



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSTITUTION IN ENHANCING THE LEGAL AWARENESS AND CULTURE OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION

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Abstract

This article examines the key forms of moral and ethical education in shaping the legal consciousness and cultural awareness of youth. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the ways in which moral upbringing contributes to the development of legal literacy, highlighting the critical role of legal education, legal advocacy, and practical engagement with the law. The study emphasizes the interconnectedness of ethical values and legal knowledge in fostering responsible citizenship and social accountability among young people. Furthermore, the article explores how structured moral and legal instruction, coupled with active participation in legal practices, strengthens the ability of youth to understand, interpret, and apply legal norms effectively within the framework of contemporary society.

Keywords: Spirituality, education, law, consciousness, culture, education, science, enlightenment, family, youth, social network, media world.

Introduction

An essential factor in shaping the moral and ethical development of youth is the education and upbringing system. Education and intellectual development should be regarded as fundamental prerequisites for personal growth and the advancement of the nation. Consequently, schools and other educational institutions, as primary arenas for youth education and moral formation, operate under state oversight, a principle enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



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Since the early days of Uzbekistan's independence, the government has prioritized the upbringing of the younger generation, aiming to cultivate physically healthy, morally mature, and socially responsible individuals. Annual state programs, traditionally designated under themes such as "Mother and Child," "Youth," "Perfect Generation," "Family," and "Prosperous Life," have emphasized the importance of fostering well-rounded youth who are capable of independent thinking, possess a contemporary scientific worldview, demonstrate patriotism, and uphold national values. These initiatives reflect a strategic focus on developing youth with strong moral and ethical foundations.

This underscores the necessity of paying particular attention to nurturing moral education, enhancing legal consciousness, and cultivating cultural awareness among young people. Between 2017 and 2021, the Action Strategy for the Five Priority Areas of Uzbekistan's Development explicitly outlined tasks related to youth upbringing. These included providing youth with essential competencies for peaceful and productive living, establishing scientifically grounded indicators for assessing moral education, and fostering patriotism, entrepreneurship, willpower, ideological resilience, legal culture, and innovative thinking. Collectively, these measures aim to comprehensively strengthen the intellectual, moral, and social capacities of the younger generation.

The youth are recognized as a vital social force and a morally and socially potent resource capable of driving societal change, implementing constructive ideas, and shaping the nation's future. Supporting young people both morally and socially, and creating favorable conditions for them to actively participate in society, is therefore a crucial responsibility. In this context, fostering respect for national traditions and values, instilling humanitarian and patriotic principles, and ensuring the protection of youth rights are central to state policy and practice.

To fundamentally enhance legal awareness and cultural competence among youth, the Law "On State Policy on Youth of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and the Presidential Decree "On the Comprehensive Improvement of the System for Strengthening Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture in Society" have been adopted. These legal instruments aim to provide a solid framework for educating well-rounded, independent, and initiative-taking youth capable of assuming responsibility for the country's future. They also facilitate the development of



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young people's intellectual, creative, and moral potential, ensuring they are equipped to contribute effectively to societal progress and national development. In the current era, the formation of legal education and culture plays a crucial role in building a democratic legal state, developing civil society, implementing socio-economic, political, and legal reforms, ensuring legality, and protecting citizens' rights and freedoms. According to legal scholars A.H. Saidov and U.T. Tadjikhanov, "Legal education is a pedagogical process aimed at influencing the legal consciousness of individuals and social groups through specific, goal-oriented, planned, and specialized methods."

Academician I.T. Tulteyev further defines legal education, taking into account both its narrow and broad interpretations, as "a special activity carried out by state bodies, non-governmental organizations, officials, and individual groups aimed at raising the legal awareness and culture of the population."

The protection of citizens' rights and freedoms by state authorities is closely linked to the quality of legal education and moral upbringing. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emphasized the importance of this issue, stating: "As we build a democratic legal state, we must improve the training of highly qualified, internationally competent, and devoted legal professionals," highlighting it as a key priority of state activity.

Legal awareness and culture of every individual are primarily shaped through legal education and moral upbringing. Moral education contributes to increasing legal literacy among youth, deepening their legal knowledge, strengthening their attitude toward law, and enhancing the level of their legal consciousness and culture. Former President I.A. Karimov also stressed the importance of this issue, stating: "Thoroughly improving the legal education of the population, raising its level of legal culture, and providing broad access to legal information are essential directions for the functioning of a legal state."

Furthermore, he emphasized the responsibility toward the younger generation: "The upbringing of the younger generation carries enormous responsibility, as they are the worthy bearers of the nation's moral values. Therefore, every boy and girl should benefit from our cultural heritage from their earliest steps."

Today, the legal awareness of youth is heavily influenced by mass media and numerous social networks, sometimes disconnecting them from moral and natural



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life. Indeed, we live in an era dominated by information and media, and we must adapt accordingly. However, as the saying goes, everything has its measure; young people, as well as adults, should use the internet and social media responsibly and purposefully.

In Uzbekistan, the demand for education, upbringing, and the reinforcement of national and cultural values is steadily increasing. While this is a positive development, no society can envision its future or realize its potential without fostering and strengthening moral and ethical values in its people. The current trends of societal development clearly confirm this reality.

For thousands of years, spirituality and enlightenment have served as essential sources that have allowed our nation to preserve its identity without disappearing, unlike some other peoples. Today, they have become a vital resource enabling our country to achieve its ambitious goals step by step. Consequently, special attention is given to matters of spirituality and enlightenment in Uzbekistan.

Raising a well-rounded generation that is healthy in mind, thoroughly educated in modern knowledge and professions, and highly responsible is a primary task of the field of spirituality and enlightenment. In the context of globalization, ideological struggles and mass culture increasingly influence the minds and hearts of young people through various means, strengthening the impact of foreign and alien ideas. As a result, young people's sense of identity, national awareness, language respect, appreciation of moral values, and attainment of physical and spiritual perfection are hindered, as is their ability to think freely and independently.

In times of growing moral threats, it becomes urgent to cultivate youth who are physically, intellectually, and spiritually well-rounded, enhance their legal and political awareness and culture, and develop civic positions to increase social activity. Additionally, fostering reading culture plays a crucial role in strengthening youth moral education and improving their legal awareness and cultural development. Books have always been an inexhaustible source of knowledge, a guide in life, and a loyal companion that enriches human existence and nurtures spiritual and moral growth. No other means can match the power of reading in fostering personal development.



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Since ancient times, spiritual leaders and scholars have encouraged humanity to read, learn knowledge and ethics from books. As with all aspects of upbringing, the family plays a central role in cultivating a culture of reading. As the proverb says, “A bird does as it sees in its nest,” highlighting the importance of family influence.

As the first President I.A. Karimov noted, “We must objectively assess our history, enrich and develop our spiritual heritage, and, on this basis, aspire to the highest achievements of contemporary science and culture. In forming and elevating the unique spirituality of any nation, the role and influence of the family are undoubtedly crucial.” Indeed, the family environment and values play a primary role in personal development. Parents’ moral level and ethical views directly influence their children and are reflected in their personalities. Therefore, a love of reading and artistic literature are among the key characteristics that reveal one’s spiritual and educational state. A child raised in a reading family is more likely to develop an interest in books, appreciate literature, and absorb moral and cultural values, making parental engagement in reading and familiarity with literary arts essential for fostering a spiritually enriched generation.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it should be noted that enhancing the legal awareness and culture of youth is a pressing demand of the present era. Young people, through their active engagement, have the potential to enrich contemporary life and bring new meaning and content to it. In this context, moral education serves as an essential means of shaping and elevating the legal consciousness and culture of youth.

Since building a democratic legal state and fostering civil society are our primary objectives, it is crucial to establish a modern, comprehensive system of moral education and training and to use it effectively to strengthen the legal awareness and culture of our youth. This is evident in the new opportunities being created for young people in Uzbekistan, reflecting a modern approach to the use of national and spiritual heritage.

Various sectors, including tourism, are developing, and new directions for youth education are being introduced. The expansion of higher education institutions and the opportunity to involve more young people has emerged, with the long-



term goal of increasing youth enrollment in higher education to sixty to seventy percent. This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of advancing science and the digital economy.

Today's youth must become the primary and decisive social group in advancing science and the digital economy. Achieving these goals is impossible without fostering in young people a high level of moral potential, dedication to science, and strong patriotic feelings. Therefore, providing youth with modern approaches, technologies, and innovative projects remains one of the most important tasks not only today but also for the future.

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