



TRANSFORMATION OF LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION AND THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

This article analyzes the factors influencing the transformation process of youth's legal consciousness under the impact of globalization and the digital environment, drawing upon the theoretical approaches and scholarly perspectives of both national and foreign researchers. Alongside the factors that positively affect the transformation of youth's legal consciousness in contemporary global and digital settings, the author discloses the underlying negative influences. Furthermore, the author posits a distinct scholarly stance on mitigating and preventing these negative phenomena. The paper proposes mechanisms for strengthening institutional cooperation, ensuring individualized approaches, and harmonizing psychological support systems to effectively shape and develop the legal consciousness and legal culture of the youth.

Keywords: Globalization, digitalization, legal consciousness, legal culture, transformation, innovative approach, education, upbringing, cooperation.

Introduction

In the twenty-first century, globalization processes and the rapid advancement of digital technologies are exerting a profound impact on all spheres of social relations, including the system of legal consciousness and legal culture. In particular, internet networks, artificial intelligence, electronic government services, digital platforms, and social media are fundamentally transforming how



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individuals acquire legal knowledge, engage in legal relations, and comprehend their rights and obligations. Consequently, this shift precipitates a transition from traditional forms of legal consciousness toward digital legal thinking.

Digital legal thinking is conceptualized as a modern form of legal consciousness that reflects an individual's capacity to comprehend, evaluate, and act in accordance with legal norms within virtual legal relations during the contemporary digitalization process. It encompasses a structured system of knowledge, values, and legal behavior associated with information technologies, the internet, electronic government services, cybersecurity, and digital rights. Today, as a consequence of the evolution of the digital society, a novel, digital dimension of legal reasoning is emerging. This paradigm shift requires individuals to effectively comprehend their rights and obligations within the digital environment, safeguard personal data, adhere to information security protocols, and conduct lawful activities within cyberspace.

Literature Review

According to the Spanish sociologist Manuel Castells, the founder of the "network society" theory, digital communications engender a novel form of human thinking and social relations. Within the context of a "network society," legal relations are also restructured under the influence of the virtual environment. From this perspective, globalization serves not only economic or political integration but also contributes to the universalization of legal values and legal consciousness [1.407]. Castells posits that within contemporary information society settings, digital socialization constitutes one of the critical forms of individual socialization. This is because internet networks, social media platforms, and digital communication tools are fundamentally altering the modalities through which individuals adapt to the social environment, exchange information, and engage in social relations. In the process of digital socialization, an individual concurrently acts as an information consumer, an information creator, and a participant in a virtual community. Consequently, this exerts a profound influence on the formation of youth's worldview, values, social activity, and legal consciousness.



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The German philosopher, sociologist, and social theorist Jürgen Habermas, through his "Theory of Communicative Action," notes that new mechanisms for the formation of public opinion and legal consciousness have emerged within the digital information environment [2.320]. Although the rapid dissemination of legal information via internet platforms enhances the legal activism of citizens, in certain instances, it can precipitate legal nihilism, disinformation, legal manipulation, and the fragmentation of legal consciousness.

The Russian legal scholar I.L. Bachilo emphasizes that during the digitalization process, information law and digital legal relations are shaping novel approaches toward the substance of human rights. In her view, the legal status of an individual in the digital environment is becoming increasingly intertwined with virtual space [3.84]. Indeed, this is substantiated today by the penetration of digital technologies via the internet into all spheres of human life. This reality renders the formation of digital legal thinking among youth, alongside the development of a culture surrounding information security, personal data protection, and the comprehension of rights and obligations within the digital environment, an urgent imperative.

The legal scholar A.V. Minbaleev evaluates digital rights as an independent institution of the modern legal system. He asserts that issues regarding individual identification, personal data protection, and cybersecurity within the digital space have become pivotal factors driving the transformation of legal consciousness [4.41]. This process reinforces the necessity for individuals, particularly the youth, to comprehend their rights and obligations in the digital environment, utilize information responsibly, and cultivate a conscious attitude toward potential legal risks.

According to the Russian legal scholars E.M. Khokhlova and S.A. Duvayarova, digitalization and technological development contribute to changes in the nature of legal implementation activities, the emergence of new forms of law enforcement instruments, global transformations in legal phenomena, and facilitated access to legal information. They place particular emphasis on the fact that social relations, social groups, and the external environment in which an individual resides exert a direct influence on the actions of law enforcers [5.16]. Accordingly, digitalization has permeated social life on a global scale, and



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modern society consists almost entirely of active Internet users, which provides subjects with a synthetic socio-communicative world and continuously reshapes the social environment.

Research Methodology

In Uzbekistan, digital transformation processes are also exerting a substantial impact on the substance of youth's legal consciousness. Digitalization is being extensively integrated into virtually all spheres of social life, becoming a core component of public administration, education, the economy, communication, and the system of legal relations. This reality necessitates the development of novel regulatory and legal mechanisms aimed at governing legal relations within the digital environment, ensuring information security, safeguarding personal data, and defining the digital rights and obligations of citizens. Specifically, Presidential Decrees were adopted to establish the legal framework, including the Decree "On Approval of the 'Digital Uzbekistan — 2030' Strategy and Measures for its Effective Implementation" dated October 5, 2020, and the Decree "On Approval of the Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence Technologies until 2030" dated October 14, 2024. Furthermore, specific legislation governing digital financial assets is currently in force. Collectively, these regulatory instruments constitute the foundational legal basis for the practical implementation of digital technologies.

Today, the youth, in particular, acting as the primary users of the internet and digital technologies, are emerging as active participants in digital legal relations. Consequently, distinct characteristics are being shaped within their legal consciousness and legal reasoning. Notably, the utilization of electronic government services, online educational platforms, legal information disseminated across social networks, and the digital communication environment are engendering new dimensions of legal knowledge and legal responsibility among the youth. Concurrently, escalating risks such as cybercrime, fake news, and personal data breaches reinforce the critical necessity to elevate the digital legal culture of the younger generation.

To speak candidly, contemporary youth possess a distinct set of characteristics compared to previous generations. Specifically, they demonstrate a propensity to



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reject traditional rules and norms, as their consciousness and worldview are intensely shaped by modern technologies, the internet, and social media platforms. Among them, the phenomenon of "clip thinking" (fragmented cognition) predominates, which constrains their capacity for deep learning and critical data analysis. Furthermore, the active stance of the youth is frequently intertwined with political nihilism; this, in turn, risks destabilizing societal cohesion and undermining national values. Consequently, shaping the legal consciousness of youth within the milieu of digital transformation cannot be restricted merely to conventional legal education. Instead, it demands the comprehensive development of digital legal literacy, information culture, and cybersecurity skills.

In the process of shaping and developing the legal consciousness and culture of today's youth, it is paramount to first rely upon the national upbringing system—refined over millennia—alongside the educational philosophies, spiritual-moral values, and traditions bequeathed by our ancestors. Concurrently, scientifically harmonizing these national values with universal human values under modern societal development conditions, while enriching them under the influence of globalization processes, constitutes one of the crucial methodological foundations for the sustainable development of youth's legal consciousness and culture.

Moreover, the contemporary era necessitates the extensive application of institutional approaches and social partnerships to elevate the legal consciousness and culture of the youth. Activities aimed at developing a legal culture that meets modern demands must be systematic, targeted, innovative, and impactful. To achieve this, strengthening cooperation among educational institutions, government agencies, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, the mass media, as well as families and the wider community is of vital importance. This synergy stands as a pivotal factor in developing a democratic state governed by the rule of law and a robust civil society within the context of building the New Uzbekistan.



Results and Discussion

Doctor of Legal Sciences M. Bakhranova notes that through the concept of digital human rights, factors such as an individual's legal activity in the internet and virtual space, online privacy, digital security, and freedom of information are increasingly becoming essential core components of digital legal reasoning [6/144]. Researcher Sh. Khamdamov emphasizes that the digitalization process exerts a powerful influence on the legal system and legal relations, thereby shaping a novel legal thinking [7.23]. According to the author, as a result of digitalization, electronic forms of legal relations expand, and human legal consciousness and culture progressively adapt to the digital environment.

In our view, because of the development of digital legal thinking, a distinct digital culture is formed within an individual and undergoes consistent evolution. The concepts of digital legal thinking and digital culture are intrinsically linked and complementary; nevertheless, they differ from one another in terms of substance, function, and their respective roles in individual activity. While digital legal thinking reflects an individual's capacity to comprehend, evaluate, and make legal decisions within the digital environment, digital culture encompasses a person's digital technology utilization skills, information literacy, and ethical-legal behavior in the online milieu.

From a scholarly perspective, digital legal thinking can also be conceptualized as the legal component of digital culture. While digital culture encompasses an individual's general digital competencies, digital legal thinking constitutes their legally-oriented cognitive mechanism. Within contemporary society, digital culture is deemed inextricably intertwined with an individual's legal consciousness, information culture, and civic activism.

Today, artificial intelligence technologies have extensively penetrated virtually all spheres of society, successfully becoming an integral part of human life. As the potential to influence the consciousness and worldview of youth through artificial intelligence tools escalates, the issues surrounding the development of legal consciousness, information culture, and digital literacy are becoming increasingly critical.

In this regard, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, during a videoconference meeting held on October 21, 2025, focused on the implementation of artificial intelligence



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within public administration, economic sectors, and regions, emphasized: "Today, humanity is taking a bold step into a new stage of civilization—the era of artificial intelligence. Such technologies are penetrating deeply into everything from the economy to education, medicine, agriculture, and governance systems. Irrespective of the sector, whoever conducts rigorous research, achieves concrete results, and stays one step ahead in this process will attain the ultimate goal" [8]. Under the current conditions of rapid transformation in building the New Uzbekistan, it is imperative to accelerate the utilization of innovative methods, contemporary and effective advocacy tools, and the advanced, positive experiences of foreign nations aimed at elevating the legal consciousness and legal culture of the population. Furthermore, introducing modern mechanisms to enhance citizens' legal literacy must be closely harmonized with ongoing socio-political reforms. Concurrently, it is essential to cultivate a robust and sustainable legal resilience among the population—particularly the youth—to safeguard them against the destabilizing influence of harmful information.

Within the contemporary digital environment, the core characteristics driving the transformation of legal consciousness manifest in the following dimensions:
The mass dissemination of legal information through digital platforms;
The simplification of legal relations via electronic government services;
The escalating urgency surrounding cybersecurity and personal data protection challenges;

The intensifying influence of global legal standards on national legal consciousness;

The progressive evolution of legal decision-making processes mediated by artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

Consequently, shaping and developing the legal consciousness and culture of the youth is emerging as a critical strategic vector for state and societal progress. Elevating digital legal literacy, fostering information culture, and cultivating critical legal thinking among the younger generation constitute paramount objectives in this endeavor.



Conclusions

Based on the insights delineated above, we advance the following recommendations:

Firstly, establishing legal simulation centers within every educational institution and ensuring their highly effective operation;

Secondly, organizing "Legal Startup" competitions for the youth and developing an artificial intelligence-driven advisory platform;

Thirdly, strengthening and continuously monitoring collaborations with bloggers to popularize legal information;

Fourthly, introducing legal education digitalization projects within the framework of national innovation programs and actively integrating them into practice.

Indeed, these proposals will serve to create modern mechanisms for shaping and advancing legal consciousness and legal culture among the younger generation.

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