities of every 10-15 "*stationary booths*" are tied to one police station. Their activities are primarily aimed at preventing primary, secondary, and recidivist crimes in connection with all segments of society. The main task of law enforcement agencies in crime prevention is carried out in narrow areas [13]. The success of police policy in Japan lies in its social orientation, the introduction of various forms of informal social control, and its focus on **the development of socially beneficial stereotypes** of lawful behavior.

In this regard, based on the positive experience of Japan in crime prevention, it is advisable to introduce a system of "*stationary booths*" that directly connect the intersections, streets where crimes are committed, or other public places of mahallas with a difficult criminogenic situation with the district internal affairs bodies and the mahalla prevention inspector. In this case, through the "*stationary booths*" system, citizens living in the mahalla will be able to immediately inform the mahalla prevention inspector about crimes or offenses.

In the Republics of Poland and Latvia, information about them is entered into the electronic police database to prevent theft of bicycles.

Police officers are authorized to demand from citizens a document confirming that they are the actual owner of the bicycle. If the citizen does not have the necessary documents, he will be taken to the police station to investigate the situation.

To use a bicycle, citizens of these countries must have a purchase receipt, a product passport, or a warranty card containing a single identification number stamped on the bicycle frame.

When buying a bicycle by hand, a sales contract is concluded between the buyer and the seller [14]. It indicates the personal data of the buyer and seller, the date of the agreement, the price of the bicycle, and the frame number.

If the bicycle is inherited or hand-assembled, documents (checks, receipts) for spare parts will be required. But even then, the bicycle owner must go to the police station and check the bicycle frame number in the database.

Singapore is one of the least robbed countries in the world. Their success is based on:

1. More than **90,000** cameras installed throughout the country have the ability to recognize faces and detect suspicious movements;
2. **Data analysis:** If the risk of theft increases in any area, the system will automatically send a signal to nearby police officers;
3. **Digital economy:** The fact that cashless payments exceed 95 percent has made street robbery and theft economically unprofitable.

Additionally, in Singapore, smart lighting systems are installed on city streets and in front of houses — not constantly illuminated lights, but lamps that turn on using motion sensors. These lights are more effective at deterring burglars, as they create the psychological effect that "someone inside the house has noticed you."

Implementation of propaganda work aimed at preventing theft crimes through public platforms on social networks, improvement of security systems for the prevention of cyberthefts:

1. Election of "**community representatives**" who actively assist in crime prevention in mahallas and development of a system of state socio-economic support for them;
2. To the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the transfer of lost or illegally acquired mobile devices Blocking within 24 hours, identifying modified IMEI codes and authorizing them to be added to the "blacklist";
3. Establish a system for developing "**public programs**" against theft crimes using public security initiatives based on the experience of Germany;
4. *In this case, public organizations perform the task of ensuring security and providing assistance in order to prevent theft and other crimes.* In order to educate students in the spirit of patriotism and create "immunity to offenses," strengthen educational work by introducing disciplines in the following areas in educational institutions:

- a. **in the "Legal" direction** (topics on the Constitution and the rule of law, the rights and obligations of students (youth), legal awareness and legal culture, the basics of crime prevention among young people, the concept of crime and delinquency, common delinquency among young people, social and personal consequences of crime, "easy money" and the danger of the criminal environment);
- b. **Direction "Patriotism, spiritual-educational and moral education"** (Topics on national customs and traditions, devotion and selflessness to the Motherland, heroes and historical figures of Uzbekistan, honesty, justice, conscience, self-control and discipline, bad habits and their consequences, finding one's place in society);
- c. **In the field of Psychology** (Youth Psychology, Stress, Pressure) and resistance to influences, speech culture, making the right decisions, etc.);
- d. **Media and Internet Security** (Internet Delinquency, Fake Information and Manipulation, Cybercrime Protection, Social Media Behavior Culture, and Other Topics).

Teaching these topics to young people in this direction in an understandable way plays an important role in the formation of the need to know and observe the law, a sense of pride and responsibility for their country, the formation of an internal moral barrier (immunity), not succumbing to a negative environment and criminal influence, and acquiring legal immunity in the virtual environment [15].

5. Publication of more popular articles, manuals, and booklets on the topic "How to protect yourself, your family, your home, and your property from criminal encroachments" and conducting preventive work among the population;
6. Creation of an information system that automatically sends a signal to the Internal Affairs Bodies in areas with a high risk of theft based on data analysis;
7. Establishing smart lighting on streets and in the vicinity of houses, that is, not a constantly burning light, but lighting with a "*motion sensor*" (*Motion sensor*);
8. Expansion of work on equipping streets and public places, areas where crimes may be committed, with new types of video surveillance equipment and their integration with the Internal Affairs Bodies;
9. Combating and early prevention of theft crimes, (*previously convicted, registered for preventive measures, prone to committing theft, etc.*) In order to carry out targeted preventive work with persons who may be victims of this crime, based on the assessment and assistance of artificial intelligence, as well as monitoring the work carried out to prevent theft crimes by region and timely determination of appropriate measures, **it is proposed to create and widely implement the electronic system "E-Theft".**

The application of the positive experience of foreign countries in the prevention and fight against theft in the conditions of Uzbekistan contributes to increasing the

effectiveness of the prevention and fight against this type of crime. However, it is necessary to adapt each experience to the specifics of Uzbekistan, local legislation, and culture. Such an approach ensures the successful implementation of experiments and minimizes their negative consequences.

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : This study demonstrates that theft crime prevention is most effective when employing a comprehensive, systematic approach that integrates legal, technological, social, and educational measures. The analysis indicates that countries with early prevention mechanisms, modern security technologies, community participation, and environmental design strategies achieve the greatest reduction in theft crimes. **Implication :** The findings suggest that Uzbekistan can significantly enhance its crime prevention efforts by adapting international best practices to local legal norms, cultural traditions, and institutional capacities. It underscores the importance of combining technological tools with social prevention instruments to create a well-rounded strategy for reducing theft. **Limitation :** A key limitation of the study is the lack of empirical evidence from local pilot programs in Uzbekistan, which makes it difficult to fully assess the practicality of the proposed strategies within the specific national context. **Future Research :** Future research should evaluate the effectiveness of pilot theft prevention programs implemented in Uzbekistan, explore the potential of artificial intelligence and data-driven systems for early crime detection, and assess community-based initiatives to determine their long-term impact on reducing theft and ensuring sustainable crime prevention solutions.

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