



THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF CULTURE IN THE FORMATION OF LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF SOCIETY

Khakimova Dilnoza

Doctoral Student Samarkand State University

Abstract

This article analyzes the concept of legal consciousness, as well as its role and significance in society. In particular, it thoroughly examines the importance of national culture, traditions, and values in the process of shaping legal awareness. The author reveals the intrinsic connection between culture and law, substantiating the argument that cultural heritage, art, literature, customs, and national ideology play a pivotal role in enhancing the effectiveness of legal education. Furthermore, the article highlights the significant roles of educational institutions, mass media, and the family in fostering legal culture among the younger generation. Overall, the study underscores the potential of culture as a powerful instrument in the development of legal consciousness and the establishment of a strong civil society.

Keywords: Legal consciousness, culture, legal education, national values, legal culture, civil society, education, youth, ideology, legal concepts, traditions, awareness and consciousness.

Introduction

In the process of reforms aimed at establishing a civil society and building a legal democratic state in Uzbekistan, enhancing the legal consciousness and culture of citizens is recognized as one of the urgent tasks. Particularly, the development strategy of the New Uzbekistan highlights the strengthening of each citizen's legal awareness as a key direction to ensure that the principles of human dignity, the rule of law, and justice become established norms of life. From this perspective, there arises a scientific necessity to study the role and significance



of national culture, values, traditions, and historical heritage in the formation of legal consciousness.

Culture is not merely an artistic and aesthetic phenomenon, but also manifests as a factor shaping the social consciousness of society members, especially their legal thinking. Through national culture, qualities such as respect for laws, striving for social justice, and understanding of civic duty are established in individuals. Therefore, addressing the issue of enhancing legal consciousness requires not only the provision of legal knowledge but also its integration with cultural and spiritual factors.

This article analyzes the functional role of culture in the process of forming legal consciousness in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the place of national values in legal education, and examines advanced experiences in this field. Furthermore, the interrelation between legal consciousness and culture is elucidated from both scientific-theoretical and practical perspectives, accompanied by relevant proposals and conclusions.

Legal consciousness is defined as an individual's possession of legal knowledge, values, and the ability to make legal assessments, as well as the conscious attitude towards laws and the proper understanding of one's rights and responsibilities. It constitutes a necessary psychological and social foundation for regulating social relations in society, fostering citizens' respect for laws, and establishing a rule-of-law state.

Ordinary legal consciousness refers to the level of legal knowledge and understanding possessed by average citizens in their daily lives. Scientific legal consciousness is the form of awareness based on scholarly analyses provided by legal scientists and experts regarding the legal system. Professional legal consciousness represents the practical legal worldview of practitioners such as judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, grounded in their professional experience.

In the context of Uzbekistan, particularly the solidification of legal consciousness among ordinary citizens serves as a crucial factor for the establishment of legality and the prevention of legal violations.

Culture, in a broad sense, as a social phenomenon that shapes people's worldview, moral norms, value systems, and social behavior, plays a decisive role in the formation of legal consciousness. Through culture, legal values are ingrained in



people's minds, and obedience to the law, social order, and norms of conduct develop as natural needs.

Educational methods based on national culture, folk oral creativity (proverbs, epics), religious and spiritual values, as well as the lives and works of historical figures, can become powerful means of legal education. For example, the works of thinkers such as Alisher Navoi, Ahmad Yassavi, Bahouddin Naqshband, and Mahmudkhoja Behbudi vividly express issues related to legal relations between society and the individual, justice, honesty, and respect for laws.

In contemporary Uzbekistan, the role of theater, cinema, literature, historical monuments and museums, as well as cultural and educational events, is significant in the spiritual upliftment of youth and their upbringing in the spirit of patriotism, legality, and honesty. In this regard, culture emerges as a direct pedagogical and educational tool in the formation of legal consciousness.

In recent years, a number of measures have been implemented in our country to develop the legal promotion and education system and to enhance legal culture. In particular, documents such as the "National Program for Enhancing Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture" and the "Concept for Shaping the Legal Culture of Youth" have established an institutional foundation in this field.

However, there remain several challenges in fully realizing the intrinsic connection between legal consciousness and culture in practice. These include: cultural and spiritual events not being adequately oriented toward legal education, legal advocacy activities often being of a formal nature, persistent legal illiteracy and indifference among youth.

Therefore, it is necessary to make full use of cultural resources in legal education and to ensure an organic integration between legal and cultural systems.

Based on the above analysis, the following scientific and practical conclusions can be drawn: legal consciousness is a conscious attitude of the individual and society toward the legal system, representing a harmonious combination of legal knowledge and values, in the formation of which culture acts as a decisive social factor. Culture not only shapes a person's moral and aesthetic worldview but also plays a vital role in fostering citizens' loyalty to legality, belief in social justice, and a sense of civic responsibility. In particular, in the context of Uzbekistan, the



rich cultural heritage, historical traditions, and religious-spiritual values serve as powerful resources in the formation of legal consciousness.

However, in the process of developing legal consciousness based on culture, there are certain systemic problems and shortcomings. These include the superficial organization of cultural and educational events, the lack of adaptation of legal advocacy to diverse audiences, and the failure to deliver legal knowledge to youth in a manner connected to practical life. Therefore, a comprehensive approach is required in the formation of legal consciousness, where the cooperation of culture, education, information and communication tools, social institutions, and civil society organizations plays a crucial role.

Taking these aspects into account, the following scientifically grounded proposals and recommendations can be put forward:

Integration of legal consciousness and cultural-spiritual education: It is necessary to establish a system in educational programs that harmoniously teaches legal knowledge alongside cultural heritage, national values, and the legal views of historical figures.

Strengthening legal consciousness through the cultural environment: It is essential to create and popularize works that promote concepts such as legality, justice, honesty, and civic duty through means such as theater, cinema, literature, music, and folk oral creativity.

Approach Based on Regional and Age Characteristics: Activities aimed at raising legal consciousness should be organized taking into account the cultural and social characteristics of different groups such as youth, women, students, teachers, and rural populations.

Effective Use of Mass Media and Digital Platforms: It is necessary to enhance mechanisms influencing public awareness by developing concise, simple, yet substantively deep legal-educational content through the Internet, social networks, and mobile applications.

Support for Scientific Research on Legal Consciousness and Culture: Fundamental and applied research in this field should be conducted at universities and research institutions, and political and social decisions should be developed based on their results.



Ensuring Active Participation of Family and Neighborhood Institutions: In the process of forming legal consciousness, the involvement of parents, neighborhood activists, and elders should be strengthened to reinforce the function of culture as a tool of social control and education.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the formation of legal consciousness is not merely a simple educational process limited to imparting legal knowledge or memorizing legal norms. On the contrary, it is a complex, multifactorial, and prolonged socio-spiritual formation stage that affects all strata of society. For legal concepts to take root in human consciousness and worldview, not only laws but also culture, historical experience, religious and national values, as well as psychological and moral education play a fundamental role.

From this perspective, the formation of legal consciousness requires the active participation not only of the education system but of the entire society, including the family, neighborhood communities, mass media, arts and literature, historical memory, and cultural heritage. This necessitates a comprehensive approach — that is, organizing the process in a systemic, organic, and sustainable manner.

A systemic approach implies that all activities related to the formation of legal consciousness are carried out continuously and step-by-step based on a strategic plan. This includes coordinated legal-educational efforts at all stages, from preschool education to higher education, vocational training, and the working environment.

A continuous approach aims to ensure that legal consciousness develops not only during youth but throughout all stages of a person's life. In this regard, the consolidation of legal consciousness through life experience, professional activity, and social relations is of particular importance.

A sustainable approach means that efforts in this field are not episodic or campaign-based but are systematized, regular, scientifically grounded, and integrated into the permanent direction of state policy.

Therefore, the formation of legal consciousness, harmonized with cultural-national values, historical memory, spiritual maturity, and principles of social justice, is a prerequisite for the full implementation of the rule of law and the



principles of a legal state in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Under such conditions, citizens who possess legal consciousness, are socially active, and deeply understand their rights and responsibilities become the main driving force of justice, stability, and development in society.

Thus, the cultivation of legally conscious individuals should be regarded not only as a key factor in building a legal state but also as a fundamental element in the moral and cultural advancement of society.

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