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FEATURES OF IMPROVING THE LEGAL CULTURE OF YOUTH IN ENSURING SOCIAL STABILITY

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights methodological and practical sociological-legal issues in analyzing the legal culture of youth in the active stage of socialization – those entering adult life. It demonstrates that the state of youth's legal culture depends on the totality of their living environment and that the most influential factor affecting legal culture is the social, socio-cultural, and socio-political environment that primarily shapes their legal consciousness and legal thinking. It is also analyzed how raising the legal culture of youth has a significant impact on the socio-economic situation of the country.

KEYWORDS: *Cicero, legal culture, socially useful behavior, legal nihilism, legal infantilism, social start, social risk, youth maximalism, deviant behavior, deviant subculture.*

INTRODUCTION

The concept of culture was first applied to humans by Cicero, signifying the cultivation of the human spirit. He defined culture as a powerful force that elevates humans above other beings.

When analyzed within the framework of law, various interpretations of the concept of "legal culture" can be found. Its complexity and multifaceted nature are due to the fact that the term encompasses legal, pedagogical, social, political, and other dimensions.

Legal culture is one aspect of universal culture manifested in law and legal practice; it is one of the essential components of civil society and the rule of law. It includes the legal culture of the general population as well as that of officials, government bodies, and the state as a whole. Importantly, legal culture regulates the behavior of people in accordance with the socio-cultural and historical features of different ethnic groups, functioning as a tool for achieving social stability. The state of legal culture in any country is an important indicator of the maturity of its specific legal system.

According to E.V. Agranovskaya, "Legal culture is a system of views, evaluations, and attitudes reflecting a positive attitude towards law, legal order, legality, and the importance, necessity, and social relevance of rights and obligations, aimed at ensuring socially useful behavior in the legal sphere." [1]

Today, the younger generation is increasingly being accused of legal nihilism. In Uzbekistan, there is a pressing need to eliminate legal infantilism among youth, which hinders the effective establishment of civil society and the rule of law. However, it must be emphasized that young people are shaped within a specific society and legal tradition.

This is increasingly manifested in the disregard for or rejection of existing social norms and behavioral rules. The younger generation is reshaping its understanding of the world, which is becoming one of the fundamental values of Uzbek youth.

A fair study of youth rights requires prior clarification of the terms "youth," "minors," and "adolescents," and their interrelations. One of the most challenging issues is finding adequate definitions. Youth is a stage in human development between childhood and adulthood. However, what are the chronological boundaries and conceptual features of this stage? For example, UNESCO documents define the following age ranges: youth (15–24 years), adolescents (15–17 years), and "young adults" (18–24 years) [2].

According to Wikipedia, adolescence is the period during which a person may still be dependent, defined differently by various cultures. Personal experience is shaped by cultural norms and customs, and the degree of dependency reflects the emotional and economic reliance of the youth on their families [3]. This period includes various psychological changes.

According to the legislation of Uzbekistan, minors are citizens under the age of 18. The upbringing of minors is the duty of the state and a constitutional obligation of citizens. According to the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, minors between the ages of 14 and 18 may, without the consent of parents or guardians:

1. Dispose of their wages, scholarships, and other income;
2. Exercise copyrights over their intellectual creations;
3. Deposit money into and withdraw it from financial institutions;
4. Conclude minor household and other legally permitted transactions. Other contracts require the written consent of parents or guardians [4].

DISCUSSION

From the above, it can be concluded that in most languages, age groups not only indicate chronological age but also reflect social and legal status. The primary analysis of these definitions helps identify the critical correlation between age and a

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person's social capabilities. A certain age and developmental stage objectively determine a person's social position, activity type, and roles. Thus, maturity implies changes in social status and the acquisition of new rights and freedoms.

Today, respect for human rights and freedoms is a key criterion for a civilized society and its capacity to solve complex economic, political, and social issues.

In her work "Human, Law, and Civilizations: Normative and Value Dimension," Ye.A. Lukasheva focuses on increasing legal culture and ensuring human rights, freedoms, and dignity. She notes that legal nihilism among officials is manifested in disregard for and violation of laws. Furthermore, she identifies several problems in shaping legal culture: legal illiteracy, the complexity of law-making, inconsistency of legal documents, and the lack of a strong legal ideology, which leads to legal nihilism and the rejection of moral principles [5].

We believe that addressing these and other issues requires a targeted state policy to improve society's legal culture through legislation, mass media, literature, cinema, and art. A key task in shaping legal culture is fostering a positive attitude toward law and enhancing citizens' understanding of their rights and duties before the state and society.

The low legal culture of today's youth creates significant challenges both nationally and locally. These problems are especially evident among youth at the early stages of socialization, who are more susceptible to external influences. Hence, there is a clear need to update research on the state and problems of their legal culture.

Youth's legal consciousness and thinking, and accordingly their legal behavior, depend on their level of knowledge and trust in the law. Their legal culture during the early stage of socialization and its relationship with major social institutions in Uzbekistan should become an imperative element of national youth policy, especially in policies aimed at integrating adolescents and young adults into society.

From a theoretical perspective, legal consciousness is closely linked to legal knowledge and awareness shaped by various factors. One such factor is specialized legal education. Legal nihilism, as a socio-psychological phenomenon, develops within a framework of marginal or unstable legal relationships. In this context, youth sociology reveals a link between social risk and youth maximalism. Since young people are still undergoing socialization and lack full engagement with social realities, they are more susceptible to external influences and interpret experiences more intensely than other social groups.

This implies that the youth environment is the most appropriate setting for studying social trends.

In Uzbekistan, these trends largely depend on the state of the education sector. Since the sociology of education studies how the presence and specialization of education influence a person's or group's attitudes toward social phenomena, the relationship between general and specialized education is of great importance in shaping legal consciousness.

Another factor influencing youth's legal culture is the existence of deviant subcultures, which fall within the sociology of deviant behavior. These subcultures define attitudes and norms that shape individuals' legal perceptions. A subculture influences a person's values and identity, especially if the individual is still developing.

For example, the legal subculture of professional lawyers, who are bearers of this subculture, differs from general society in its understanding of legal norms and the essence of law.

CONCLUSION

Thus, youth's legal consciousness and behavior depend on their level of education, personality traits, and trust in the law. Achieving progress in this area requires systematic measures to ensure that youth grow up healthy, receive quality education, and develop into well-rounded individuals. Support for youth engagement in culture, art, sports, IT, and reading should be prioritized.

To this end, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the "Concept for the Development of State Youth Policy in Uzbekistan until 2025." The concept defines the development of youth's legal awareness and culture as a priority, particularly in enhancing youth participation in national security, justice, and environmental sustainability [6].
In conclusion, analyzing the relationship between the state and society regarding the protection of youth rights reveals a direct connection to the level of legal culture. Improving the legal culture of both the younger generation and those responsible for protecting their rights is essential for ensuring their effective legal protection.

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