ABSTRACT

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the educational program "8D11401 – Social Work"

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" Practice of social rehabilitation of children subjected to sexual abuse"

General Information about the Dissertation. The aim of the dissertation research is to study the problem of sexual violence against minors in Kazakhstan and identify effective ways of social rehabilitation of child victims. An analysis of official data and media materials for 2015-2025 was conducted to identify the prevalence and regional characteristics of violence. The empirical part used interviews with experts and case studies to study the difficulties and needs of children in the rehabilitation process. Based on international experience, a rehabilitation model adapted to the conditions of Kazakhstan and methodological recommendations for specialists were developed. The results of the study include recommendations aimed at improving the system of social support for children who have become victims of sexual violence.

Relevance of the Research Topic. Social rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence is a very pressing and complex issue at the global and national levels. According to who, every fourth girl and every sixth boy in the world has been subjected to sexual violence before the age of 18. This condition causes long-term damage to the mental and social development of children, leading to depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as difficulties in learning and communication. Recent studies show that the social rehabilitation system lacks effective models, professional training of specialists and insufficient resources. This problem is also relevant in Kazakhstan. According to UNICEF and the government, half of children aged 2 to 14 are subjected to violence in the family or at school. The situation in the Turkestan, Almaty and Karaganda regions is particularly alarming. Such high rates are associated with socio-economic difficulties and cultural stereotypes. Social rehabilitation is an important process aimed at psychological recovery, adaptation to society and restoration of the quality of life of child victims. In the period from 2020 to 2025, Kazakhstan adopted legislative and institutional measures aimed at protecting children. However, the lack of specialists, the lack of crisis centers and the lack of a system of practice hinder effective rehabilitation. In this regard, scientifically based research and improvement of the practice of social rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence is a relevant area for the development of the social protection system of the country's population and ensuring the rights of children.

The subject of this dissertation research includes the analysis of existing methods and approaches to social rehabilitation, identification of factors influencing the success of rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence, as well as their various practices and social rehabilitation programs.

The object of the dissertation research of the dissertation research is the

process of social rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence.

The goal of the dissertation research s to study the practice of social rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence in Kazakhstan, assess its effectiveness and develop a comprehensive social rehabilitation program taking into account international experience.

As part of the research, the following tasks are to be carried out:

- To determine the theoretical and methodological foundations for the study of sexual violence and to provide a comprehensive explanation of the nature of trauma and its consequences.
- A comprehensive analysis of the factors and prevalence of sexual violence against minors in Kazakhstan based on official data and regional specifics.
- To systematize psychological disorders in child victims and identify types of symptoms depending on age and situational features.
- Identification of barriers affecting the effectiveness of rehabilitation of children in family and special centers, and conducting a comparative analysis of foreign rehabilitation practices.
- Development of a comprehensive rehabilitation program and adaptive methods for children, taking into account individual psycho-emotional characteristics.
- Develop methodological recommendations for specialists, taking into account post-traumatic reactions, age characteristics and needs of children.

Chronological framework of the study. The study covers the period 2015–2025. This time interval allows us to analyze the dynamics of sexual violence against children in Kazakhstan, changes in legal and social policies, as well as trends in the development of rehabilitation services. During this period, a number of important legislative reforms were adopted and a set of measures aimed at protecting children were implemented.

Theoretical and Methodological Foundations of the Dissertation The study is based on modern theoretical and methodological approaches to the comprehensive analysis of sexual violence against children. The study used a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative methods - in-depth interviews and case studies with child victims, parents and specialists - allowed for a deeper understanding of psychosocial conditions. Focus group interviews were used to assess the practice of rehabilitation centers. Quantitative methods, including surveys, statistical, correlation and regression analyses, were used to determine the prevalence of violence and its relationship with social factors. This mixed approach increased the reliability and accuracy of the research results. The study also relies on several theoretical foundations. While the theory of victimology (Mendelsohn, von Hentig) focuses on explaining the characteristics of victims of violence, the theory of social learning (Bandura) explains the formation of aggressive behavior in the social environment. The trauma-focused approach (Harris and Fallo) takes into account the psychological needs of victims and is based on support aimed at rehabilitation. In addition, the community-focused approach (Anderson and Johnson) requires the coordinated work of local resources and agencies. This theoretical and methodological

framework provides a comprehensive approach aimed at identifying effective ways of social rehabilitation of children and mitigating the consequences of traumatic experiences.

Scientific novelty of the Research.

The scientific novelty of the study is determined by its relevance and objectives and is characterized by the presentation of new scientific approaches to the social rehabilitation of sexual violence against children.

- A comprehensive analysis of the regional distribution and dynamics of sexual violence against minors in Kazakhstan was conducted based on official data and media materials for the period 2015-2025.
- Using statistical and content analysis methods, the 10-year dynamics of sexual crimes was studied, the main factors influencing their growth were identified.
- An assessment of the current state of the social rehabilitation system in Kazakhstan was carried out, a comparison of the services of state and non-governmental organizations was carried out, structural deficiencies and personnel shortages were identified.
- A comparative analysis of rehabilitation practices in the USA, Canada, Europe and Scandinavia was carried out and effective ways of their adaptation to the conditions of Kazakhstan were proposed.
- An original program for social rehabilitation of children was developed. The program is based on an integrative model that combines psychological, medical and social support.
- A methodological tool for professionals working with victims of sexual violence was developed. It included practical methods and trauma-focused approaches based on international standards.
- The psychosocial state of child victims, their family environment and the consequences of violence were analyzed using the case study method. On this basis, recommendations were developed to reduce victimization.
- Based on a scientometric analysis of 50 articles in the Scopus database, the main directions and new methods of international rehabilitation practice were analyzed and recommendations for Kazakhstan were given.
- Based on in-depth expert interviews, structural and procedural gaps in the rehabilitation system were identified and specific solutions for their elimination were proposed.

Theoretical and practical significance of the Research. This study examines the theoretical foundations of social rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence and conducts a scientific analysis of the characteristics of victimization and the consequences of psychological trauma. The main factors contributing to the effectiveness of the recovery process are also identified. Improving conceptual approaches to social rehabilitation will help protect children's rights, restore their psycho-emotional state, and facilitate their successful adaptation in society. The results of the study allow us to give scientifically based recommendations for improving social policy aimed at protecting children. These recommendations include the development of preventive measures, the introduction of trauma-focused approaches, and

improving the quality and availability of rehabilitation services. In general, this study can serve as a theoretical and practical basis for future scientific research in the field of social work, psychology and juvenile justice.

Key Provisions of the Dissertation Submitted for Defense

1) The relevance of the problem of sexual violence against children is confirmed by its frequent prevalence in the family environment, severe psychological trauma that it inflicts on the victim, as well as the lack of sufficient public discussion of this problem in society. Almost 60% of cases of violence occur in the home, which indicates that it is often hidden.

2) Sexual violence is a consequence of structural inequality. Its spread is facilitated by social injustice, poverty, legal illiteracy and patriarchal culture. Victims are stigmatized in society and experience additional psychological pressure.

3) Cultural barriers and silence make it difficult to provide assistance to children. Public ideas about “reputation” and “shame” force families to remain silent about violence, as a result of which the victim is left alone.

4) The need for social support and a transdisciplinary approach has been identified. Effective assistance to children requires interaction between social, psychological, medical and legal structures.

5) The problems of the rehabilitation system in Kazakhstan are the fragmentation of services, weak interdepartmental communication, and the lack of specialists. The existing system is often unable to fully meet the needs of children.

6) Specific cases revealed long-term consequences for victims - self-doubt, post-traumatic stress disorder, and difficulties with self-acceptance. However, some victims turned this experience into a way to help others.

Scientific and Practical Significance of the Research.

This study examines in detail the theoretical foundations of social rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence, analyzes the factors influencing victimization, psychological trauma and the recovery process. Improving conceptual approaches to social rehabilitation will help protect children's rights, restore psycho-emotional stability and social adaptation. The results of the study substantiate the need to develop recommendations aimed at improving social policy - developing preventive programs, introducing trauma-oriented methods, improving the quality of rehabilitation services. This study can serve as a basis for future scientific research in the field of social work, psychology and juvenile justice.

Justification of the novelty and significance of the results obtained in the dissertation. The novelty of the research results lies in the fact that they are based on a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach in the field of social rehabilitation of children who have been subjected to sexual violence. The dissertation is the first to combine regional content and statistical analysis of sexual violence in Kazakhstan in the period from 2015 to 2025, identifying relevant trends and structural deficiencies at the national level. In addition, the study developed an integrative author's program adapted to the conditions of Kazakhstan, comparing international rehabilitation practices. This program

offers a model of family and community support focused on overcoming trauma and combining psychological, medical and social services into one channel. The methodological toolkit developed within the framework of the dissertation is a document of great practical importance and aimed at increasing the professional competence of specialists and improving the quality of the rehabilitation process. In addition, using the case study method, the long-term consequences of victims were analyzed and specific recommendations were formulated to reduce victimization. Thus, the dissertation work is particularly important in terms of its theoretical depth, as well as its practical focus and potential for influencing social policy.

Doctoral Candidate's Publications. The study was conducted in accordance with the principles of academic integrity and scientific ethics. The research results were published in the form of scientific articles in 3 domestic publications recommended by the State Committee for Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as 1 article in journals included in the Scopus database, and 9 articles in the proceedings of international scientific and practical conferences. Based on the results of the dissertation research, 13 scientific articles were published.

Structure of the work.

It consists of an introduction, main part, conclusion, list of references and appendices. The total volume of the dissertation is 247 pages.