Types of extremism and methods of its prevention

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Processes of social life modernization can lead to inter-ethnic conflicts. At this point there appear different opposition groups which are trying to achieve their targets via terrorist actions. Sadly, they involve young people in their unlawful activities.

Recently the following alarming symptoms have appeared among teenagers:
- Social and political infantilism
- Demonstration of individualism and egocentrism
- Authoritarian orientation in communication
- The demand to accept their opinion ignoring other opinions
- Deviant and criminal behavior
- Aggressive nationalism
Extremism is an adherence to extreme ideas, views and actions

Characteristics of extremism are:
• Violence
• Unilateral perception of matters and ways of their solution
• Aspiration to force other people to accept only their own opinion
• Fanaticism
• Speculating on feelings, instincts, and prejudices

There are several regulatory documents which control actions for extremism prevention:
• Constitution of the Russian Federation
• Federal law «On counteraction to extremist actions»
• Decree of the President on measures of fighting against fascism and others forms of political extremism
• Criminal law of the Russian Federation
• «Strategy of the Russian Federation`s national safety for 2030»
Types of extremism:
• Political
• Nationalistic
• Religious
• Youth
• Ecological
• Anti-globalist
• Moral

Reasons for extremism are:
• Social-economical crises
• Deformation of political and ideological institutes
• Sharp decrease in living standards
Intellectual and moral degradation gives rise to extremism

The typical slogan of a person with a low level of intellect is: «There are two opinions – mine and wrong».

An immature person has several characteristics:

- Peremptory statements
- Intolerance to criticism
- Unwillingness to hear other people
- Inability to understand the other person
- The habit to follow instincts and use strength, but not mind
The psychological barrier «friend or foe» is the most important cause of extraordinary extremist behaviour. Belonging to a group of people gives a person a sense of confidence and self-worth and helps overcome this barrier.
The manifestation of intolerance

- Xenophobia
- Negative ethnic identity
- Interethnic tensions
- Nationalism
- Racism
- Chauvinism
- Fascism

The age range of extremist-minded children and teenagers and youth groups ranges from 12-13 to 30 years old, at the same time, teens and young people aged 15 to 18 show the greatest criminal activity.
Kinds of informal groups

Asocial safe groups:
- Directions of hip-hop culture
- Informal sports
- “Fan” movement

Subculture plays a significant role in the lives of children, teens, and young people – it forms their socio-psychological resistance to diversity.
Kinds of informal groups

Antisocial unsafe groups adhering to extremist ideology:

- Skinhead movement
- Wahhabism
- Satanism
- Political movement "Russian National Unity"
Reasons for teenagers’ involvement in informal associations and groups

• The need to communicate with peers
• Teenagers start asking many questions about themselves
• They need to feel that they are secure, understood, and valued by others

At that very moment, informal groups become the environment where a teenager can realize his or her personal qualities.
Who is at risk? Who is the easiest person for extremists to target?

The most vulnerable environment for the penetration of extremist ideas is school students with an unformed and easily influenced psyche, and also University students.

The inability to implement their plans becomes a significant basis for social dissatisfaction and, as a result, the basis for extremist sentiments and actions.
Prevention of extremism involves taking action against extremist activity, including the identification and subsequent elimination of the causes and conditions which can lead to extremist activity.

Extremist activity is:

- Terrorist activity
- Incitement of social, racial, national or religious hatred
- Propaganda of exclusivity on any grounds
- Violation of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of a person and a citizen, depending on their personal views
- Obstruction to the lawful activities of state bodies
- Propaganda and public display of Nazi paraphernalia or symbols
- Public calls for the production and distribution of extremist materials
- Incitement to radical action
What should we do to prevent the emergence of new extremists?

The main task of state bodies, local self-government bodies, and all sound forces in the society is to ensure the prevention of extremism in order to exclude or minimize the very possibility of the emergence and development of extremism among young people.
Methods taken on the prevention of youth extremism

1. Improving methods of family policy aimed at increasing the role of the family in the formation of personality.

2. Creation of children's public organizations.

3. Organization of leisure time for young people. The use of resources for the implementation of leisure with the view to a person’s creative and physical development.
Areas of work on the prevention of extremism and terrorism in the educational process:

1. Informing young people about extremism and the danger of extremist organizations

2. Working out the measures against extremist offenses

3. Monitoring the appearance of the child and the way they spend their free time, use the Internet and mobile phone;

4. Promoting a healthy and cultural lifestyle among young people

5. Development of tolerance in adolescents, increasing their social competence

6. Destroying children's biases and stereotypes in the field of interpersonal communication

7. Teaching children to appreciate diversity and differences, respect the dignity of each person

8. Creating conditions for reducing aggression and tension

9. Creating alternative forms of realizing the extreme potential of young people
Thank you for your attention!