

Abstract

This thesis aims to convey knowledge from various fields (victimology, law, psychology, criminology) to the general public and create a basic overview of situations and ensuing responses commonly experienced by crime victims. The emphasis is distinctly directed towards the psychological dimensions of victimization, offering insights into the emotional experiences of victims and their subsequent behavioral manifestations. The first part of the text focuses attention on defining victimology, its origin, the founders and other important personalities of this scientific field and the period of its greatest flourishing. It also traces the historical shift in the victim's role, which initially played a pivotal role in the investigation of criminal acts and the punishment of perpetrators. However, with societal development, the victim gradually lost its importance, and its role was limited to providing testimony. The second section delves into the concept of the victim of a crime, explaining victimization and exploring the typology of victims. At the same time, it describes in more detail specific groups of victims, such as children, the elderly and victims of domestic violence, and the peculiarities that distinguish them from ordinary victims. Additionally, it analyzes widespread myths about victims. The third section covers primary, secondary, and tertiary victimization, as well as the concept of revictimization or recurrent victimization. Special attention is paid to secondary victimization, including its sources (law enforcement agencies, the media, and the victim's social environment), ways of inflicting secondary victimization, and potential consequences. The fourth section outlines the psychological impact of crimes on victims and the factors that can intensify or, on the contrary, reduce these effects. In addition to a general reaction such as post-traumatic stress disorder, it also touches on several specific victim syndromes, including the battered person syndrome, CAN (child abuse and neglect), and trauma resulting from sexual assault, colloquially known as "rape trauma".