

Application of the Theory of Routine Activities in Criminology to the General Crime Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Abstract

A significant number of criminologists, applying the theory of routine activities, believe that a criminal offense is the result of three convergent elements that combine in time and space (a motivated perpetrator, a suitable target, and the absence of adequate protection). When analyzing these three independent factors, custody is usually given a less significant position in this triangle, without any real reason. It is important to point out that the social structure can significantly affect any form of its violation because ordinary citizens can largely protect each other, as well as citizens' property. In the context of this paper, we will consider routine activities in the light of certain daily determining activities, such as education, economic crises, unemployment, mass communication means, migration, family circumstances, and free time, which can be key to explaining the rate of increase or decrease in crime. When all these activities are analyzed through the theory of routine activity, then we can have a complete overview in terms of criminal activity and the exposure to a criminal act of an individual or the social community as a whole.

Keywords: Criminology, theory of routine activities, Bosnia and Herzegovina, crime, criminal behavior, determining factors of criminal behavior

Introduction

In the broad spectrum of criminological theories on the causes of deviant behavior, sociological theories of criminality involve particular importance. In these theories, the causes of such behaviors are only seen in the conditions and social interactions of the individual in their environment (Maloku, 2020). Routine activities have contributed to the development of theory in criminology, which tries to explain the occurrence of criminal behavior and the increase in the commission of criminal acts with its teaching.

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Today, people in their functioning generally use certain established routines that are exercised every day, regardless of whether they are pupils, students, workers employees, or elderly and infirm persons. These activities are related to possible events such as economic crisis, unemployment, population migration, family circumstances, education, free time, means of mass communication, etc.

Crime is an anti-social behavior that conflicts with legal and moral norms of behavior (Maloku, 2019, Maloku & Maloku, 2021). Criminality is a negative social phenomenon, which has been accompanying every society throughout all stages of its development (Maloku, 2015). It should be emphasized that during the study of criminal behavior and the degree of crime, it should be taken into account when the author chooses a potential victim, the place and time of the crime. The author in many situations will consider routine activities that are characteristic of each victim.

In light of contemporary social events and the development of criminology, the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina gave it its place and role. This has certainly left its mark on the development of the theory of routine activities and the problems it deals with.

The success of presenting the impact of routine activities and study achievements through the theory of routine activities should be carried out through a planning project and a systematic scientific-informative procedure based on methodological-methodical and scientific-theoretical postulates. This research requires a responsible approach, the aim of which is to present the knowledge of the impact of routine activities on criminal behavior in Bosnia and Herzegovina, viewed through the prism of the application of the theory of routine activity.

Methodology

The importance of this paper lies in the complexity of the problem (Maloku, Kastrati., Gabela, & Maloku, 2022). The method of analysis and synthesis is used in this paper. These methods will be particularly useful in researching the theoretical perspectives of local and foreign authors (Maloku, Qerimi & Maloku, 2022) who have studied and analyzed (Maloku, Maloku & Çerkini, 2024) theory of routine activities in criminology

Criminology is a complex and exact science that strives to answer many questions of an empirical and theoretical nature but to successfully answer that task, it is necessary to continuously conduct various types of research daily. One such research is the research carried out in this paper, which gives its overview on the application of some routine activities that have a certain impact on criminal behavior in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

From the methods of data collection, the work will be based primarily on the application of the document content analysis method, as the most effective scientific method that gives the best results for such scientific-theoretical research. Also, other scientific methods will be used that belong to the group of general scientific methods, as well as the entire spectrum of analytical-synthetic methods.

Results and discussion

The theory of routine activities represents the study of a specific way of life, both of an individual and of a certain social group, which has certain compatibility with the execution of various forms of criminal acts. The teaching of this theory bases its foundations on the sociological legacy of the positivist orientation. For its development, the greatest credit goes to the authors Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson and their work: "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach", published in 1979. In that work, the authors consider the paradoxical tendencies of the crime rate according to changes in "routine activities" in everyday life (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

Other authors emphasized both theories, such as Đorđe Ignjatović, who in the work "Criminology: sixth amended and supplemented edition" (2005) confirms that the creators of this theory are Cohen and Felson, state the same essential elements of the theory as these two authors. In the work "Theories in Criminology" (2009), Ignjatović goes so far as to translate the pioneering work of Cohen and Felson published in 1979. Cohen and Felson consider three key elements in patterns of routine activities that play a key role in the manifestation of criminal behavior, namely (Cohen & Felson, 1979):

- motivated offender;
- suitability of the target, that is, the object;
- the absence of qualified guards.

In the absence of any of these three elements, there is a significant increase in crime. Namely, the convergence in time and space of suitable targets and the lack of competent guards, combined with the motivation of criminals, can lead to a high increase in the crime rate. Numerous routine activities can generate criminal behavior, as well as factors that influence such behavior. Likewise, certain factors have a significant impact on the preventive action of potential criminals, that is, on their motivation through the spectrum of certain activities such as family, school, means of mass communication, etc.

This is one of the most cited and influential theoretical constructions in the field of criminology and in the science of crime more broadly. Unlike theories of crime, which are focused on the character of the criminal and the psychological, biological, or social factors that motivated the crime, the focus of routine activity

is the study of crime as an event, emphasizing its relationship to space, and time and emphasizing its ecological nature and its implications (Miró, 2014).

General overview of the theory of routine activities

The theory of routine activities was developed by two prominent criminologists: Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson. These two highly respected authors point out that after the Second World War there was an increase in crime. As one of the reasons for the increase in criminal behavior, they see the opportunity to commit such an act. The emphasis is on social situational aspects that play a very significant role in criminal behavior (Cohen & Felson, 1979). The thesis advocated by the theory for the emergence of criminal behavior is reflected in three prevailing conditions: the motivation of potential perpetrators to commit the crime, a suitable target for the attack, that is, an object, and the absence of a capable guardian (Ignjatović, 2005).

The essence of this theory is the study of the social environment in which delinquents live in order to discover motivational urges, and thus the conclusion was reached that they make their decisions based on the rational choice of the convenience of the target. The theory holds that the crime rate is generally proportional to the number of motivated offenders in the community to commit a crime.

Routine activities theory at the beginning was used to „explain changes in crime trends over time. It has been progressively used much more generally to determine, define and prevent crime problems. Researchers have used versatile methods to test hypotheses derived from the theory. Since its inception, the theory has become closely aligned with a set of theories and perspectives known as environmental criminology, which focuses on the importance of opportunity in determining the distribution of crime across time and space. The routine activities theory in particular has very practical implications for prevention; therefore, practitioners have applied routine activities theory to inform police practices and prevention strategies.“ (Argun & Dağlar, 2016).

Thus, the theory explains how various social changes together affect crime rates. Theorists argued that crime occurs when the following three elements exist at the same time in the same place: the presence of motivated criminals, the lack of a capable guard, and the availability of suitable targets (Buljubasic, 2021).

General principles of application of the theory of routine activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In modern society, there is the development of many sciences and scientific disciplines, including criminology. This development is manifested all over the world and therefore also in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its development greatly contributes to the effective fight against crime through its multi-method and empirical scientific approach. Such an approach enables her to provide

knowledge about the source of the problem, how crime occurs, and what are the most effective programs and ways to prevent it. The rise of "criminology in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be viewed through the scientific research development and functioning of higher education institutions..." (Petrović and Meško, 2008). This development is reflected in teaching at several universities and colleges in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla, Banja Luka, Zenica, Bihać, and others.

By the way, when looking at the area of defining criminality and the phenomenon of its opposition, the author Abazović lists three basic areas that more fully consider the phenomenology and essence of this social phenomenon. These are legal, sociological, and criminological thought. The legal definition starts from the norms of substantive criminal legislation and is related to "the criminalization of certain actions in valid criminal laws", while the sociological understanding "treats criminal behavior as a product of social life in general." Criminology as a science of criminality and criminal behavior studies the causes and forms, structure and development of criminality. Precisely "without studying the general conditions and existing relations in a society and without realizing the cause-and-effect connection between these further social influences and closer external causes and conditions and personality traits, it is difficult to understand why the same factors sometimes act criminogenically, and sometimes even quite the opposite." (Abazović, 2010).

Many studies have shown that crime is on the rise during and immediately after the war. Thus, Henting (1959) believes that the criminal behavior of minors during the war is one of the main problems, and he cites as the reason that the father is at war, and the mother is busy with the daily duties of feeding the family. What criminologists agree on is that during the war there is an increase in crime, especially among minors and women, as well as an increase in primary delinquents. Research "that was carried out during the Second World War showed that criminality grew during the war and after it in almost all countries. This increase in criminality during the war was more pronounced among youth and women, while, naturally, the criminality of adult men is on the decline" (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982). It is considered that during the war there are structural changes in terms of the way crimes are committed, so it is considered that during the war there is a decrease in the number of murders, which will increase after the war period. During the war and in the post-war period, due to difficult living conditions and scarcity, there is an increase in property crimes. Certainly, a large number of war crimes were committed during the war, which in any case had to leave traces in the post-war period as well. As Professor Abazović points out, "the elaboration of the phenomenon of post-war de traumatization is

one of the epicentral issues of the functioning of every state that has come out of the cataclysmic trauma of war, from the predominantly important aspect of state and national security and safety, which is the quality of life of its citizens in the full capacitative sense.“ (Abazović, 2002).

After the war, in many segments, the need for the engagement of both state and other bodies and organizations in terms of influencing the reduction of criminal activities emerged. Analyzing in particular all three elements (motivated perpetrator, suitable target, and lack of adequate protection) that the theory of routine activities considers crucial for the emergence of criminal activity, we see that we have many factors in Bosnia and Herzegovina that are significant for delinquent behavior.

Observing the motivation of criminals, we can conclude that this motivation is influenced by a whole series of factors, both innate and acquired, as well as external, which can be natural and social. What affects people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, their entire psychological process, are various psychoses that had their impact during the war. All this leads to such circumstances and behavior when people resort to illegal actions to satisfy their needs because each person has their specificities and individualities in terms of moral, psychological, religious, cultural, educational, and other characteristics.

From the aspect of motivation, we can single out some personality traits such as a person's character traits, temperament, motives, attitudes, habits, etc. In persons who do not have criminal tendencies, these traits are controlled and directed in a positive direction, but in criminal persons, some of these traits deviate from standard forms.

Character encompasses the psychological traits of a person and it comes to the fore during the daily contact of a person with the social environment and other people. Every person accepts the norms of behavior of the narrow and wider social community in which he lives, and these norms have a significant impact on his overall behavior. The psychological approach is very important for explaining the occurrence of deviant behavior. Throughout history, efforts have been made to determine which personality traits characterize a person with criminal behavior. There are more of those features, but they could be reduced to the following number that most authors agree with. These are first of all (Hasković, 2003): low level of intelligence;- emotional instability; low level of tolerance for frustration and aggressiveness; egocentrism; lack of sense of responsibility; motivation; morality; values; time; attitudes, etc.

Likewise, temperament plays an important role in each individual. In science, the best-known division of temperament, according to Hippocrates, into four types (Buljubašić, 2008): a) sanguistic (in these people, feelings prevail over

reason and they make decisions quickly and without much thinking, and this can favor the development of negative behaviors); b) choleric (the characteristic of these people is that they do not have sufficiently balanced traits, they change their moods quickly, they have violent emotions, they are prone to affective states, rudeness, malice and envy); c) melancholic (these people get excited very quickly, are easily offended, have a hard time overcoming life's obstacles and therefore may be tempted to commit a criminal act) and d) phlegmatic (people who are very measured and calm and very little inclined to commit criminal acts) .

In the end, it can be concluded that the perpetrators are not special personalities in a psychological sense that differs from the rest of the entire population. In order to investigate a criminal act, as well as its perpetrator, from a criminological point of view, all elements must be taken into account, as they refer to the very personality of the perpetrator of the criminal act, as well as elements that are part of the cultural, social and any other heritage.

Determining factors influencing criminal behavior in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The security system, which should be the first barrier to criminal behavior, is one of the subsystems in society and has its own "dynamism, comprehensiveness, specificity and transparency." Given these characteristics, the autonomy of its operation must take place within the framework of constitutional and legal norms with civil control and legitimately established government institutions. It is part of a larger social system. It is a system that must investigate, monitor, and analyze from an interdisciplinary point of view various aspects of security which, in given circumstances, due to the plurality of interests, can take on a negative social discourse (Masleša, 2001).

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When the author Korajlić talks about the causes of criminal behavior, he specifically referred to external causes. Thus, he points out that among "external (environmental or sociogenic) factors, according to their importance (scope,

frequency and intensity of action), numerous socio-economic, political-ideological and micro group factors of criminal behavior stand out. (Korajlić, 2012).

Criminal behavior in the territory of the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina is influenced by a large number of parameters, to a greater or lesser extent, but here we would single out a certain number of factors that have a certain importance on the behavior of delinquents. Any such behavior is contrary to the "reign of political rigid pragmatism and voluntarism" (Abazović, 2008). For this purpose, we primarily singled out the following aspects of influence: a) economic crisis, b) unemployment, c) population migration, d) family circumstances, e) education, f) free time, and g) means of mass communication.

a. Economic crisis

The increase in crime is often linked to the emergence and emergence of economic crises. As we have seen, the author Korajlić gave priority to economic crises as the causes of criminal behavior (Korajčić, 2012). The general state of unemployment, poverty, and reduction of material goods favors the appearance of all forms of criminality. This post-war period is exactly such a time when despite the war-ravaged economy, a general crisis appeared at the world level. Economic crises affect the emergence and development of criminal behavior and no society is immune to the occurrence of an economic crisis (Buljubašić, 2008). With the economic crisis, there is generally an increase in the number of crimes related to property crimes. "Difficult material conditions, poverty, and misery are one of the influential immediate criminogenic factors that drag individuals down the path of various deviations and even criminality" (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982). This is completely understandable and justified because in times of economic crises, there is poverty, misery, averageness, an increase in prostitution, alcoholism, gambling, and all other forms of deviant behavior.

Research shows that during economic crises there is a significant increase in the commission of criminal acts, especially property crimes. Hetin obtained data that in 1923, during the crisis, there were 120,000 more delinquents in Germany than in the previous year. Ducpetiaux, based on research in Flanders, pointed out a strong connection between the economic crises of the 19th century and criminality. The Belgian Quetelet also pointed out the connection between criminality and major economic disturbances. It is stated that during the industrial crisis from 1845 to 1857, the number of crimes in Belgium increased by 87% (Buljubašić, 2008). Similar conclusions were reached by many other researchers who conducted research in this field.

Regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina, we can state that it is a country in transition and that it is extremely affected by contemporary world events (wars in

Ukraine and Palestine, unstable situations in many regions, crises in various areas of the world, etc.). The crisis is deepened by war destruction and war damage, the economy is destroyed by the war, and these losses are enormously high. The situation is not good because of poorly implemented privatization, which is linked to many criminal affairs. All this affects the increase in the number of unemployed, impoverishment of citizens, material poverty, and other negative phenomena that can affect the increase in various forms of criminal acts, especially criminal offenses against property.

b. Unemployment

Like other socially retrograde phenomena, unemployment has an extremely important place and has a strong influence on people's behavior and their actions. To a large extent, this action is conditioned by unemployment, that is, whether the behavior will be under legal norms or with norms that violate certain legal provisions (Buljubašić, 2008). If there is high unemployment in the country, of course, this affects the behavior of the unemployed population, as well as having a causal relationship with criminality. "In the literature, it is considered that there is a causal connection between unemployment and criminality, especially the criminality of minors" (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982). Other authors also state unemployment as a criminogenic factor (Korajlić & Dautbegović, 2012). Many studies indicate that a very large number of perpetrators of criminal acts were unemployed at the time of their commission.

Distinguished professor Rajka Mladenović-Kupčević especially points out that "unemployment is one of the factors that exerts a strong influence on people's behavior, including their criminal behavior. It leads to a sharp deterioration in the material conditions of certain classes, especially those individuals who are without employment, so it is also a condition that leads to a worsening of material conditions. This phenomenon, according to many criminologists, leads primarily to the degradation of the family, which is the first to be hit by the negative effect of unemployment." (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we have very pronounced unemployment, so in October 2023, 346,051 unemployed persons were registered. This unemployment affects all generations, and it has a special resonance among the younger population, which does not see prospects, becomes disappointed, and indulges in various forms of deviant and criminal behavior (alcohol, drugs, prostitution, property crimes, etc.). That unemployment is given great importance on a global scale is indicated by the fact that this issue was specifically discussed at the 6th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Delinquents (Buljubasic, 2008: 66).

c. Population migrations

The war events in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the appearance of the economic crisis, poverty, and other phenomena had the effect that there was a significant population migration in these areas. This also led to a significant "shift" of the population from the countryside to the cities, which leads to a change in the way of life that migration produces. There is a weakening of family ties, people become alienated from each other, completely new habits and behaviors are created, greater uncertainty is created for important life issues (job, apartment, etc.), it is easier for conflicts to arise, i.e. to abandoning the old values of life and accepting completely new rules and principles.

According to many authors, such population movements have a significant impact on the emergence and increase of crime and its forms (Buljubašić, 2008). It also affects the volume and structure of criminal acts, and it is believed that criminality will be quite different in this regard among new residents than among residents who are natives there. Tenancy migration as a factor affecting the crime rate is advocated by many authors, and we can also find this in authors from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Korajlić & Dautbegović, 2012).

d. Family occasions

The family "represents the most important social factor in the development of a person's personality because, in the opinion of many authors, it is the first pedagogical arena that can be decisive. The family environment represents the environment that most directly affects the rules of psychophysical development of the personality, because life in the family falls in the first phase of development when the personality's basic traits of character, morals, work, and other habits are formed. It is considered that the family plays a first-class role in the upbringing of the personality in which he acquires his first life experiences and ideas, his views, moral values, habits and tendencies that influence his later behavior. The family gives the basic stamp of the personality, which remains a permanent value, because in the most important phase of development, it begins the socialization process that is necessary for successful adaptation to the social environment." (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is inevitable to re-issue a question that is directed in the direction of war and war events, because the war in these areas has led to the destruction of many families. It is necessary to mention the following factors that can have an impact on the occurrence of criminal activities, namely:

- a) broken family structure,
- b) disruption of relations within the family,
- c) social and economic status of the family.

Regarding the structure of the family, it can be concluded that this structure can be violated in many ways and can take many different forms. This is reflected in the absence of one of the family members, whether it is the death of a family member or possibly divorce, separated life, etc. The incompleteness of the family can have different effects, weaker and stronger adverse effects. The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina had permanent consequences in terms of the disturbed structure of relations within the family, which is reflected in the death of one of the family members, long-term separation that also affected many divorces, very difficult social and economic conditions of the family, unresolved housing issues and other issues that are of crucial importance for the manifestation of criminal behavior.

The authors Petrović and Meško point out that "the past war in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina generated narrow conditions and conditions for the emergence of degraded or destroyed families, such as: separation of families during the war, separation of spouses due to long-term separation, loss of one family member due to war activities, difficult material circumstances as a result of the war, and alcoholism, prostitution and drug addiction. The prevailing opinion is that a degraded family generates criminal behavior, especially juvenile delinquency." (Petrović & Meško, 2008).

Disruption of relationships within the family has a significant impact when committing all forms of delinquent behavior, especially among the younger population (Buljubašić, 2008: 70-72). Many criminologists agree with the statement that families with a formally preserved structure, but with broken relationships within the family itself, are much more risky in terms of the criminal activity of individual members of that family. Conflict situations that continuously occur in the family, frequent consumption of alcohol and drugs by individual family members, expressed violence within the family, all of this leaves negative consequences for all its members, especially children. This produces a whole series of later manifested destructive behaviors that are reflected in criminal activity and satisfying one's needs in an illegal way. In such families, cases of leaving home, being vagrant, aggressive behavior of its members and all forms of crime are not rare.

The socio-economic status of the family plays a very important role in determining the behavior of its members. This status is determined in principle by the level of its income, number of employed members, level of education, housing conditions, etc. This is closely correlated with the emergence and development of economic crises, and these crises have a significant impact on the socio-economic condition of the population of a country (Buljubašić, 2008).

e. Education

Education plays a very important role, especially among the younger population. In Bosnia and Herzegovina in the post-war period, during the period of economic crisis, it is very questionable whether education is at the level required in contemporary world trends. It must be at the highest level and be available to every individual, and considering the socio-economic status of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a completely justified question arises: Is this a real fact today? Only with an increase in the quality of the education system, an increase in the number of highly educated people, there is perspective and hope for a better future, and therefore the reduction of all phenomena that are retrograde for a society. One of these phenomena includes crime as one of the most recent and most dangerous phenomena. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we have three separate education systems (Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian), and the problem of education is especially prominent in the cantons where we have a population of Bosniak and Croat nationality. In those schools, we have "two schools" under the same roof, and divided inter-ethnic relations already occur in the classrooms, and in the later period this can generate delinquent behavior (Buljubašić, 2008).

Education and subsequent personality development depends on a number of factors, among which only a few can be singled out:

- individual characteristics of individuals,
- personal characteristics of teachers,
- interactions between students, as well as interactions between students and teachers,
- the expertise, training and pedagogical traits of teachers and their ability to transfer this to students,
- organization of school classes with a dynamic and interesting curriculum,
- active participation in extracurricular activities.

The relationship between education and delinquent behavior has been discussed in the literature for a long time. "Statistical data show that among delinquents there is a large number of persons with low income and they commit all kinds of criminal acts" (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982).

Educational measures should influence the proper development of children and youth so that they do not resort to deviant behavior. Try to distance them from persons prone to committing criminal acts, because children see them as role models and learn such rules of behavior. Try to reduce their urges to fight, brag, and possibly remove the causes of their possible reticence within themselves, which is not a rare case in the stages of puberty and growing up. Find

them an occupation and a game, apart from books, so that children and young people will abandon the possible fantasy of how to become rich in an easy way, how to leave home, leave their parents, have a pleasant and beautiful life, etc. Try to find an occupation to avoid laziness and boredom. However, in the end, it can be concluded that the influence of schools nowadays is significantly smaller than in earlier periods due to the development of science and technology and due to access to the Internet, so that children and youth can be informed at any time about all events in the whole world, just like adults. However, it also represents a kind of trap and danger due to the misuse of information technology by various persons who have pathological disorders and are prone to various forms of criminality.

Disorders of a person's mental life can be various, but here we would single out the following disorders: anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, somatoform, psychosecular, dissociative, affective, personality disorders (psychopathies) and schizophrenia (Hasković, 2011).

f. Free time

In the field of criminology, a significant issue has recently been devoted to the use of free time. Previous experiences point to the fact that the largest number of criminal acts take place during free time. Research has so far shown that excess free time affects the formation, especially of juvenile gangs. The use of free time has a positive effect on people's behavior, so it can be concluded that if free time is filled with content in the form of employment, learning, sporting events, cultural and artistic manifestations, and the like, that this has a significant positive impact on possible criminal behavior of people.

g. Means of mass communication

The means of mass communication (radio, television, film, newspaper, internet, etc.) have a strong influence on the formation of certain attitudes in each individual (Buljubašić, 2008: 85). Those attitudes can be positive regarding the spread of education, culture and other values of modern society, but they can also have a negative impact. Numerous criminological studies have been carried out in this field. Through the means of mass communication, certain models of personality behavior can be formed, so it will depend on whether a personality with deviant behavior or a personality that will respect the generally accepted norms of social life that apply in modern civilized society will be formed. These influences can be negative, but also positive. It is the responsibility of the entire community to carry out editorial programs, especially those intended for children and the younger population. Those programs should not contain elements of

violence, fraud, falsification and other negative phenomena, so that the viewers would not adopt it as a generally accepted norm of behavior and apply it in real life, because according to "the opinion of some criminologists, juvenile delinquency arises to a considerable extent under the influence of movies poor quality, inadequate content of television, as well as literature" (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982). Juvenile delinquency is a phenomenon or legal and social reality that transcends national geographical boundaries given its criminal nature and certain specificities as well as its undeniable multidisciplinary and multifactorial in terms of criminal etiology (Maloku & Maloku, 2024).

Respected professor Ramo Masleša points out that "the means of mass communication have the task of contributing to the creation, execution and constitution of public opinion with the basic goal of coordinated action of people, because this connection is basically a characteristic of all social phenomena." (Masleša, 1999). Mujo Hasković states that "means of mass communication: newspapers, radio, television and film have a great influence on the process of socialization of personality. In particular, film and television stand out as media that present objects for imitation to consumers through images and words" (Hasković, 2003).

Today, radio has less and less influence, but it still has a certain influence on the behavior of individuals.

Television is one of the most important media that has an influence on the formation of personality and on behaviors that can be deviant. In this regard, numerous researches have been conducted that show that a very significant percentage of shows have and show violence and violent scenes in their content, which can be an example for behavior.

The film has a strong effect on the formation of certain attitudes in people, both positive and negative. Crime, adventure and other films that affect people stand out. In some films, elements of violence prevail, which in any case can affect a person's consciousness and his future behavior, and therefore criminal behavior.

Today, the press is less represented, but still has a significant influence on possible criminal activities through the formation of certain attitudes and prejudices, but with the advent of the Internet, this role has weakened to a significant extent. However, it should be emphasized that "certain criminal events are described sensationally in the press, they are given excessive publicity and moments from the perpetrator's personal life are described" (Mladenović-Kupčević, 1982).

The Internet is a modern medium and nowadays it plays the most important role in creating behavior patterns for many people. All today's activities are monitored on various social networks and almost any content is available to people via the Internet, even those of a criminal nature. We are witnessing the live transmission of many criminal events, even mass murders. We have a recent example in Bosnia and Herzegovina when the murderer from Zavidovići directly broadcast the murder of his wife and some other persons. We have many such examples in the world.

Conclusion

The theory of routine activities left a significant mark on the study of crime in contemporary society. The focus of her research is the manifestations of the criminal situation, which have an emphasis on the perpetrator, the victim and the situation. These are segments that cannot under any circumstances be viewed criminologically separately, but must be scientifically and professionally studied as a set of connected and dependent entities. Only with such an approach can one arrive at an adequate answer that can contribute to the reduction of the overall crime rate. This theory focuses attention on the circumstances in which a criminal act occurs, and with a motivated perpetrator and the absence of social control, without neglecting place and time, the nature of criminal behavior in a wider area is clarified. The essence of the study of the theory is reflected in the answer to three key dimensions in order to reduce criminal behavior, which is the reduction of the motivation of the criminal to commit a criminal act, then the implementation of a series of activities by which the target (the object of the attack) becomes less attractive for the act of attack and finally, increasing the ability/qualification of guards to secure a potential target and provide it with adequate protection.

However, in addition to these three basic dimensions that are the focus of the study of the theory of routine activity, there are also a number of other endogenous and exogenous factors that influence criminal behavior and the overall criminal situation, that is, the crime rate. It is considered that the life of potential perpetrators of criminal acts in a certain geographical area equally affects the patterns of their behavior, both legal and criminal. Patterns of both behaviors are intertwined, networked and occur alternately for each other.

The focus of this paper was precisely some of those factors and their criminogenic significance in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the paper, we emphasized the following factors such as economic crises, unemployment, migration of the population, family circumstances, education, free time and means of mass communication, but we should not ignore some other elements that can

significantly affect the criminality of any country, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will be the subject of future works. Some factors in Bosnia and Herzegovina additionally come to the fore due to the overall socio-political arrangement and the post-war period in which the country is located, so we can state that in a country like Bosnia and Herzegovina, all the shortcomings of its social and political system come to the fore. Namely, the security and other systems in the country are fragmented on several levels, and the organization of the state government is divided between several levels, and thus the security system. All these facts significantly affect the overall security situation and the work of agencies and authorities in the security sector, which directly affects the overall security of citizens and their property, which is not at a satisfactory level.

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