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LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS A PREREQUISITE OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

The paper aims to study senior school students' legal consciousness in terms of social environment. The following factors of legal consciousness have been distinguished: legal literacy of students, mature civil qualities, the extent of their legal responsibility. The experiment was conducted in three stages. At the first stage, a comparative experiment was carried out in order to identify the level of legal literacy of students at a general educational institution and an out-of-school institution "Young Civil Society Leaders School". At the second stage, a comparative analysis was carried out on assessing the level of maturity of students' civic qualities: democracy, social initiative, humanism, ethnicity, patriotism, public consciousness, national dignity, devotion to the Ukrainian state creation, state optimism, and political will. At the third stage, the degree of legal responsibility of students was studied. The most important role in the development of legal consciousness of the younger generation must be played by an updated and rationally constructed system of moral, labor and intellectual education able to ensure the formation of their active life-affirming mentality and the transformation of the culture of legal behavior into an inalienable quality of an individual. According to the research results, there is a necessity to update the content of school curriculum aimed at forming the legal education of students.

Keywords: legal awareness, legal culture, youth, student, group, social environment, research.

Introduction

Ambiguous results of long-term and divergent socio-political transformations in modern Ukraine and the country's course towards European integration, precondition a need for radical change in the legal and socio-psychological conditions for the formation of a civil society. At present, the development of the state, when the principle of humanism is determined and enshrined at the legislative level, the priority of education is the development of personality, the prevalence of universal values, the importance legal culture formation in the young generation, the formation of its legal consciousness.

The legal awareness of Ukrainian citizens is now characterized by a number of features, which, in fact, demonstrate the catastrophic state of our society. First, it is a loss of faith in stability, the inviolability of the law. Continuous changes in the legislation, the introduction of lots of amendments and adjustments in the already adopted legislative acts leads to the rooting of ideas about full arbitrariness of laws, which defines the attitude to the law as a whole. Moreover, legislative changes are difficult to monitor even for a specialist, let alone ordinary people.

Secondly, the lack of recognition of social justice of existing laws should be emphasized. It can decrease the effectiveness of the best social principles, which our legislation must achieve. There are two points worth considering. First of all, social justice is defined as a relationship between social achievements (opportunities for self-realization of the individual in certain social conditions) and social tasks that require their solution to achieve social harmony in the environment. In a situation where social achievements are decreasing and the number of social problems is increasing, citizens have doubts about the wisdom of the social and legal system of the society. In addition, the idea of fairness of laws depends on how they are aimed at meeting the expectations of people in the field of legal regulation of social relations.

Thirdly, it is about general disbelief in the real effectiveness of the laws adopted, the impartiality and effectiveness of enforcement bodies. The whole range of protest actions and rallies in Ukraine can serve as an example.

Legal culture is aimed at satisfying legal environment of the individual through the system of legal

knowledge and the development of legal thinking, forming the attitude of the younger generation to legal norms as a spiritual, moral values. The process of the formation of students' legal consciousness involves the perception and assimilation of their legal knowledge as personal values for their implementation in legal behavior [3].

The scientific sources review on the issue has confirmed that most of the person's legal consciousness is considered by modern scholars within the framework of legal culture formation (V. Kamenska [8], O. Ratinov [8]), along with the political (S. Grytsay [4], M. Keyserov [9]) or moral culture (D. Kovalenko [10]), as a rule, in the process of civic education (O. Shestopalyuk [18]). The methodological foundations for the study of legal consciousness as a separate subject of scientific research were laid down in the fundamental works of I. Ilyin [7], V. Malakhov [14]. According to the conceptual principles of M. Podberesky [15], the main factor of legal culture is the formation of person's legal consciousness. Consequently, the systemic study of the legal consciousness of students of general educational institutions in terms of social environment becomes of paramount importance.

Aim and Tasks

The paper aims to assess legal consciousness of senior school students in terms of social environment.

The following tasks are set: 1) theoretical analysis to the conceptualization of legal consciousness, socialization, legal socialization concepts 2) investigating psychological factors of legal consciousness: legal literacy of senior school students; the formation of civic qualities; the extent of their legal responsibility; 3) outlining further perspective of studying the issue of forming legal awareness of young civil society leaders.

Research Methods

This scientific work is based on the long-term experimental formation of legal consciousness in school students, which is carried out through the educational process of an out-of-school educational institution "Young Civil Society Leaders School" (YCSLS), which acts as an experimental research base.

The main purpose of YCSLS is to ensure the right of citizens to receive free high quality out-of-school education, creating conditions for the formation of leadership competencies of students aimed at preparing them for professional self-determination [16, p. 2]. Its functioning is based on the modular-unit structure of teaching in extra-curricular time on the basis of general educational institutions, periodically attending the university and public organizations in the areas of volunteer movement.

The experiment is focused on finding ways and means of implementing the principles of education at a new, higher level, namely: the link between science and life, which makes it possible to implement the knowledge gained in practice; establishes interdisciplinary connections that allow the introduction of specialized education, as well as contributes to the full development of the student's personality.

In terms of location, the research was conducted on the basis of the following general educational institutions: school № 4 in Kyiv, which works with the YCSLS project and the school № 201 in Kyiv, where law is studied only within the framework of the curricula.

The sample consisted of two groups of pupils of 9-11 grades: the experimental group (EG) involved YCSLS students (n=78 persons), and the control (CG) one consisted of general secondary school students (n=78 persons).

In the process of the formation of the respondents' legal consciousness, we used three basic didactic forms: educational activities of an academic type close to the forms of higher education (academic procedure: lectures, seminars); Quasi-professional activity, the essence of which is the reproduction of the conditions and dynamics of the enterprise, the relationships and actions of specialists of law companies (for example: business games, round tables, interviews).

For the determination of psychological factors of legal consciousness, we used the psychodiagnostic toolkit which includes: Orientation Questionnaire (designed by us), aimed at identifying the general level of awareness in the legislation; questioning (according to the designed questionnaire) for comparative analysis of the maturity of civic qualities of students; as well as Value Orientations Inventory by M. Rokich (modified by D. Leontiev) [12] in order to assess the value-normative system of the respondents.

For assessing the maturity of factors of legal consciousness, we have determined the following levels of their manifestation: active, reproductive, and passive. The active (high) level of the maturity of students' legal consciousness is characterized by their active behavior in legal life, the manifestation of constant interest in legal norms, the need for obtaining new legal information, the desire to expand legal knowledge and improve lawful actions. The reproductive level is characterized by the awareness of lawful conduct, while the knowledge of legal principles, general provisions and requirements of certain branches of Ukrainian law is superficial. The passive level is characterized by the acquisition of legal knowledge at a simple level, the existence of legal nihilism, humiliation of law as a regulator of social relations.

Theoretical Study Results

In the youth environment, various forms of society deformation are caused by lack of spirituality and lawlessness, which is a threat. Formation of legal consciousness in young generation is a radical means of struggle against these negative phenomena. The key to the formation of legally conscious youth is the development of the necessary volume of legal knowledge in a relationship with the system of spiritual values, aesthetic preferences, ethical norms of conduct.

With all the diversity of historically formed types of public and state system, civil society is formed by the following three signs: the presence or absence of civil rights and freedoms; the opportunity to participate in the

affairs of the state (in one form or another), the opportunity to realize and protect one's own interests beyond the state [1].

The processes of forming a civil society and legal statehood in Ukraine are impossible without the corresponding level of legal awareness, high status of legal values, which determines the extremely important role of legal consciousness in transforming the social system of the society as a whole.

Value-normative system forms the basis of the legal consciousness of the individual, which defines human behavior in the field of the most significant legal relations. It is formed as a result of social activity of a person, the functioning and development of his/her needs, the choice of social means for their satisfaction.

Value orientations are closely related to cognitive and volitional aspects of human activity and behavior, acting as an important factor in the social regulation of personality behavior and human interactions. Thus, being the basis of human judgements of the phenomena of the surrounding reality, value orientation directs and regulates the behavior of an individual in the society.

Legal culture is a reflection of the whole sphere of legal phenomena, including legal orientation, the attitude to legal social values, to law, legality, justice and the activities of its implementation, people's ideas about lawful and unlawful behavior, and the rule of law in the society.

Therefore, the study of legal consciousness should be implemented both in legal and non-legal directions. The analysis of people's legal consciousness gives an idea of the degree and depth of awareness of their rights as a regulator of relations. There are at least three groups of such factors. The first one includes the most objective factors generated by the real state, real processes and results of the functioning of the existing legal system in Ukraine. The second group of factors is generated by the reflection in the group and mass consciousness of the factors of the first group in the form of stable legal representations, thoughts concerning legal ideas, beliefs, etc. These factors are subjective in terms of legal reality (generated by consciousness and subconsciousness of group metasubjects), but objective in relation to individual members of the society, citizens of the state. The third group of factors includes psychological peculiarities (qualities, properties) of a person, a history of the life lived, biosocial development undergone. All three groups of factors are complex and diverse, interacting with each other, and without understanding the mechanisms of this interaction, it is impossible to understand the process of formation and positive development of legal consciousness.

Legal consciousness is a complex of knowledge, ideas, views, feelings, assessments, and attitudes that express the attitude of people and social communities to the current, past and desired law [11, p. 510].

Legal consciousness (as well as legal culture) is a result of the process of socialization of the individual. A

legally conscious personality as a mass phenomenon, as a social norm without correction of an ideological paradigm cannot be formed. The legal socialization of the younger generation requires the inclusion of social values in its system: the acquisition of legitimate ways of behavior, the formation of a sense of social responsibility and solidarity with the law.

It should be noted that there is a manifestation of interest in the so-called "positive legal responsibility" in legal literature [17], which is called "prospective", and is associated with social responsibility and understood as "a voluntary form of legal liability, representing a legal obligation of an object to act in accordance with the requirements of legal norms". Legal liability cannot be based just on the compulsory force of the state, but also provided through persuasion. That is the formation of civil liability as a personal property.

Legal consciousness and legal culture of a teenager are developed in a direction which is predetermined by his/her current needs. They perform the function of social adaptation: in order to be a socially adapted member of a community (a society or a particular group), the teenager must form an appropriate level of legal culture and legal consciousness, which in such a community is considered sufficient [2, p.45].

Legal socialization of the individual as a process of developing person's ideas about his/her social role and place in the society plays an important role in the formation of legal consciousness and legal behavior. Legal socialization acts as a component of a common process of socialization.

Socialization is the assimilation of culture (norms, values, ideas, rules, behaviors and stereotypes of understanding) of the community. It is not only related to the development of a personality, but also is a kind of spiritual encoding of a man, producing his/her typical social reactions and forms of activity. The functional value of this formation of individual's abilities, knowledge and skills is to prepare people for close coexistence, to ensure their interaction and mutual understanding [5, p.13].

Legal socialization is a process of getting into the system of legal relations of the society on the basis of the gained legal culture. The process of legal socialization of the individual involves the interaction of three components: society - person - team.

The process of legal socialization includes not only the assimilation of norms and laws, but also all elements of the legal system, including legal concepts.

The generalization of theoretical data has shown that the legal consciousness of senior school students is a complicated and controversial psychological process characterized by a structural hierarchy of interconnected components (legal norm, legal consciousness, legal culture, legal education, legal regulation, lawful behavior, etc.), positive emotional combination of which makes it possible to form a legal culture of the individual.

Empirical Research Results

At the first stage, we conducted a survey of the respondents using a designed questionnaire in order to identify the level of their legal consciousness.

The analysis of the results has shown that the experimental group students have sufficient knowledge in the field of law. They are interested in the processes taking place in the state, watch TV programs of socio-political content, understand the importance of law in the life of the society, and so on.

68% of the interviewed participants in the experimental group have an active level of knowledge about legal regulation in the state; 31% have the reproductive one, and only 1% of the participants in this group have a passive level.

Concerning the control group, only 39% of the respondents have an active level of legal knowledge, 42% of the participants have a reproductive level, and 9% of have a passive one.

Thus, the results of the survey of the participants of the CG have shown that they have superficial knowledge

of law matters. A small number of senior pupils can explain the importance of law in human life, the life of the society. They are less interested in the socio-political topics, less active in the processes taking place in our country as compared to the EG respondents.

Besides, CG students experience difficulties in operating knowledge and skills in law matters. They can hardly explain the meaning of law in human life, they are less interested in the socio-political issues, etc.

Having conducted the summative assessment, we have found out that the level of legal literacy in the CG students is low from the standpoint of the requirements of the present, in contrast to the EG respondents.

At the second stage of the study, the results of which are given in Table 1, we conducted a comparative analysis of the results of assessing the levels of the following civic qualities maturity in the respondents: democracy, social initiative, humanism, ethnicity, state patriotism, public consciousness, national dignity, devotion to the Ukrainian state creation, state optimism, political will.

Table 1.

Comparative Analysis of Students' Civic Qualities Maturity

Civic Qualities	EG	CG
democracy	63%	54%
social initiative	47%	39%
humanism	61%	52%
ethnicity	43%	34%
state patriotism	56%	49%
public consciousness	49%	37%
national dignity	67%	53%
devotion to the Ukrainian state creation	63%	45%
state optimism	73%	69%
political will	58 %	48%

The processing of the results has shown that the level of the EG students' civic qualities maturity is higher than that in the control group.

Considering the fact that responsibility is an effective condition for youth's legal awareness, at the third stage we investigated the level of understanding legal responsibility by the respondents. As one of the measures of responsibility, we assessed the maturity of the level of subjective control, using the experimental psychological method designed on the basis of Rotter's Locus of Control Scale.

The results of the study have shown that 36% of the EG participants have external locus of control, and 64% have the internal one. This suggests that they are more inclined to attribute responsibility for the results of their activities to their own abilities and efforts than to external circumstances.

The results obtained in the CG show that there are 78% persons with an external locus of control and 22% with the internal one.

The analysis of the results of the study of the value-normative system of the personality has shown that in the system of terminal values of senior school students of both groups, the most important values are health, freedom, love, self-confidence and happy family life. That is the respondents are confident that these parameters are worth striving to. Among the instrumental values, they emphasize self-control, open mindedness, honesty, high demands, sensitivity, education, independence. These data indicate that in order to achieve the goal these methods of action or personality properties are necessary.

The results obtained in the study of the basic legal values of the participants of both groups have shown that 44% of the respondents with the external locus of control emphasize health, dignity, justice in the hierarchy of legal

values; 28% - human life, honor, trust; 13% - power, equality, harmony.

A significant part of the respondents with the internal locus of control (48%) select health as the most significant thing; 26% - honor, freedom; 19% - dignity, trust, justice, human life; 12% - order; 9% - responsibility, duty, tolerance, mercy, solidarity.

Basic legal values occupy important positions in the hierarchy of the students but cognitive and educational activities in the field of law for the CG students are not significant.

The EG students (who participate in The Young Civil Society Leadership School project) have a higher level of legal literacy, social responsibility as compared to their peers who study at a regular general school.

The maturity of legal consciousness in the participants of the EG is higher than that of the CG students. Their better understanding and assimilation of rules of law, the formation of their ability for conscious activity in public life is based on the assimilation of legal rules in classrooms and events organized by the project.

Unlike the participants of the EG, the participants of the CG do not fully understand the essence of legal norms, they do not have sufficient level of theoretical legal knowledge, therefore they are not ready for the implementation of consciously regulated legal behavior.

This proves that for the formation of legal consciousness of young people legal education is one of the necessary conditions. The most important role in the development of legal consciousness of the younger generation must be played by an updated and rationally constructed system of moral, labor and intellectual education that is capable of ensuring the formation of an active life-affirming mentality in youth and the transformation of the culture of legal behavior into an inalienable property of an individual.

Conclusions

Theoretical analysis has shown that the legal awareness of the younger generation is a complex and controversial psychological process characterized by a structural hierarchy of interconnected components (legal norms, legal consciousness, legal culture, legal education, legal regulation, legal behavior, etc.), the positive emotional combination of which gives an opportunity to form legal culture of the individual.

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A comparative analysis of the study of psychological factors of legal consciousness (the level of maturity of civil qualities, the level of legal literacy of senior school students, the degree of their legal responsibility) proves that the participants of Young Civil Society Leaders School are better legally socialized as compared to their peers studying law in term of the curricula. The quality of legal education largely depends on the level of personality development. Therefore, our assumption that the implementation of the YCSLS program in general education establishments provides a higher level of the development of the personality's legal consciousness has been confirmed.

The most important ways to improve legal consciousness are knowledge and comprehensive consideration of objective and subjective factors that affect the consciousness of a person, systematic analysis of the qualitative characteristics of students, determination of sources and means of neutralizing the negative impact on the process of the formation of legal consciousness and culture of a person, improvement of the whole organizational-methodical work that provides the legal educational process, the optimal use of all means, the combination of collective and individual forms of legal education, high legal form of activity.

The most important role in the development of legal consciousness must be played by an updated and rationally constructed system of moral, labor and intellectual education that can ensure the formation of an active life-affirming mentality in young people and the transformation of the culture of legal behavior into an inalienable property of the individual.

In the current conditions of Ukraine's approach to the legal society, it is necessary to organize special legal training at general educational institutions for the development of a proper level of legal education in the younger generation. Obviously, the content of the school curriculum should be updated, since legal education of youth is one of the priority challenges of the Ukrainian society. The construction of the rule of law, civil society must become the strategic goal of our society.

The prospects of further research are related to scientific research of understanding the relevance of legal issues by young people, which will motivate their need to form legal consciousness.

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ПРАВОСВІДОМІСТЬ ЮНОГО ПОКОЛІННЯ ЯК НЕОБХІДНА УМОВА СОЦІАЛЬНОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА

Становлення України як соціальної, демократичної, правової держави потребує суттєвого підвищення правосвідомості громадян, їх правової культури. Правова свідомість відображає правову дійсність. Метою статті є дослідження правосвідомості учнів старших класів в умовах соціального середовища. Проаналізовано значення правосвідомості та правової культури у становленні громадянського суспільства. На основі узагальнення наукових джерел розкрито особливості і змістове наповнення понять «правосвідомість», «соціалізація», «правова соціалізація». Означено соціальну спрямованість правосвідомості юного покоління. Охарактеризовано три групи таких факторів усвідомлення людьми права як регулятора відносин. Досліджено психологічні чинники процесу правосвідомості: правова грамотність учнів старшої школи; сформованості громадянських якостей; ступінь їх правової відповідальності. Експеримент проводився на базі загальноосвітньої школи І-ІІІ ступенів №4 м. Києва, яка працює за проектом «Школа юних лідерів громадянського суспільства» та загальноосвітньої школи І-ІІІ ступенів №201 м. Києва, де право вивчається лише у рамках шкільної програми. Подано коротку характе-

ристику позашкільного навчального закладу «Школа юних лідерів громадянського суспільства»: мета, завдання, викладацький склад, методи і форми формування правосвідомості підрастаючого покоління під час педагогічного процесу. Експеримент охоплював три етапи. На першому етапі проведено порівняльний експеримент з метою виявлення рівня правової грамотності учнів загальноосвітнього навчального закладу і позашкільного закладу Школи юних лідерів громадянського суспільства. На другому етапі виконано порівняльний аналіз на визначення рівня сформованості громадянських якостей учнів: демократичність, суспільна ініціативність, гуманізм, етнічність, державна патріотичність, громадська свідомість, національна гідність, відданість справі українського державотворення, державний оптимізм, політична воля. На третьому етапі досліджено ступінь правової відповідальності учнів. Найважливішу роль у розвитку правової свідомості молодого покоління повинна відіграти оновлена і раціонально побудована система морального, трудового й інтелектуального виховання, яка спроможна забезпечити формування їхнього активного життєстверджуючого менталітету і перетворення культури правової поведінки в невід'ємну властивість особистості. Встановлено необхідність оновлення змісту шкільної програми, направленої на формування правової освіченості учнів загальноосвітніх навчальних закладів. Окреслено перспективу подальших досліджень, направлену на профілактику комплексів психологічних заходів оптимізації процесу формування правових знань учнів загальноосвітніх навчальних класів, що сприятиме мотивації у необхідності формування їхньої правосвідомості.

Ключові слова: правосвідомість, правова культура, юність, учень, група, соціальне середовище, дослідження.

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