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Measures Aimed at Enhancing Legal Culture at the New Stage of Development and Their Significance

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Abstract: This article analyzes the role of civil society institutions in creating the moral and ethical foundations of the family, the process of their formation, key principles, and future directions. The initiatives on the family institute were considered. The gender differences are clarified from the viewpoint of recent reforms.

Keywords: legal culture, legal illiteracy, responsibility, law, mass media, "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, legal nihilism, society, legal science.

Introduction

Reforms aimed at enhancing legal culture at a new stage of development focus on a comprehensive approach—from early legal education in schools to the use of innovative technologies and the strengthening of the role of the mass media—with an emphasis on developing citizens' knowledge of their rights and obligations, respect for the law, and legal self-protection, particularly through national programs and the advancement of legal science, in order to make the legal system more understandable and accessible to everyone.

Main directions of the reforms in Uzbekistan:

1. Awareness-raising and education of law
2. Early legal education: Introduction of legal literacy from kindergarten and school.
3. Public outreach in legal terms: Active use of mass media and social networks to explain laws.

Methods. Programs: Development and implementation of national programs (for example, Cabinet of Ministers resolutions in 2024-2025 in Uzbekistan). Innovation and technology: Application of new methods to enhance legal culture, including digital platforms. Improvement of legal practice and legislation.

Engagement of citizens and legal professionals: Encouraging legal initiative and active participation of citizens.

Systematic professional development of all legal professionals and the creation of conditions for the development of legal science.

Scientific basis: Research into the scientific foundations of legal culture, including an understanding of its functions (regulatory, educational, and others) to design effective measures.

Goal of the reforms: To create a society in which citizens know, respect, and recognize the

necessity of complying with the law, and where legal culture becomes an integral part of general culture and a self-protective instinct for safeguarding one's rights.

Results. Some authors present legal culture as a system that includes law, legal consciousness, legal relations, legality, legal order, and lawful behavior; others see it as the state of the legal life of society, the achieved level of legal acts and other texts of a legal nature, and the degree to which the state guarantees individual freedom of action in unity with their responsibility to society; a third group defines it as the level of maturity of the legal system, the state of legality, people's attitude toward legal norms, law, and rights, the legal literacy of the general population, and their intolerance of violations of the law; a fourth group describes it as "the result of the historical development of legal institutions and the legal consciousness of representatives of the legal elite and ordinary citizens"; a fifth group defines it as "the quality of the legal life of society and the degree to which the state and society guarantee human rights and freedoms, as well as the knowledge, understanding, and observance of law by each individual member of society"; a sixth group considers it the legal habitat, "the totality of texts at any time legitimized as legal, and the mechanisms for their creation, preservation, and transmission [1]". Other conceptions of legal culture have also been expressed.

As a new approach in the ongoing reforms on 18 September 2024, Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 588 "On Approval of the Program of Measures to Enhance Legal Culture in Society for 2024–2025" was adopted. The Program consists of 95 measures classified into four areas:

enhancing the legal culture of the population;

applying innovative methods to improve legal culture;

strengthening the role of the mass media in enhancing legal culture;

researching the scientific foundations for improving legal culture.

It was also established that the level and quality of communicating legislative acts and the substance of reforms to the population is one of the indicators used to assess the effectiveness of government bodies and organizations.

The program is aimed at increasing the legal literacy of the population, improving interaction between citizens, the state, and society, as well as utilizing modern methods of legal advocacy. According to the Resolution, a Program of Measures to Enhance Legal Culture in Society for 2024–2025 has been approved, which provides for:

Raising the legal culture of the population in the context of the relationship between "individual – state – society";

Implementing innovative methods of legal advocacy to enhance legal culture in society;

Strengthening the role of mass media in improving the legal culture of the population;

Studying the scientific foundations for enhancing legal culture.

The Role of Legal Culture in Society. Legal culture is one of the most important components of modern society, as it reflects the level of citizens' legal awareness, their respect for the law, and their ability to act within the framework of legal norms. A high level of legal culture contributes to strengthening the rule of law, preventing conflicts, and building trust between the state and society. Legal culture is manifested not only in knowledge of the law but also in the ability to apply it in practice, respect the rights of others, and take responsibility for one's actions. It is shaped through education, upbringing, the activities of state and public institutions, as well as through the personal example of societal leaders [2].

A society with a developed legal culture is characterized by stability, justice, and effective protection of citizens' rights and freedoms. Conversely, a low level of legal culture leads to violations of the law, corruption, and a decline in trust toward state institutions.

Thus, enhancing legal culture is an important strategic task for the state, aimed at creating a harmonious, just, and safe society. Heads of the relevant state bodies and organizations bear personal responsibility for the timely, complete, and high-quality implementation of the measures provided for in the Program, as well as for the timely submission of quarterly reports on the results to the Ministry of Justice.

It is worth emphasizing that Uzbekistan was among the first countries in the CIS to accede to the UN "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", as well as to the International Labour Organization conventions on Maternity Protection and on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation. Furthermore, with the adoption of the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" (2019) and "On Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence" (2019), national legislation in the field of ensuring gender equality has been significantly improved.

Enhancing the legal awareness and legal culture of students and teachers begins, first of all, within the family. If parents or legal guardians observe laws and regulations in the process of upbringing and set a proper example for children, the children will certainly demonstrate positive behavior in society. When parents thoroughly study and comply with the Law on Education, make effective use of the rights granted therein, and fulfill their obligations, the knowledge acquired by students becomes even more effective and will bear fruit in the near future.

Discussion. Measures to raise legal culture include the development of legal education and public awareness, active use of mass media for legal advocacy (social networks, portals), provision of accessible legal assistance (free consultations, campaigns), involvement of citizens in lawmaking, as well as the improvement of the judicial system itself to foster respect for the law, creating conditions for understanding and compliance with legislation across all segments of the population.

By decree of the head of state, the "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy was adopted. Ensuring the rule of law and the further reform of the judicial and legal system is identified in the Strategy as a priority area of state development. Among the main tasks are the enhancement of the legal culture and legal awareness of the population, as well as the organization of effective cooperation in this area between state bodies, civil society institutions, and the mass media [3]. Taking the above into account, it is advisable to strengthen efforts aimed at reinforcing families, preserving family values, and improving the social and moral environment within families by intensifying the following measures:

1) establishing a systematic monitoring mechanism in local communities (mahallas) to remain continuously informed about the subsequent lives of reconciled families;

2) involving relevant specialists and responsible officials, as well as active community members capable of exerting a positive educational influence, in the work of commissions for strengthening family values;

3) conducting awareness-raising and advocacy activities aimed at enhancing legal culture among the population, especially women, in order to prevent illegal marriages;

4) ensuring the establishment of cooperation between mahallas and civil registry (FHDY- civil registrar's office) and judicial bodies on matters related to marriage and divorce.

5) preparing young people in mahallas for family relationships, strengthening families, and widely promoting the life experience of exemplary families;

6) avoiding routine approaches when organizing events aimed at strengthening family values and conducting them in a lively manner based on real-life examples;

7) involving scholars conducting scientific research in the field of family values in these activities;

8) preparing series of television programs, radio broadcasts, and articles on long-established family values shaped by traditions unique to each region, and widely disseminating them through the mass media (with particular attention to families that have preserved ancient values and passed them down through generations, elders, parents, and children who are raising talented offspring and making significant contributions to national development);
9) introducing norms regulating relations between spouses, as well as the moral and legal obligations of spouses, parents, and children.
Conclusion. In addition, enhancing legal awareness and legal culture in our country is regarded as one of the most important conditions for ensuring the rule of law and strengthening legality. Efforts to raise legal awareness and legal culture in society are being organized on the basis of the principle "individual — family — mahalla — educational institution — organization — society." In this regard, legal awareness-raising activities focusing on specific themes are being conducted in mahallas on designated days of the week.

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