

Pedagogical and Social Factors Influencing the Development of Students' Legal Culture

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Abstract: The article explores the pedagogical and social factors influencing the formation and development of students' legal culture in the context of building a law-governed state and a civil society. It highlights that legal culture is a complex social phenomenon that encompasses legal knowledge, legal awareness, and legal activity, which together determine an individual's attitude toward law and justice. The author emphasizes the decisive role of family, educational institutions, state organizations, and the media in shaping the legal consciousness of young people. The paper also examines ongoing reforms and educational initiatives in Uzbekistan, such as the "Youth – Our Future" program, "Street Law," "Advocacy Train," and "Legal Clinic" projects, aimed at increasing legal literacy and awareness among the population. The study concludes that the enhancement of youth legal culture is a key prerequisite for the establishment of a democratic, law-based, and just society.

Keywords: Legal culture; legal awareness; legal knowledge; youth education; civil society; rule of law; pedagogical factors; social responsibility; legal reforms; Uzbekistan.

In the process of building a law-governed state and a civil society, one of the most important tasks is to enhance the legal consciousness and legal culture of the younger generation. This is because young people with a high level of legal culture are the ones who bring the principles of rule of law, justice, and equality into real life. Therefore, the issue of shaping legal culture has been recognized as one of the priority directions of state policy.

Legal culture is a complex and multifaceted concept that is closely connected with the formation of legal awareness in society, as well as with the promotion of respect for the law and the culture of compliance. It manifests itself through every citizen's knowledge of the law, awareness of their rights and duties, and their readiness to combat violations of the law.

In a society with a high level of legal culture, the supremacy of law is ensured, corruption is reduced, crime rates decline, and justice prevails in social relations.

In the New Uzbekistan, special attention is being paid to further elevating the level of legal culture. State and public organizations are conducting wide-ranging legal awareness campaigns, law-related subjects are being taught in schools and higher educational institutions, and a variety of reforms aimed at improving the population's legal literacy are being implemented.

These efforts collectively serve to strengthen the foundation of a law-based democratic society, where citizens understand their rights and responsibilities, respect the law, and actively contribute to the development of justice and equality.

Legal culture is a social phenomenon that reflects society's level of legal awareness, legal knowledge, and attitude toward the law. It is necessary not only for lawyers or public servants,

but also for every citizen. This is because ensuring the implementation of laws and directing legal relations properly is not solely the responsibility of state institutions, but of society as a whole.

The main structural components of legal culture are as follows:

Legal knowledge – the understanding that citizens have of laws, legal norms, and the system of state governance. A person who is unaware of his or her rights and obligations cannot exercise them and may unintentionally commit legal violations. For example, if a citizen does not know his labor rights, an employer may infringe upon those rights.

Legal awareness – a person's attitude toward the law, the degree to which he or she accepts and internalizes it, and the inclination to comply with legal norms. An individual with a high level of legal awareness respects the law and adheres to it. For instance, observing traffic rules, paying taxes on time, and defending one's rights in a lawful manner are manifestations of legal awareness.

Legal activity – the participation of citizens in legal relations, their efforts to protect their rights, and their contribution to ensuring the rule of law in society. For example, if a citizen appeals to the court or files a complaint with state authorities when his or her rights are violated, this constitutes an expression of legal activity.

Legal culture is manifested in a person's knowledge of rights and duties, the ability to apply them correctly in daily life, a respectful attitude toward the law, and intolerance toward violations. The formation of this culture is ensured through the harmony of legal knowledge, legal awareness, and legal activity.

The foundation of legal culture is laid in the family — when parents demonstrate respect for the law and instill in their children the values of justice, fairness, and responsibility. In schools, colleges, and higher educational institutions, the teaching of law-related subjects, legal education classes, and discussion sessions strengthen young people's legal knowledge and skills. Television, radio, print media, and social networks also play a crucial role in increasing young people's understanding of legislation through educational programs and publications.

Legal campaigns, preventive measures, and educational projects organized by the Youth Union, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement bodies contribute to the enhancement of young people's legal culture. In an environment where the rule of law is guaranteed and intolerance toward violations is strong, young people naturally learn to follow legal norms.

Young people can further enrich their knowledge by independently studying laws, using legal literature, and participating in legal quizzes and training sessions.

The formation of youth legal culture is a multifaceted process that requires the harmonious cooperation of the family, educational institutions, the state, and society. Young people with a high level of legal culture are the guarantors of a law-governed state, a strong civil society, and sustainable development.

Today, within the international community, the establishment of a law-based state and a civil society has become one of the most important and priority directions. This is because in a society where the rule of law and human rights and freedoms are guaranteed, stability and justice prevail.

In Uzbekistan, particular attention is being paid to raising the legal culture of the younger generation within the framework of building a law-governed state. This is because youth with a high level of legal culture are the guarantee of tomorrow's law-based state.

Legal culture reflects an individual's knowledge of rights and duties, respect for the law, adherence to legal norms, and intolerance toward violations. This culture manifests itself through the unity of a person's legal knowledge, legal awareness, and legal activity.

In recent years, significant reforms have been implemented in Uzbekistan to enhance the legal culture of young people. The “Youth – Our Future” state program, as well as various projects, online platforms, and educational courses aimed at improving legal knowledge, play an important role in developing the legal consciousness and culture of the youth.

Conclusion

Young people with a high level of legal culture form the foundation of a law-governed state. A generation that respects the law, understands its rights and duties, and remains intolerant toward legal violations serves as a guarantee of stability, justice, and progress. Therefore, enhancing the legal culture of youth is a task of shared responsibility among the family, educational institutions, the state, and society as a whole, and it holds great contemporary significance.

Moreover, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the Tashkent State University of Law, is implementing a number of initiatives aimed at increasing legal culture within society and providing free legal assistance to the population. Among these initiatives, the activities of the “Advocacy Train”, “Street Law”, and “Legal Clinic” projects hold particular importance.

The Legal Clinic, operating under the slogan “Enhancing Legal Awareness and Legal Culture in Society — a Priority Task,” organizes outreach campaigns and mobile receptions jointly with students and faculty members. In addition, within the framework of the “Street Law” and “Advocacy Train” projects, events are being held among the population to improve legal literacy and promote legal knowledge.

The main goal of these initiatives is to raise the population’s level of legal knowledge and to foster a stronger legal culture in Uzbekistan, thereby contributing to the development of an informed, law-abiding, and socially responsible society.

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