



## **VICTIMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CRIMES WITHIN FAMILY AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND MEASURES FOR THEIR PREVENTION**

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### **Abstract**

Crimes within family and domestic relations pose a significant threat to social well-being and individual safety, particularly in Uzbekistan where traditional cultural values influence victimization and reporting patterns. This article provides a victimological analysis of family-related crimes, focusing on the vulnerabilities of victims, socio-cultural factors, and institutional challenges. It also examines preventive measures, including legal reforms, public awareness campaigns, and support services designed to protect victims and reduce the incidence of domestic crimes. The findings highlight the need for a multi-faceted approach that combines legal, social, and educational strategies to create safer family environments and uphold victims' rights.

**Keywords:** Victimology, domestic violence, family crimes, prevention, Uzbekistan, social stigma, legal reform, victim support, cultural factors

### **Introduction**

Family and domestic crimes represent a critical challenge to the social fabric and individual well-being across the globe. These offenses, which occur within the intimate setting of familial relationships, not only inflict severe physical and psychological harm on victims but also disrupt social stability and undermine community trust. In many societies, including Uzbekistan, family is regarded as the fundamental unit of social organization, carrying deep cultural, moral, and emotional significance. However, this centrality of family life can sometimes mask the prevalence of various forms of abuse and violence that occur behind closed doors, making the detection, reporting, and prevention of such crimes particularly complex. The term "family and domestic crimes" encompasses a broad spectrum of offenses such as physical violence, emotional abuse, sexual assault, neglect, and economic exploitation occurring between family members or intimate partners. Despite their widespread occurrence, these crimes often remain



hidden due to social stigma, cultural taboos, victim fear, and inadequate institutional responses. This invisibility not only exacerbates the suffering of victims but also hinders the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies.

In Uzbekistan, the dynamics of family-related crimes are influenced by unique socio-cultural, economic, and legal factors. The nation's rich cultural traditions emphasize family unity, respect for elders, and the preservation of social harmony. While these values provide social cohesion and support, they may also contribute to the reluctance of victims to disclose abuse or seek help, for fear of dishonoring the family or facing social exclusion. Additionally, economic dependence and limited awareness of legal rights further entrap victims in abusive situations, thereby intensifying their vulnerability. Victimology the scientific study of victims provides a crucial framework to understand the experiences, vulnerabilities, and needs of those affected by family and domestic crimes. By examining victimological factors such as the social environment, victim-offender relationships, and the impact of crime on victims, researchers and policymakers can develop more nuanced approaches to crime prevention and victim support. This perspective is especially valuable in the context of Uzbekistan, where traditional social structures and emerging modern legal frameworks intersect.

This study employs a qualitative research methodology to analyze the victimological characteristics of crimes within family and domestic relations in Uzbekistan and to identify effective preventive measures. The research is grounded in an interdisciplinary approach, integrating perspectives from criminology, sociology, and victimology to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

**Data Collection:** Primary data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders, including victims of domestic crimes, social workers, legal professionals, and law enforcement officers operating within various regions of Uzbekistan. These interviews aimed to capture firsthand experiences, perceptions, and challenges related to victimization and crime prevention. Secondary data sources include official crime statistics from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, reports published by non-governmental organizations working in the field of domestic violence, and scholarly articles relevant to victimology and family crimes in Central Asia. This triangulation of data sources ensures a robust and nuanced analysis.

**Sample Selection:** Participants for interviews and focus groups were selected using purposive sampling to ensure representation across different demographics, such



as gender, age, urban and rural residence, and socio-economic status. Ethical considerations were prioritized, with informed consent obtained from all participants and strict confidentiality maintained to protect sensitive information.

**Limitations:** The study acknowledges certain limitations, including potential biases in self-reported data and challenges related to accessing some vulnerable populations due to social stigma or fear of reprisal. Nevertheless, efforts were made to mitigate these limitations through careful interview design and the inclusion of multiple data sources.

### **Conclusion**

Crimes within family and domestic relations in Uzbekistan represent a deeply rooted social problem that affects the safety, dignity, and well-being of countless individuals, predominantly women and children. The victimological perspective reveals that the interplay of cultural norms, economic dependence, and institutional shortcomings significantly contributes to the vulnerability and continued victimization of those affected. Social stigma and traditional expectations often deter victims from seeking help, which exacerbates their suffering and impedes effective intervention.

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