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FACTORS IN THE FORMATION OF MORAL AND LEGAL CULTURE IN FUTURE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the socio-philosophical foundations and key factors influencing the formation of moral and legal culture among future law enforcement officers. It emphasizes the importance of not only possessing legal knowledge and professional skills but also developing high standards of morality, responsibility, and justice. The study highlights the role of education, training, social environment, and institutional mechanisms in shaping officers' cultural and ethical competencies. It also identifies the main challenges in moral and legal development, such as insufficient training, weak internal control, conflicts of interest, and limited public participation. Based on philosophical perspectives, the research underscores the need for a balance between freedom and responsibility, justice and humanity, as well as personal integrity and loyalty. Recommendations are provided to strengthen professional training, enhance internal and public oversight, and improve officers' moral responsibility and ethical awareness.

KEYWORDS: *Moral And Legal Culture, Law Enforcement Officers, Legal Consciousness, Responsibility, Justice, Freedom, Ethical Norms, Socio-Philosophical Approach, Public Trust, Professional Training.*

Law enforcement officers are subjects who play an important role in ensuring legality, public order, and the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms in society. Expectations from them are not limited only to technical knowledge and professional skills, but also to possessing a high level of moral and legal culture. The lack of properly formed moral and legal culture can lead to problems such as conflicts in relations with citizens, abuse of authority, and other violations. Therefore, analyzing this type of culture among law enforcement officers through social and philosophical approaches is of great importance.

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to identify the main problems in forming moral and legal culture among future law enforcement officers, analyze their socio-philosophical foundations, and propose solutions. Employees serving in the internal affairs bodies are required not only to have legal knowledge and professional skills but also to possess a high moral and legal culture. An insufficient level of moral and legal culture may cause abuse of authority, conflicts in relations with citizens, and distrust of the law enforcement system within the public. Compliance with principles of personal discipline, conscientiousness, responsibility, and justice by officers enhances work dedication and strengthens the practical content of the principles of a rule-of-law state.

Currently, in Uzbekistan, the "Code of Professional Culture and Service Discipline" has been approved for law enforcement officers, which establishes sanctions in cases of non-compliance with ethical and legal norms in service [1]. This code, along with government decisions on "Transforming internal affairs bodies into a people-oriented professional structure and enhancing cooperation with the population," serve as structural measures aimed at improving officers' culture [2]. Such measures are achieved through professional training, improving qualifications, and strengthening service discipline. However, a number of problems still remain: the effectiveness of moral and legal education, insufficient internal control, limited public awareness, and shortcomings in the practical implementation of internal legal and ethical codes. Laws must be vital, closely connected with practice, and derived from it. It was particularly emphasized that laws should have direct effect, and executive bodies should adopt subordinate legal acts only to ensure the implementation of laws, not as additions to them [3].

One of the key directions of ensuring the rule of law is educating citizens in the spirit of obedience to laws and instilling in every person, especially youth, respect for the law.

First: The issue of law obedience. Obedience to the law is a phenomenon formed in the process of the development of social relations and legal culture in society. During the years of the former Soviet regime, almost nothing was written about law obedience as a legal and moral concept interconnected with personal freedom. For this reason, to this day, law obedience lacks sufficient research as a scientific, ethical, and legal concept.

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1. The Concept of Moral and Legal Culture

Moral culture refers to a person's ability, as a citizen, employee, or officer, to adhere to internal norms, public interests, humanity, and ethics — that is, to live in accordance with personal and social moral standards.

Legal culture refers to the knowledge and understanding of legislation and legal norms, respecting rules, acting in accordance with laws, the formation of legal consciousness, and carrying out one's activities with awareness of rights and obligations.

It should be noted that these two types of culture are interconnected and mutually influential elements. Immoral behavior creates conditions for legal violations, while a low level of legal culture can lead to weakened civic engagement and distrust.

2. Analyzing Problems through Sociological and Philosophical Approaches

- **Society's expectations and norms:** What moral and legal standards are expected from law enforcement officers? Do models of values such as justice, equality, and respect for human rights exist in society?
- **Social environment and experiences:** Family, school, youth, cadet training, courses, cooperation relations, and work collectives are important factors in shaping the moral and legal consciousness of officers.
- **Institutional mechanisms:** Courses, advanced training, internal control, staff selection, and motivation within the internal affairs system face challenges in fostering moral and legal culture.

Philosophical Approach

- **Freedom and responsibility:** An officer must have freedom, but responsibility is equally important in his activity. Irresponsibility, excessive rigidity, or abuse in exercising official powers negatively affect freedom.
- **Justice and humanity:** A law enforcement officer must respect human rights and dignity. Ensuring justice is not only about applying the law but also about considering humanity, honor, and humanitarian principles.
- **Moral integrity:** Officers must preserve their personal morality, conscience, and loyalty. This is not only related to external obligations but also to internal motivation and spiritual aspirations.

Main Problems in the Formation of Culture among Future Law Enforcement Officers

- **Gaps in education and training:** Insufficient time and resources allocated to moral and legal topics in courses and training, and a lack of practical examples or life models for young officers.
- **Conflicts of interest and competition:** Personal interests, career ambitions, organizational factors, and bureaucracy may lead to deviation from moral and legal standards.
- **Issues of control and accountability:** Ineffectiveness of internal control mechanisms, slow application of measures against corruption and abuse of authority.
- **Insufficient administrative and organizational measures:** Trainings, events, and educational activities often lack systematic and consistent implementation.
- **Impact of public factors:** Low legal awareness of citizens, insufficient activity of civil society institutions, limited or biased role of mass media.

From the socio-philosophical perspective, the primary importance lies in the development of officers' personal moral qualities such as conscience, loyalty, and humanity. Balancing freedom and responsibility, adhering to the principles of justice, and respecting human dignity are spiritual foundations from a philosophical point of view. In addition, mutual relations with the public, and citizens' trust in internal affairs bodies, define the level of culture of officers.

Recommendations for the Formation of Moral and Legal Culture

One of the proposals is to structurally improve education and training, devote more attention to specialized modules on morality and ethics in courses and trainings, and strengthen internal control and public oversight. Encouraging moral responsibility and conscience among officers requires motivation and incentives, exemplary leadership, and fair and transparent practices.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the high level of moral and legal culture among law enforcement officers depends not only on their personal qualities but also on the legal consciousness of society and the organizational capacity of state institutions. A socio-philosophical approach serves as an important tool for analyzing officers' internal motivation, public relations, and cultural norms.

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