

**VICTIMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME (STUDENT'S PERCEPTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME)**

**Original scientific paper**

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**Summary**

This paper tries to open scientific debate about the Environmental protection and the position of the people in these degradation processes confirming their role of victims. Using the findings from various studies and theoretical debates on this issue the authors are trying to established ground system theory about these issues. In this regard results from pilot survey that was completed in 2012 also is going to be presented related to Environmental protection on a number of questions such as awareness of respondents about victimization etc. This survey was conducted among students of the Faculty of Security Skopje. Theoretical method is used in terms of interpretation of the status of the victims using acquired knowledge, method of analysis and synthesis, method of content analysis and descriptive statistics are the methods used in this paper. The research has shown that awareness of crime against the environment is very low and requires all the tools of contemporary society for bringing this awareness to implement the measures of protection against environmental destruction and reducing the extent of victimization in this regard. Reasonably, the small sample (75 respondents) gives limited and not representative data related to the process of victimization from this type of crime. For example many other categories of people on variety of bases are not included, such as: age and education. This research was important pilot research and in the future should be performed at national and regional level. In the future countries from the region should join in order to establish a common methodology for future study of the degree of victimization related to the environment in order to provide a possible comparison. Also related to this topic we found that theory bases are deficient. The views of students in practical terms certainly follows that it is necessary to

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develop "more aggressive methods" related to the implementation of the Environmental content in the Secondary education.

### Keywords

Environmental crime, predispositions of the victims, victim.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental crime in the recent years has been identified as one of the most profitable and at the same time fastest growing areas of crime on international level. At the 12 United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2010), the international community acknowledged the challenges posed by emerging forms of crime that have significant impact on the environment and called on Member States to study this issue and share best practices. (Skinnider, 2011, pp. 1).

As a result of the performed environmental crimes effects on human health and the living world are present making a lot of people victims. Victims need to be studied to determine their treatment and to propose measures for remediation of the damage that they have suffered, making the victimological aspect of environmental crime necessity. (see more at: Slobodanka & Vesna, 2003, pp. 370 – 380)

Victimology as a part of criminology as a subject to its scientific observation deals with questions linked with victims of crime as phenomena. Victimology identifies, defines and describes the problems that the victims are facing, at the same time assessing the dimension of Victimology, treatment of victims and other questions in a relation with the victims. We can agree that the risk of victimization is present for every person or group as result of particular criminal act (acts). The authors of this paper are looking answers of the victimological aspects of the Environmental crime. Answers of some of the questions of this particular type of crime are being analyzed connected with predispositions of some people to become victims of this type of crime and their typical characteristics. Also, proposals to improve the positions of some of the people regarding the chance to become victims are being made.

In the recent years a number of surveys are being conducted related to the Environmental crime and it became widely recognizable that this type of crime is present on daily bases. Also, it can make serious consequences on a major level making a lot of people Victims. The right of Environmental protection is well known as one of the fundamental rights in the last decades and in the world most of the countries are proclaiming in their Constitutions. *The people have the rights of protected and healthy Environment*, right from the fourth generation of rights. At the same time the most of the countries in the world (members of European union, Ex Yugoslav countries, Australia and many other) have criminalized the act against the Environment in the recent decades intensively developing basis for legal reactions. The Environmental Rights and the criminalization of acts against the Environment

are the two bases that are Legal fundament for someone to be proclaimed as a victim of Environmental Crime. But the spesific nature of this type of crime is that often is said that involves victims we "do not see" or often is described as "victimless".

Eileen Skinnider from the International centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice policy is making a resersch trying to mape the issue, determining the Legal framework, the range and the types of vistims, the Legal bases for righets nad remedies and making recommendations for further research. This research concludes that: i) the victims are not always aware of the fact that they have been victimized; (ii) the victimization is often delayed with the victim becoming aware of the victimization much later after the crime was committed; (iii) victims are not sure about who victimized them or who exactly is responsible; (iv) the victimization is often serious not so much because any individual victim was seriously affected, but because numerous victims were affected by the crime; and (v) victimization can often include repeat offences. (Skinnider, 2011, pp. 26).

Some countries are having already programs for restorative justice<sup>3</sup> based on determined assumptions such as:

- a) the response to crime should repair as much as possible the harm suffered by the victim;
- b) offenders should be brought to understand that their behavior is not acceptable and that it had some real consequences for the victim and the community;
- c) offenders can and should accept responsibility for their actions;
- d) victims should have an opportunity to express their needs and to participate in determining the best way for the offender to make reparation; and
- e) The community has a responsibility to contribute to this process. (Preston, 2011, pp. 3).

The Judge Preston on this study assumes that in order for restorative justice to achieve its objectives, there must be:

- a) An identifiable victim;
- b) Voluntary participation by the victim;
- c) An offender who accepts responsibility for his/her criminal behavior; and
- d) Non-coerced participation of the offender. (Preston, 2011, pp. 4).

These four assumptions basically accept that people should be aware of their rights related to the environment. Also the people should be aware for the obligation of

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<sup>3</sup> The restorative Justice represents a more effective and therapeutic justice system for victims, offenders and the community; greater use of informal, community based responses to conflicts; or whole scale transformation of society.

the stakeholders about their duties related to the Environment. This is the basic assumption for someone to recognize being a victim. This concerns is closely related to the Environmental Justice. Understanding what environmental justice is constitutes an important precursor to understanding how to use prosecutorial tools to address environmental justice concerns. The phrase "environmental justice" means different things to different people. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) working definition of environmental justice is "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." (Dighe & Pettus, 2011, pp. 3) The position of the individual and citizen, and his role in determining the level of environmental degradation is especially distinguished with the right to participate in decision-making, the right of access to information related to the environment, and access to justice. In this sense the convention from Aarhus has exceptional significance in the European context of environmental protection. On USA level Crime Victims' Rights Act (CVRA), 18 U.S.C. § 3771, actually requires some level of information-sharing and community involvement. Accordingly, requirements of the CVRA are consistent with principles of environmental justice, such as the fair and even-handed application of the law and providing affected communities with a meaningful opportunity for input in the consideration of appropriate remedies for violations of environmental laws. (Dighe & Pettus, 2011, pp. 11)

## **2. SOME ISSUES RELATED TO DETERMINING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VICTIMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME**

Definition of the notion of the victims in order to be subject of scientific elaboration we need to determine its relation with the other elements of Crime event. We must do this in order to be able to make basic assumptions and to acquire knowledge related to the victims.

Victims of environmental harm are not widely recognized as victims of "crime" and thus are excluded from the traditional view of victimology which is largely based on conventional constructions of crime. This has meant little attempt to describe the actual prevalence and consequences of environmental crime victimization. Environmental crime victims challenge the traditional victimology approach as they are often victimized collectively and can involve non-conventional victims (non-human species, the environment and future generations). The far-reaching impacts of environmental crime raise complex and unique issues for both victims and government (Skinnider, 2011, pp. 2).

Risk of victimization<sup>4</sup> (Зоран, 2003, see more at: pp. 385) exists for any person or group. This means that literally anyone can become Victim! Also in the determination of the Victims issue related to their properties, the relationship with the perpetrator, as well as its behavior in relation to crime are significant and very hard to be established. (Зоран, 2003, pp. 381)<sup>5</sup>.

The Victims of environmental crime and victims of other types of crime should have certain predispositions of victims. These are the individual characteristics that certain people have are the bases and their predispositions to become victims of Environmental or any other type of crime.

These, so-called "victimological predispositions" include: naivety, inexperience, recklessness, economic situation, lack of information, physical inferiority. (Зоран, 2003, pp. 381).

The "victimological predispositions" related to the Environmental crimes exist and often it includes:

**Naivety** certainly falls into victimological predispositions related to the Environmental crime, because often people do not understand the real consequences of their particular behavior. The victim may take certain actions caused by naivety believing that there will be no harmful effects on the environment. At the end actually, harmful consequences will perform. There are many examples when people's naive behavior in relation to certain environmental problems can be exemplified, and not really with minor consequences. The waste water from the mine, "Sasa" in the Lake Kalimanci, small mining town in East Macedonia is one of the accidents of this type.

In this case although the competent inspection services pointed to the possible consequences of lead poisoning due to recklessness, naively, thinking that perhaps this won't be happening, the responsible did not take any protective measures. However, after a certain period of time, the water pollution of the lake has reached alarming proportions, with the possibility of endangering the health of people who have water and are supplied with water from this Lake (Витларов, 2006). From this example it can be concluded that naivete is very close to neglect, because in some cases people from negligence not to take protective measures to guard against the

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<sup>4</sup> The term victim include person who individually or as a group have suffered harm, including physical and mental injury, emotional suffering, pecuniary loss or significant reduction of basic rights by committing or omissions that constitute a violation of the criminal law applicable in State members, including those laws that prohibit the abuse of power. This is the definition of victim under the UN Declaration of basic Principles of Justice for victims of crime and abuse of power,

<sup>5</sup> Victimization is process of becoming a victim.

possible side effects. The criminal Law does not know the naivety, and these accidents are being treated as negligence.

Inexperience may also contribute to environmental pollution. Namely, if the victim is not aware of certain procedures and activities and their implementation also can be reason that can cause environmental damage and endangered the Environment.

Recklessness in every type of crime, Environmental in particular, is very often cause of criminal offences against the environment being often a reason for the occurrence of crimes in general. For example, the forest fires during the summers in Macedonia is often being caused by Recklessness. To be exact, when igniting fire or throwing a cigarette into the forest on a temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius it is not difficult to assume that it can easily be a reason emergence of forest fire. The forest fires however, very often can be caused intentionally by negligent citizens in order to obtain access to wood without paying for it. Simply, the mean reason for this phenomenon is providing heating in the winter.

The Economic situation, of course, certainly can be a reason for certain person to commit a crime, implicating that poverty could be a factor for appearance of crime. On the other side, this factor also could represent a victimological predisposition of some particular person for becoming a Victim in general, on Environmental crime as well. For example the devastation of the forests, illegal logging and causing forest fires could be motivated by economic reasons. The particularities of these crimes are that the perpetrator is also at the same time victim of this type of crime. That is to say that uncontrolled woodcutting, leads to increased air pollution as a result of the forest devastation. Also, this crime could also lead to landslides that can cause disaster and forced the population of that region leave their homes, as a matter of fact, was the case in some villages in Sharra mountain region in Northwestern part of Macedonia. Also, it is causing and other effects that are harmful to human health or the whole living world.

-Lack of information, is also typical predisposition for becoming a victim of crime. This situation of not being informed is one of the most important, since it is associated with low level of environmental awareness which is the reason for victimization. As a result of the lack of information, situations are possible when the victim is not aware of being a victim of pollution endangering the environment. In Macedonia as a result of systematical pollution in Veles and heavy consequences on the people's health the citizens react of the environment degradation. For example in 2011 was not allowed to restart the Smelter in Veles by the citizens of this city in the center of Macedonia.

Victims of this type of crime are characterized by appropriate predispositions for becoming a victim such as: ignorance, powerlessness, distance from the source of victimization, the victim's lack of insight in the actual situation, hopeless in terms of

improvement of the position as a result of long existence of the problem, incompetence and inability to respond appropriately, lack of material and spiritual development, or lack of environmental awareness and culture (Бачановиќ, 1998/1999, pp. 30).

In order to protect the environment, on International and National measures acts are being adopted. The criminal Law of republic of Macedonia also is consisting 18 provisions in a chapter "Crimes against the Environment".

Essential procedure of criminal law protection is to achieve protected Environmental media (soil, water, air) from pollution and other harmful influences. However, it should not be neglected the consequences on the values such as: peace, flora, fauna, light, temperature and humidity.

These environmental crimes, no doubt, jeopardize the entire human race, regardless of their religious, ethnic, political and others individualities, affiliation or degree of development. The central values, which threatens these crimes are universal, apply to all living beings, of their right to life, survival and healthy environment.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME VICTIMS

In the analysis of criminal offenses in the field of environmental crime, certain difficulties arise in terms of the determination of the position of the victim and their characteristics.

Namely, there is a paradox because each of us is threatened from the risk of becoming a victim and the interest of the victim is weakening instead of becoming stronger: Where everyone is a victim, no one is a victim (Бачановиќ, 1998/1999, pp. 30). Undoubtedly the risk of becoming a victim applies to everyone. In that case the interest of the victim instead to increases, it weakens. As long as man on itself does not felt the effects of pollution or other environmental degradation on his own skin, he does not feel the need for Environmental protection.

Environmental victimization is characterized with:

- limited attention to victims of environmental crime
- extensive victimization: transnational, state, local
- often not viewed as serious/harmful by the public, criminal justice agencies, scholars

- most victims will never be, officially, recognized as victims from a legal/scientific standpoint (Jarrell, 2012)<sup>6</sup>.

Victims of this type of crime can be massive, if it comes to modern mass unlawful acts, constitute as offenses of endangering where beside traffic and property offenses delinquency it includes the Environmental crime also. But this crime it can be also individual, as well as massive.

According to some authors, certain characteristics of victims of environmental crime are:

- mass victimization
- abuse of power
- absence of rule of law
- transnational
- Trans generational. (Pemberton, 2012)

The correlation between the perpetrator and the victim is a connection between strangers (victims). The perpetrators of environmental crimes are also unidentified and in these crimes there is noncontributory behavior of the victims. As is already stated, the environmental crime, or environmental offenses is a mass type of crime where it comes to endangering advance unlimited space and an indefinite circle of victims in this space.

This means that between the perpetrator and the victim there is no connection and that the harmful consequences of the act can occur far from their perpetrators or source of endangering. Not only that the ground distance could be excessive, but the time difference can be also. The time difference could be decades, centuries where future generations and generations are victims. (Ex. The Nuclear disaster at Chernobyl, the bombing of FRY with depleted uranium bombs, Fukushima disaster etc.).

When it comes to victims of environmental offenses according to some authors, despite the number of typologies of victims, the most appropriate is the following: passive, common, unknown, faceless, revivals and innocent victims. We are saying that the victims are passive because they do not fight against them being victimized, but they only record it and suffer from it. Faceless are those casualties where there does not exist personal association and the victim does not feel pain. Innocent victims are those who are not, in general, or are not very responsible for the damage due to the existence of the people who are powerful. (Бачановиќ, 1998/1999, pp. 30).

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Victims don't reporting this type of crime is being one of the main characteristic for the Environmental crime. In this sense the cooperation among victims and the authorities responsible for combating environmental crime is absent. As a results that the Environmental crime acts are abstract, often cannot be noticed by the people, the competent authorities should be more successful in preventing and detecting crimes not leaving the "work to charge" on the victim so they could act. Also, improvement and enhancing their organizational structure, the formation of special units for combating the Environmental crime, strengthening their technical equipment and professional specialization and competence.

If these requirements are implemented, the authorities will have a decisive role in decisive and prosecution of Environmental crimes.

In this context, from the authorities for prosecution it is required strong engagement. According to as overcoming the problem of not reporting these acts by the victims, raising environmental awareness and culture is much needed. Namely, it is necessary to find a way to motivate the victim for reporting the Environmental crimes improving at the most the cooperation between the victims and the competent authorities.

## **II PART**

### **1. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN MACEDONIA**

#### **1.1. Results from the conducted survey**

In the former Yugoslavia, and thus indirectly in Macedonia, historically, creating the environmental policies, began at the end of the sixties. At first, there was made a draft policy basis for spatial planning and environmental protection in 1969 (adopted in 1971), then it began to take itself a legal forms with the preparation of the project of Spatial Planning, Environment and urban planning. This means that the participation of Yugoslavia at the first international environment conference in Stockholm, was not the reason for the preparation of environmental legislation. (Stojanović, Salma, Etinski, & Đurđev, 1991, pp. str. 19 – 20. ) After the Constitution of 1974 adoption, some attempts to bring federal law for environmental protection was made, but the emphasized decentralization of the Constitution, it is enunciated that it exceeds the powers od the federation. (Stojanović, Salma, Etinski, & Đurđev, 1991 pp. 20 – 21.) The Law for promotion and protection of the environment, was adopted in 1996. In 2005, the Law on Environment was adopted, and is still in force, it follows the modern trends of normative regulation of this extremely dynamic and complex area, especially taking in consideration the need for harmonious and concerted national with the EU legislation.

The national level of environmental protection in the Republic of Macedonia has been erected at constitutional level. Notably, in the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the regulation and humanization of the space and protection and promotion of the environment in fundamental value of the constitutional order of the Republic of Macedonia. Within the economic, social and cultural rights of citizens, the Constitution treats the issue of the environment as a human right, which by its nature is general, but yet establishes the obligation for promoting and protecting the environment. The third mention of the environment in the Constitution, is in Article 55, where in the context of conditional antagonism in practical cases establishes, when on the one hand we have the "freedom of the market and entrepreneurship," and in the other "environmental law", the possibility for treatment of the environmental state to a higher level than the economic entity. The environmental protection in Macedonia continues on normative level with laws and bylaws. The decades of work and development of the protection of the environment, should undoubtedly give the result especially in environmental protection awareness. As a result of these activities in 1998 the Ministry of Environment and spatial Planning, which symbolically signifies the importance of this issue in the implementation of political and administrative power in the state. In the schools, there were conducted educational programs to raise awareness of environmental protection and man's role in environmental degradation.

Interested for answers to some of these questions the authors of this paper in 2012 have conducted a survey on the attitudes of the students on the Faculty of Security - Skopje. The research is in an early stage, but with the intention to be conducted on the territory of Republic of Macedonia making representative number of respondents. Hence, it can be considered as a pilot study also. This research is largely concerned with attitudes, not testing respondents' knowledge of the ecology. Questions that can be set aside on which the respondents answered, in the most general sense are: if the students come across with information on environmental protection in the educational process in Macedonia separately at all stages of education? Where they see the causes of environmental crime in the state and at the same time as they dig the dark figure (to what extent)? Do they find themselves as a victims and what is their perception for victimological aspects of this type of crime? Whether participated as the public in decision making related to their rights related to the environment? What is their perception of corruption to the competent authorities in charge to combat this type of crime? What are their views on the extent of the need for implementing forms of education to raise awareness? It is a questionnaire consisting 30 questions in which half of the issues in affirmative / negative form, which asks respondents to express their opinions in agreement or disagreement with the given statement (having the ability to respond differently on the issue) further some of the issues are with Scale of Leacert, where you can determine the participants' attitudes ..

The students are from the Faculty of Security, randomly chosen, including all the students in a given year of study who were present on the lecture, when this survey was

conducted, on 05.05.2012 on 75 respondents. Of these thirty-nine (39) respondents were male, thirty-five (35) female, while one (1) of the respondents did not answer this question. Such a division of the respondents corresponds to the representation of male and female on the faculty, meaning that it provides a representation on the level of the Faculty of Security - Skopje. In terms of age, as you can see from the graph below these is a student population in the most part in the third and fourth year of study (55 participants), which is more than 2/3 of the respondents. Few of them are first or second year of study, while insignificant part time students who have more than 26 years of age

Chart No. 1.

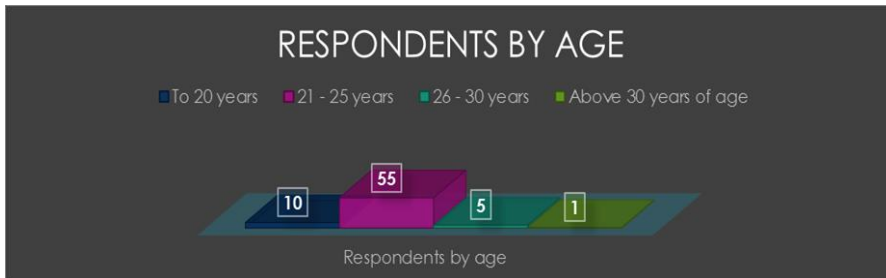
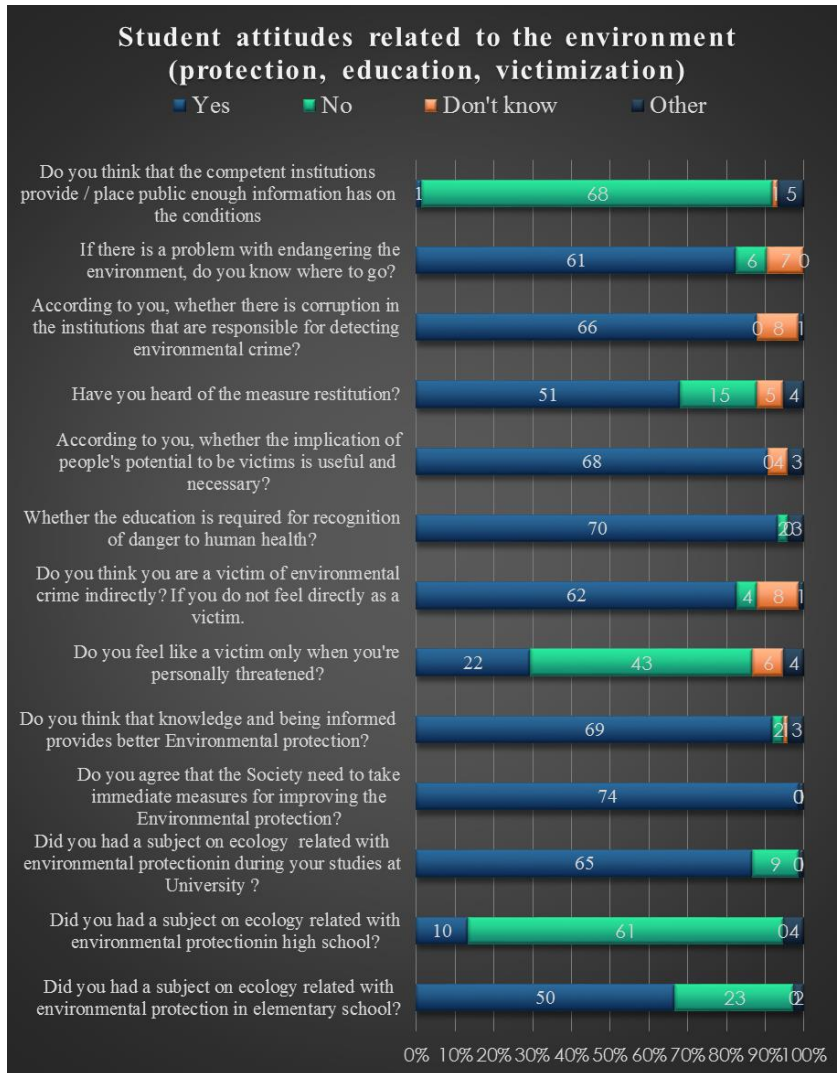


Chart No. 2.



The graph shows 13 of the 30 questions that were asked of the students and that the respondents can answer with "yes", "no", "do not know" and "other." Asking the questions in this way intended to determine whether there is a stand that can hardly be affected. This situation as a whole was designed to determine whether the respondents have built awareness of the imperative of having the protection of the environment. Individual sense of sacrifice of an abstract type or individualized with concrete consequences also has meaning.

When asked whether they consider that they receive sufficient information related to the Environmental protection 68 of the 75 respondents explicitly said that they

did not receive enough information, which represents more than 90% of the total number of respondents. We believe that responses of 61 of the respondents who answered that in the case of endangering the environment know where to turn we consider it as encouraging. Almost all of the respondents answered categorically that they think that corruption in the institutions who are in charge for combating environmental crime is present. The authors of this paper believe that this issue deserves further attention in detecting of the corruption and why although all respondents has never been in contact with these institution think that they are corrupted. It is obviously "perception of corruption" that is not being researched. The "perception of corruption" most often is not based on personal experience. One of the possible explanations is that the environment is always of secondary importance in terms of economic goals and in that sense the process is seen as corrupt and extremely unsavory.

In terms of whether respondents feels as victims of environmental crime we can see correlation among the existence of the level of awareness and the existence of abstract risks associated with disruption and environmental degradation. So 62 of the respondents answered that they feel as indirect victims of Environmental crime. Asked if they feel like victims only when they are personally and directly affected 43 of the respondents answered negatively.

It is from particular importanse that the consider that the knowledge and being informed provides better protection in the field of environmental protection. In fact, almost 70% of students believe that with better information, by increasing the level of awareness, especially related to the adverse effects on human health the people is going to be sensitized about the Environmental crime. As a result the people are going to recognize the Environmental crime, are going to increase the number of reported crimes, are going to reduce the dark figure and at the same time enhance the action of the authorities, in taking preventive and repressive measures.

On that way by imposing appropriate penalties under current legislation we think that is going to result with appropriate penal policy on this matter. Today, the penal policy in Macedonia towards the Environmental protection is very mild. Also, we think that in the next period the gap between the criminal charges filed on one and court imposed sentences on the other side has to be reduced. Know with certainty that the discrepancy between reported, accused and convicted persons is extremely large. (Малиш Саздовска, 2009, 81)

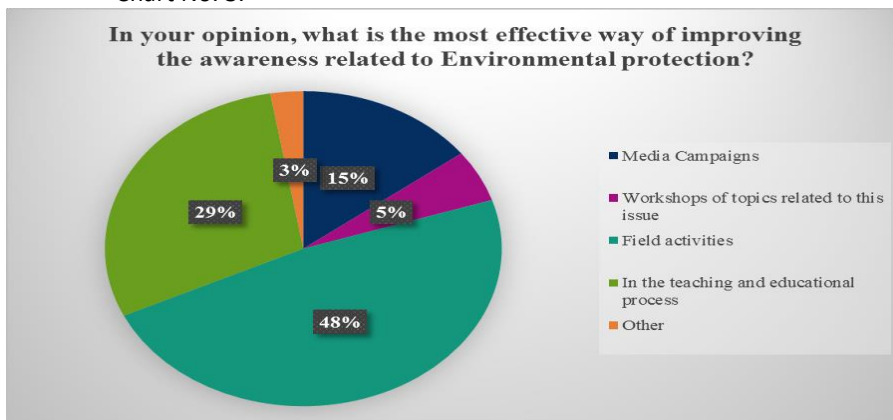
This problem is further aggravated by the fact that respondents in their primary Schools had education related to Environment and only 10% in their secondary schools.

By acclamation is answered on the question of whether society should take measures to improve environmental protection. And this is expected. This is a general question that all would agree. However, this answer does not correspond with

the space and the importance given to the issue of environmental protection in the political life, the area where we believe it is the most potential in order all social mechanism to be activated.

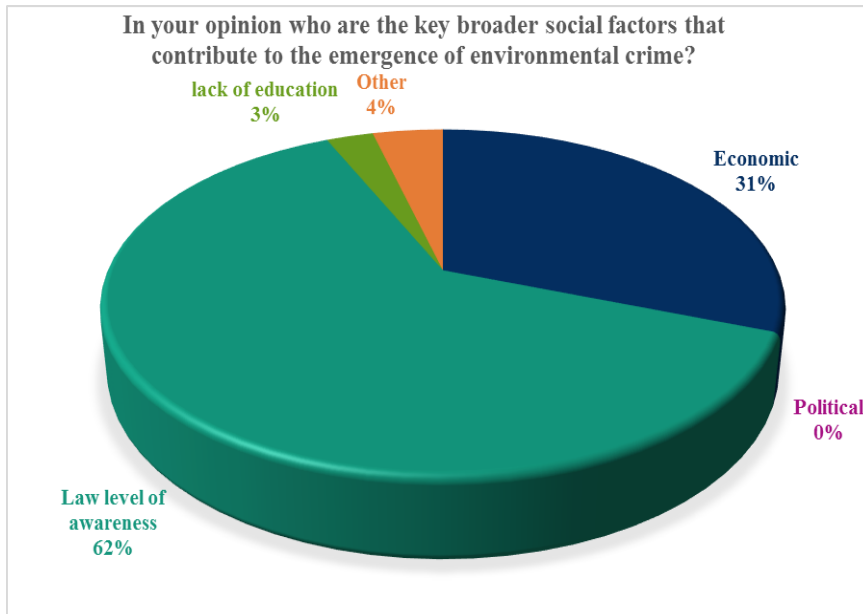
Question that deserves attention is the result of the answers on the respondents showing that 61 of the 75 respondents had environmental protection subject content in their primary education. On the other side, 33% of respondents answered that in their Secondary education they had non-teaching materials and content related to Environmental protection.

Chart No. 3.



On the question what is the most effective way of improving the level of awareness about the risks and the protection of the environment half of the respondents answered that said that outdoor activities. According to this answer showing initiative, making them see the process and steps is the best way of education raising awareness. Creativity in our opinion is a basic feature of this process. 29% of respondents said that raising awareness can best be achieved in teaching and educational process. 15% of respondents said that media campaigns can achieve the desired effect.

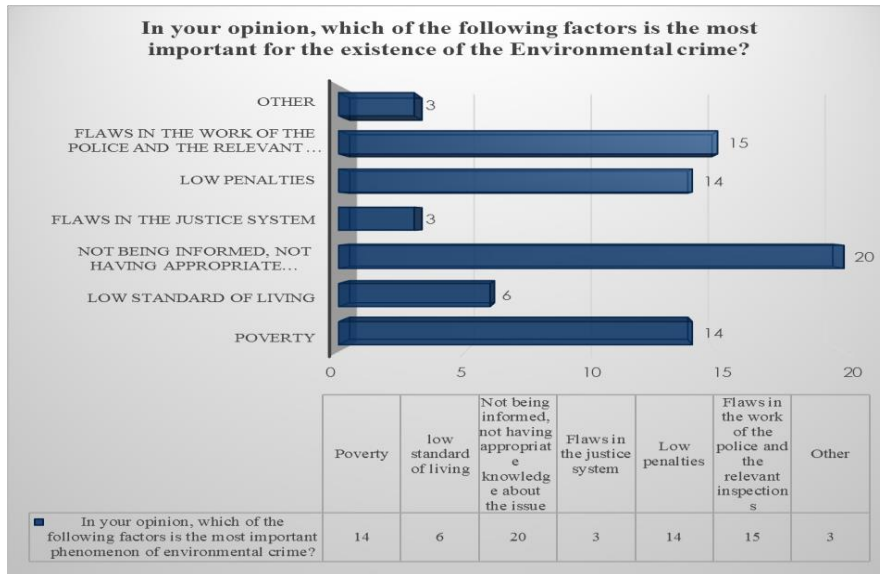
Chart No. 4.



On the question where the respondents are locating the responsibility for the low level of protection of the environment most of them (62%) answered that it is due to the low level of awareness among people. We can argue based on this answer that most of the respondents are showing a critical attitude towards themselves and towards the people's responsibility in general, finding the reasons for environmental degradation and crime in the manifestations and behaviors of the people individually. Also, this response shows that this way of behavior has deep roots in the general culture.

Regarding the economic factor as the key factor (31%) of the respondents answered this factor as the reason for the existence of environmental crime. Certainly, none of the before-mentioned grounds can be ruled out as a reason. Namely, in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia during the winter the quality of air is continuously found to have significant exceedances of some chemical composition of the components of the air, making it very polluted. This is in large part due to the use of low-quality coal, used oil and other harmful substances used for heating. The mass use of firewood is also a factor in this regard. The before-mentioned is only to have a practical example of how the economic factor is crucial to environmental degradation.

Chart No. 5.



Graph 5 shows the responses of the respondents in relation to the question what importance they are giving to some factors for the Environmental crime. Most of the respondents said that it these are the several basis: the lack of information (20/75); Weaknesses in police work and competent inspection services (15/75); Poverty (14/75); Low penalties (14/75); Low standard of living (6/75); Weaknesses in the justice system (3/75); etc. (3/75).

## Conclusion

The process of becoming a victim along with all the special features arising from the current definitions is one of the central issues in criminology. Also, one of the central issues in this regard represents the perception of being a victim? The limits of someone being a victim or as to personal perception for being a victim are not known and they are deeply psychological. Criminology, among other scientific interest tries to answer some of these issues.

The specifics of Environmental crime in victim's perspective are present. Unlike fraud, for example, where the perpetrator are the people, in the processes of environmental degradation people are being victims of Environmental degradation not only caused by people, but also by forces of nature (not only from activities caused by humans). Hence, natural hazards and disasters, other types of risks can certainly happened making a lot of people victims in devastating way. What we believe should be set aside in the process of becoming victims related with Environmental crime is the need of division of the offenses against the Environment where the people are



the direct appears as perpetrators. Of course, it should be emphasized human impact on ecosystems and associated consequences. In this sense it is difficult to find a limit point.

In Macedonia the subject of Ecology as a science in number of curriculum in the primary education in a number of subjects represents good news that is essential for bringing the awareness for Environmental protection in general. On the other hand the fact that the survey showed that this is not the case in the secondary education curriculums is at least, is disappointing and extremely harmful. But the fact that the consultation of the curriculums of the ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Macedonia have not showed this situation there are two possible answers on this fact. The first is that the respondents were not interested in the content related to the Environment. The second one is that the teachers did not approach seriously on the subjects related to Environmental protection. In the high education there are several Faculties that are containing curriculums related to the Environment and the Faculty of Security from Skopje is one of them. The General perception is that the topics related to Environmental protection are having relative importance and often they are being seen as ideological, not realistic, fictional and unreal, not applicable.

The survey found that respondents are generally informed about their being a victim to Environmental Crime. Also, the survey found that the respondents are well informed when it comes of knowing what to do when there is certain danger. In the case of Environmental crime, as well as any other public interest knowing the formal procedures and the competent authorities by the general public it certainly is a wind in the back when it comes to this topic.

Encourages the fact that in the recent years the media coverage related to Environmental conditions has increased significantly. However, we would say that this information is steel being "selected" in the most cases referring to the quality of air. This approach leaves many questions open and much unknown risks and medusas.

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