



## Criminological Explanation of the Impact of Child Victimization on their Delinquency

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### ABSTRACT

Today, the modern upheavals and approaches in the field of applied criminology have led the social sciences researchers in general and the criminal psychology researchers in particular, to focus on the other side of the criminal act, which is the victimization, more than ever. The findings of these sciences indicate that many of the society's members are more exposed to the victimization due to the biological, psychological, and social attributes, as they can be known as the potential victims. Meanwhile, the children, due to the weakness in their physical state and psyche, constitute the largest group of potential victims. Protection of the victimized children, in addition to prevention from their revictimization, can prevent from changing them into a criminal in the future. In this regard, the criminal psychology science has tried to mitigate the psychological distress of children by not only bringing the victim back to pre-victimization status but also preventing him/her from taking personal revenge and hostile reactions in the future. The authors, followed by the advancements, have tried to discuss the modern solutions provided by the criminal psychology as one of the specialist fields of criminology to prevent the children victimization; solutions such as group therapy, play therapy, mixed support groups, and changing the architecture of the victim children courts.

**Keywords:** victimized children, children victimization, children criminality, supportive measures, criminal psychology

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Basically, the criminology divides the crimes' victims into different spectrums such as the latent victim, stimulating victim, innocent victim, guilty victim, and potential victim, by focusing on the relationships between the criminal and the victim. In this division, the women, the children, the elderly, the needy, the poor, and all those who are exposed to more vulnerability, are included as the potential victims (Philizola and Lopez, 2010, 53). Therefore, based on the rational choice theory and the economic benefits of the crime, it can be imagined that the criminals, for their criminal acts, choose their victims from among those who are potentially more vulnerable so that they can easily earn more benefits with lower costs. Among the more potentially vulnerable victims, some such as the children, based on the physical power shortcomings, and the specific social status and psychological state are more exposed to victimization. Many of the potential criminals also consider these advantageous shortcomings in the initial stages of crime commitment (planning, designing the criminal act, and provision of means for committing a crime) and prefer to choose those with the least costs as their target. What is definite is that the lack of special attention to this group of victims and adoption of a proper approach towards them in the codification of the penal laws and the lack of necessary differential penal policies as well as special

protection of them can, in addition to exposing them to more victimization, change them into child criminals (Safari and Javadi Hedayatabad, 2013, 12).

Contemplating in the Islamic Penal Code enacted in 2013 and Criminal Procedure Code of 2013, it can be concluded that although the legislator has considered the protection of the child criminals with a modernist approach, the child victim and victimization has not been addressed duly. Thus, it has remained ignored by the legislator.

The legislator's protection of the child criminals can be seen in several cases in the Islamic Penal Code of 2013; for example, the legislator, in the first book of the mentioned law and the Chapter 10, has addressed the punishments and supportive and educative measures of the children and adolescent with a differential approach from other groups. For example, in the Articles 88 to 92, the legislator, based on the convict's age and the crime committed, have predicted specific measures as the punishment for the children and adolescent and also, in the Criminal Procedure Code of 2013, by adopting some measures, has tried to increase the protection from the criminal child, taking a differential approach.

The authors in the current study, with the assumption that the child victimization can be duly and greatly focused through the achievements of the criminal psychology, and effective steps can be taken to prevent from worsening of the victimization and juvenile delinquency, have divided the content of the current study into the significant relationship between the criminal psychology achievements, and the victimization and delinquency of the children and the ways to prevent it.

### 1) The Significant Relationship of the Child Victimization Effect on their Delinquency:

The childhood requirements demand the criminal justice system to adopt different measures for the children and adolescents compared to others, and thus, criminal justice would move towards a differential policy. Basically, these measures (including what is done to confront the child criminal and protect the child victim) and the legislator's approach to the children's victimization and delinquency are reflected in the penal laws and the executive regulations. The adoption of these specific measures towards the child victims and criminals is very important from two aspects:

First, regarding the fact that the people's personality is formed at a low age, and childhood and adolescence play an important role in this regard, the probability that the maladaptive children become professional criminals in the future would be very high. Therefore, the treatment of the child criminals must be in a way that the prediction and anticipation must be considered more than anything else. In this regard, numerous studies have been done on the way of reaction to the child criminals and the Iranian legislator has also, by exploiting these achievements, particularly in Chapter 10 of the Islamic Penal Code of 2014 and some articles of the Criminal Justice Procedure of 2013, has adopted widespread measures. The prediction of these cases, compared to former ones, and adoption of a moderate and more scientific approach which is the outcome of the modern criminology studies, indicate the acceptance of a gradual responsibility system and application of reactions of supportive and educative nature, which is rare in the Iranian laws, and in this regard, it is one of the important steps in the advancement of the differential justice system for the child criminals.

Second, it should be noted that in the juvenile delinquency area, we are not always faced with child criminals, but in many cases, we are faced with children who are victimized. In this regard, merely punishing the criminal would not suffice, since the victimized child has incurred loss and damages which would not be compensated by merely punishing the criminal, and some measures have to be taken to ameliorate his/her mental and spiritual damages and protect him/her so that by doing so, the victimized child would not opt to get revenge from the criminal or the society, and himself-herself would not become a criminal.

What was mentioned so far indicate that the other side of the coin is the victimization of the children in the field of the children and adolescent-related crimes. However, unfortunately, no codified and specified program to protect the victimized children has been prepared so far, while basically, the childhood is considered as the most vulnerable growth period, because the children are more exposed to victimization due to their inability in protecting themselves and weakness in the detection and showing abrupt and timely reactions, so the importance of paying attention to victimized children is doubled. The damages incurred by the crimes committed against this vulnerable group sometimes lead to the decrease in their self-esteem and lack of social-familial security in the victimized children, forcing them to develop a sense of hatred and animosity to their surrounding world, due to deprivation from their rights. Therefore, it seems that paying attention to the fact that how much such conditions can increase the

children's delinquency in adolescence and adulthood and that the legal centers can use what methods to decrease these damages, are among the matters that can reduce the possible damages.

The complexity of the matter of delinquency has directed the different disciplines' researchers to investigate it and its reasons from different aspects. Some have investigated it from the psychological point of view, some from the sociological point of view, and some from the legal and criminological point of view. Some of these studies which are somehow related to the subject of the current study are noted in the following.

Some studies, by focusing on the familial factors, consider the individual's family as one of the reasons behind the tendency of the adolescents to delinquency. For example, the results obtained by Anderson (2002) indicate that the probability of committing a criminal act by the adolescents living in a single-parent family or distressed families is higher (Anderson, 2002, 585). In this regard and another study, Hoffman concluded that the adolescents who live in more distressed families and the parents have less supervision on their behaviors and acts, are more likely to tend to the criminal behaviors (Hoffman, 2003, 753). Sacker et al. also in a study on 165 juvenile criminals using the interview, concluded that most of the juvenile criminals had crowded, distressed, and immigrant families which were low in terms of economy and education, and practically, there were not enough supervision and control in them (Sacker et al., 2005, 430-441). Finally, the results obtained by Hoggan and Foster indicated that the boys are more delinquent than girls and the adolescents in the single-parent families are more inclined towards delinquency (Hoggen and Foster, 2003, 68).

In the domestic scale also, the study on the youth detained in one of the prisons in Tehran can be noted which indicate that the familial distress is one of the effective factors in juvenile delinquency (Ahmadi, 2005, 133). The children with specific cognitive attributes compared to other children are more prone to showing aggressive bullying and disobedient behavior. In particular, children who are easily prone to emotional responses (high arousal) appear to be often more irritable, weaker in adjusting their habits, more active or impulsive, and less attentive than children who do not have these negative mood characteristics (Taherinia, 2013, 211).

Some other researchers also, by focusing on the social reasons, consider the unsuitable friends among the reasons behind showing delinquent behavior. For example, based on the study by Chun and Scheinberg, most of the crimes committed by adolescents have been done in a group and relation with the perverse friends (Chung and Schteinberg, 2006, 320). In a study on the reasons behind the juvenile delinquency in Mashhad conducted 1997, besides the familial factors which led to the individual's escape from home, the involvement with the unsuitable friends and environment are also named as factors leading to the juvenile abnormalities and deviancy (Sarabandi, 1997, 119-120).

Among the reasons behind juvenile delinquency which has been less addressed by the domestic studies and is the subject of the current study, is the effects of the children's and adolescents' victimization on their future delinquent behaviors. Child abuse is among the crimes addressed by the Protective Law of the Children and Adolescents of 2003. The research achievements in the field of criminal psychology

indicate that committing this crime against the children and adolescents (especially those under 18 who are under the protection of the mentioned law) can have destructive effects on their biological, psychological and social character, and pave the way for their future delinquency.

It is doubly important about the children in that some criminal psychologists believe that the abuse in the childhood is effective in attachment, feelings, emotions, self-esteem and self-confidence, depression and anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental illness of personality disorders. Having a record of any kind of abuse decreases the victimized child's self-esteem (McCalley, 1997, 1362-1368). The studies conducted in this regard show that these victimized children have low self-esteem and suffer from hopelessness. In fact, the sense of attachment, dissatisfaction, low self-control, high negative emotions, negativism, and lack of sense of humor are among the emotional problems of such people; people who extremely feel bad about their victimization (Johnson, 2004, 179).

Also, the clinical and social studies in this field have confirmed the relationship between the child abuse and depression in adulthood; based on a study done by Brown in 2000 on 776 persons, the adolescents, and adults who have been treated badly in their childhood, are three times more likely to be depressed than others, which provides the basis for their delinquency; meanwhile, the sexual abuse has had the highest effects on the adolescents' depression (Brown, 2000, 677-8). Another study conducted by the use of the SCL\_90 questionnaire, it was indicated that people with a record of abuse in childhood, are more likely to become paranoid and show symptoms of psychosis (Harter and Taylor, 2000, 36).

In this regard and based on the recent criminal psychology findings, the post-victimization depression disorder in the children can emerge instantly or years after victimization. Such children may have physical symptoms, get angry, or feel guilt, or even have repeated memories and constant fear of victimization. Also, eating disorders, breakdown disorders such as escape and multi-personality disorder, physical complaints, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and emotional disorders have been observed in victimized children (Harter and Taylor, 2000, 39). The research findings on the male victimized children also indicate that feelings such as self-blame, feeling guilty for being a victim, these children's attitude to themselves as a failed person, prey or a toy, a feeling of inadequacy, and not being a lovely person have been observed among such people (Lonthal, 1999, 208).

What is important of note in this regard is that the results of the similar domestic studies also confirm the international studies' results. For example, a study to investigate the effects of victimization on the emotional and personality traits of the adolescents in Isfahan conducted on the female high school students and in a comparison between the normal and victimized girls, it was observed that there is a significant difference between the normal and victimized girls in terms of self-esteem, socialization, good perception, health, mental performance, psychological level of tolerance and ability to acquire a base ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Naghavi et al., 2005, 218-221).

What can be considered as a criminological analysis with regards to the above research achievement is that the victimized children have a lower self-confidence compared to the normal children because such children, due to inability in

repelling the damage and crime, experience a feeling of inability and weakness. These children, due to the lack of attention by their guardians, undergo damage and abuse, and experience the feeling of guilt and being unwanted and not being lovely which itself creates a wave of anger towards the surrounding world in their ego. Such conditions direct these people to show their inner anger to their surrounding world in different manners and it would definitely lead to the increase in impulsivity, inattentiveness to social behaviors, incidence of antisocial behaviors and, ultimately, the tendency of the victimized child to commit the crime. As a result, the delinquency level in the victims can be increased compared to normal people. In fact, since the victimized children feel that they have been deprived of their rights, they become rebellious against a world that is unsafe and cruel in their point of view. This reaction cannot lack violence and aggression. The Pakdahst children's case can be a clear example. "Bijeh" the serial killer of the children in Pakdashst, had stated in his confessions that he himself has been raped in childhood and he wanted to get revenge from society by killing the children. Also, not so long ago in Mashhad, we witnessed a case in which someone known as the "old hyena" about 60 years old, had taken 63 girls from 7 to 9 years old into his car after deceiving them and raped them in deserted areas and under-construction buildings. He also, like Bijeh, was raped in childhood.

What has been addressed so far is only a part of the statistics and achievements of the valuable research during years of studying the children's victimization. As seen in the analyses, the child victimization incurs numerous damages to this potentially vulnerable group and prepares the platform for their future delinquency. Now, through understanding the importance of this subject, we seek to discuss the suggestions provided by psychology, to reduce these damages. Some of the important suggestions provided by the science of psychology in this regard are the use of group therapy as a common method, the mixed supportive groups, game therapy, changing the architecture of the child courts, and regular desensitization.

## 2) Preventing the Victimized Children Delinquency from the Criminal Psychology Point of View:

Plato is one of the first persons speaking about crime prevention. He believed that the punishment should not be merely used as a revenge of the past, but the future must be prepared through it. He believed that the law must prevent the criminal from committing the crime again (Buleck, 2003, 15). However, as the history of the legal upheavals and the criminal schools indicate, what is practically raised after the punishment and the ways to react to the crime, is crime prevention. What has been prioritized by the criminal justice authorities has been the crime and then, the criminal's character. With the passage of time and emergence of the criminology in the last few centuries, the crime prevention was taken more seriously and scientifically, and the theories, followed by the criminal/penal policies, were proposed aiming to prevent the crimes.

Psychology also, like other sciences that help with applied criminology, can aid the prevention of crime by the provision of the mechanism that are the outcomes of years of experience, and error and trials in this science. The five mechanisms as the

“group therapy, mixed- supportive group therapy, play therapy, changing the architecture of children courts, and the regular desensitization” are all among the modern effective mechanism which is nowadays recommended as the efficient criminal psychology tools used by the criminal psychologists to prevent delinquency of the victimized children. Meanwhile, the group therapy and play therapy are among the examples of clinical prevention, the change in the architecture of the children courts is among the examples of descriptive prevention, and finally, the regular desensitization is among the examples of the social prevention.

### 2-1) Group Therapy:

The group therapy as a solution to prevent the aggression in the general sense and the child delinquency in the specific sense has been addressed by the criminal psychologists for a few decades. The achievements of this solution, not only from the theoretical point of view but also from the empirical point of view, have proved that with the help of this solution, effective steps can be taken to prevent juvenile delinquency.

The main process in the group therapy procedure is acquaintance and exploration. During this stage, the group members get acquainted with each other and the group's functions and codify the visible and invisible abnormalities which would rule the group behavior. They explore their fears and hopes about the group, clarify their expectations, specify the personal goals, and estimate whether this group is a safe place or not. The attributes of this stage include the expression of the fears and doubts in addition to their hopes and expectations. The way of a leader's treatment of such reactions determines the trust that can be created in the group (Moazen Zadegan and Khodadadi, 2013, 219-221).

Group therapy has been introduced as the select therapy of the victimized people. The groups, in the relationships damaged by the interpersonal violence, rebuild the feeling of unity and connection. The groups help the people who feel despair due to symptoms of the victimization, especially those beaten by their husbands or raped, to obtain knowledge and recognition of their reactions and experiences. This group which is called 'the surviving victims' tolerate the integration of the damaging memories and create a wider domain of feelings and investigate the memories that stimulate more intolerable feelings. Some psychologists working in the field victimization compared a group for treatment of the rape victims (N=7) with a control group (N=6). In the 20<sup>th</sup> session, the improvement of the participants in terms of fears related to rape, accommodation, the intervention symptoms as well as improvement in the depression status was quite obvious. Therefore, the group therapy experience, especially for the victims, shows that it can be used as a healing mechanism that can clear the victim's emotions, and its continuance can eliminate the grounds for the creation of anger in the victim for getting revenge from the criminal or the society (Khodadadi, 2013, 23-24). This useful mechanism can be also used in the imprisonment period (which has unfortunately become a good space for learning crimes in our country and paves the way for repeating the crime after being released from detention) to prevent the repetition of the crime.

### 2-2) Mixed Supportive Groups:

The mixed supportive groups have also managed to play a significant role in the amelioration of the damages due to child victimization and consequently, as will be explained, prevention of future delinquencies, as one of the modern achievements of criminal psychology. This mechanism, with a modern pattern and method which is designed by the clinical psychologists, can reduce the probability of the victimized children's delinquency if implemented in several phases (Wolf and Jif, 1999, 136). The main function of this mechanism is more manifested in the victimization due to sexual and physical harassment.

Similar to the support groups in general, supportive group therapy is more used for sexual harassment victims. In this mechanism, the group members share their experiences and provide emotional support which usually ends in the reduction of isolation; then, the victim would find out that other people have gone through a similar experience. Also, having something in common, even a point, with others probably leads to accreditation and normality of the common reactions to the rape.

Based on what was mentioned above, it seems that the group therapy is essential for the victim children and adolescents and perhaps, the hypothesis that if the children and adolescents are placed in one group in a mix, and the girls find out that even the boys are not immune to incidents such as the rape, severe physical/sexual harassment, etc., they would show less anger to their own sex as well as the opposite sex. In fact, the girls would find out that they not exploited solely because of their sex. Therefore, based on the sensitivity and gentleness this treatment needs, it must be implemented by a skillful therapist so that the possible consequences can be reduced. Also, the participants must be ready in advance, and the group's space must be in a way that teaches the children and adolescents to face the reality even if it is painful and suffering, however, it is the whole reality of the world. The role of the group leader in changing the children's and adolescents' attitudes can be very significant. The girls harassed by men, if they receive a good feeling from the male therapist and the group, can gradually replace the former negative gender scheme with a positive one. In terms of the male victim children harassed by men, this group also can provide a suitable space for optimal imitation.

### 2-3) Play Therapy:

Undoubtedly, the play is a natural means by which the children can express their inner emotions and feelings. In some cases also, it can have a therapeutic role, because children's language development occurs later than their cognitive development. Thus, their only way to communicate with their surrounding environment is playing. In the play therapy, the toys are the same as the words and the play is their language (Brighton, 2005, 376-390).

It seems that play therapy is a set which is started by the free and unguided model and ends with the specific techniques along with the predetermined processes. The free play therapy emphasizes the child's ability in the selection of the toys and tools which show his/her emotions and feelings in the best way. The child uses these tools to explore the internal and external experiences and solve the problems based on their abilities and the time needed. Some believe that play therapy is a method in which the therapist is the director. His activities are intended for forming the program, implementing the

intervention, achieving the goals and setting the time of play (Samadi, 2010, 69-70).

Play therapy is one of the commonest methods the clinical psychologists, the psychiatrists, and consultants use to treat the emotional problems of the children, a clear example of which can be child abuse. A child for whom the official interview can be an uncomfortable and unpleasant situation would feel more comfortable when seeing the toys. The play in the treatment of the children is a communicative tool comparable to the adults' words (the adults' communicative mean). Different games and toys are the children's words and if chosen correctly, can provide the child with a chance to express their feelings and problems exactly as they have experienced them.

In fact, the play therapy is a unique learning experience for the children which is done in the most suitable situation for their desirable growth promotion, and in this regard, from a transformational perspective, has goals in line with the school; in other words, the play paves the way for learning about the 'self' and the 'world' by children. In fact, in a threatening condition or the lack of security, endangering yourself, researching yourself and finding yourself doesn't seem very likely. The amount of the possible learning experience is directly related to the play therapist's success in creating a safe environment in which the children feel they are completely accepted and feel secure to the extent that they take the risk to find their emotional self and express it. This situation is not a conscious decision by the children, but it is the result of a relaxed environment that is free of criticism, suggestions, admiration, opposition or striving to change them, and the children are accepted as they are (Landerth, 2011, 106-7).

In this regard, some believe that children can play when they do not feel mental pressure. In fact, the play quality can be considered as the indicator of the mental pressure a child experiences. Also, some researchers believe have tried to compare how the victims of different abuses play. The difference between the victims of sexual harassment and physical harassment is so significant. The children subject to sexual harassment were much more passive than the control group's children, however, they were not antisocial or negative. These children never made problems and usually played by themselves calmly. On the contrary, the children subject to physical harassment, although usually being inactive, were a little more aggressive. They were rebellious, uncommunicative, and antisocial, and these traits are exactly the clues that may lead the teacher to the inference that these children have problems in their life and require more scrutiny. Nevertheless, the children subject to sexual harassment showed less attention. Their playing was definitely different from the norms, but this difference may be ignored by someone who knows little about the normal process of playing and does not know that the play can reveal interesting things about the child's psychological world (Peter Hughes, 2012, 251).

The common method of treating the children subject to the abuse is distancing them from home and in fact, the place in which they have been abused. However, by such action, the internal dynamism of the child's reaction to the abuse would survive and won't be vanished. The emotional dynamism due to the abuse must be adjusted by a dynamic and equal treatment method such as the methods created by the

communication made by play therapy. The children subject to the abuse cannot be expected to express their experiences and reactions verbally, because they do not possess the verbal-cognitive ability for doing so. Abused children come from unstable environments. The communication stemmed from the play therapy would make a quite stable environment for them. An environment without which the child would not feel safe and it is a predictable aspect of the security which allows the child to express his/her feelings, explore, and relieve deep emotional pain through the play. The abuse and ignorance would lead to the creation of serious problems in the children and make him/her communicative problems. The play therapy would provide a suitable and essential tool for these children allowing them to create adaptive and coping mechanisms based on their own abilities (Samadi, *ibid*, 253).

Since the play therapy provides the child with an environment to express his problems in his own language, it uncovers the hidden layers of child's mind, thus this method not only helps with discovery of the damaged aspects of the child but also its companion "catharsis" reduces the child's stress and anxiety. The children, based on the damage they have been imposed by the environment, must receive different styles of play therapy in similar groups. In this process, the child expresses his feelings freely, since this method separates the children from their 'self', experiences, and routine incidents. Finally, this mechanism which is recommended to be used in the country's welfare centers, can eliminate the complexities which are the consequences of the victimization in these children to a high extent, and remove the intentions that can lead to delinquency in adulthood.

#### **2-4) The Change in Architecture of the Children Courts:**

As was mentioned at the beginning of this article, in terms of the investigation of the juvenile delinquency, the legislator has predicted specific measures in the Islamic Penal code and Criminal Justice Code, however, the mere prediction of such measures is not enough to secure the children and in other words, it is the necessary condition and not the sufficient one. If the court's environment is designed proportionate to children's age, he/she would perceive the respect from the environment intended for him/her and can do better in expressing what he/she has been through. Many of the hairdressers and doctors working in the field of the children decorate their places in a childish style and it is observed that the child, despite the fear of such places, is calm in such environments. It seems that the change in architecture can be effective in children's view of the security in the court and consideration of the law executors as their protectors. Unfortunately, such an attitude has not been dominant in our courts of justice so far, and no separate buildings for the children courts have been intended. Such a big shortcoming sometimes leads the children to stand beside some dangerous criminals in the courts' corridors.

Undoubtedly, telling the damages imposed to the child in a space designed proportionately with his/her spirits is easier for him/her and it can even have medical aspects. Otherwise, the child may feel pressure again and the continuance and institutionalization of the pains may lead to future delinquency. Therefore, using the architectural experts' ideas for designing courts specific to the victimized children that can help with the efficiency of the investigation on the one hand

and the mentioned cases, on the other hand, seems to be suitable. This way, this mechanism, like the previously mentioned ones, can prevent from the institutionalization of the victims' pains and regarding the significant relationship between the victimization and its consequences (delinquency), can prevent from the delinquency in these children.

### 2-5) Regular Desensitization:

The "desensitization" or what is known as "subsidence" in the field restorative justice, is another mechanism by the use organized and correct use of which, the trend of catharsis and restoration of the mental pains of the children can be facilitated and prevent from the juvenile delinquency.

In this mechanism which is more sensitive than the previous cases, the victimized child faces the person who has abused him/her in a suitable condition prepared by the criminal psychologist. The objective of this encounter in criminal psychology is the desensitization. In this mechanism, it is tried to, by this encounter, vanish the fear getting over the victimized form the criminal. The delinquent's sympathy for the victimized child, expressing remorse for the act he or she has done, explaining the difficult circumstances in which the offender was forced to perform the act (for example, stealing gold earrings from a girl because of a severe need for the money) and apology to the child, are all cases in which this mechanism can fulfill the primary purpose (evacuation of anger and the vanishing the victim's grudge) and the secondary purpose (victim child delinquency) (James et al., 2006, 302-310).

Accordingly, this mechanism also, like the previous mechanisms, cannot be effective at once. As is seen in its scientific name, its order means that it must be done in a specified time, and it is one of the main principles of this mechanism. The period of encounter and its repetition intervals are among the main indicators of this mechanism which are applied based on the case (the conditions of the victim and the criminal). Although the orderly and scientific application of this mechanism can be very effective, it is so sensitive that the smallest indulgence by the criminal psychologist can lead to worsening of the victimized child's mental conditions. For example, if the victim's child is not prepared by the psychologist before the encounter, it can sometimes lead to hysteria, fainting, and even more grudge in the child. Therefore, preparing a suitable mental platform for the victim child to encounter the criminal is greatly important and any kind of haste must be avoided.

## 2. CONCLUSION:

As is seen, a review of the Iranian laws and regulations indicate that the legislator has not paid due attention to the victimized children, and has protected them only in a few occasions, while for the child criminal, numerous measures and supports can be seen in the Iranian laws and in this regard, it is a great step for improving the child criminal investigation system. As for supporting the child criminal, a desirable differential policy has been differentiated, for the victim child also, such procedure must be adopted, because the findings of different sciences such as the criminal psychology science besides the recommendations on the supporting and way of treating the child criminal, also address the other side of the coin, which is

the victim, and suggests many various solutions for decreasing the effects of victimization on the child victim, which should be considered by the legislator and some of them which are in line with the realization of the criminal policy of treating the children, must be reflected in the Iranian law.

The cases the psychology suggests in this regard and were mentioned in the current study can be more efficient when they have executive guarantees. Finally, with what was mentioned, it is suggested that, to prevent from the delinquency of the victimized children-which is a potential group for delinquency in the society- the judicial system consider the mechanisms achieved by the criminal psychology, and through the enactment of the enforcing laws and regulations, take steps for exploiting and applying these necessary mechanisms. In this regard, enactment of the laws and regulations based on which the judges can apply these psychological mechanisms is necessary. For example, if the magistrate, besides issuing a sentence against the criminal, issues an order to obligate the criminal to follow a regular desensitization program, so that the victimized child's pains would vanish and consequently, his/her future delinquency would be prevented.

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