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The Role of Legal Culture in the Development of Civil Society in Ukraine

Art. 1 of the Constitution of Ukraine emphasizes: “Ukraine is a sovereign, independent, democratic, social and legal state”¹. This is primarily due to the low level of legal culture of the population and the lack of legal education among young people.

Modern person can not exist outside of the culture. In our view, culture is one of the most important characteristics of mankind and the level of socialization that affects all spheres of man’s life and activity. Based on the general culture according to the roles played by a person in a particular system of relations (household, family, physical education and sport, professional activity, recreation etc.) there are many types of cultures: legal, political, organizational, informational, corporate and others.

In our view, legal culture is a system of professional-legal knowledge, skills and abilities that characterize high degree of legal development of the state, correspond to the level of the achieved social progress and express the regime of rights and freedoms of man and citizen and other important social values in the legal form. Legal culture is known to have the following structure: legal culture of the society, small groups (professional, ethnic etc.) and personality.

One of the main features of legal culture is a system of legal values. Now Ukraine is at the transformation stage. Therefore, during the years of its independence the Soviet

¹ The Constitution of Ukraine. – Kh.: Law, 2013. – P. 3.

legal values were sent to the past, and the new, democratic ones, are not yet fully formed. But the Constitution of Ukraine proclaims that the highest social value is a man, his life and health, honor and dignity, inviolability and security (Art. 3). The main legal democratic values are also the following:

1. implementation of the basic democratic principles;
2. accessibility and independence of justice;
3. transparency in government;
4. qualitative state of protection of man's rights and freedoms;
5. high level of legal awareness of citizens and others.

The level of legal culture can be high only upon condition of the person's perceived need and inner conviction, and this requires legal education. Legal education, according to experts¹, is first of all communicative activity (collective) which compulsorily takes into account legal-educative "matrix" (traditional samples) of previous periods and involves the interaction of many parties in the process of legal communication.

Legal education should be implemented since childhood. It is in the family that a child's worldview, character, human values, cultural foundations etc. are formed. Therefore, at this stage it is necessary to explain to your child that there are legal values.

The second stage is school. School is basic knowledge, foundation for further education and work. It is therefore necessary to introduce legal disciplines in which students would receive knowledge of the state and law, rights and duties of man and citizen etc.

The third stage is higher educational institution (HEI). Most students choose not legal HEI. Therefore it is necessary, in addition to philosophy, logics, ethics, aesthetics and other disciplines, to learn the essentials of state and law.

Responsible role of impact on youth also includes a librarian. For acquaintance with the library begins at a very young age — children, school library, then higher school, other libraries, and in all of them a reader communicates directly with the librarian. Therefore, he affects his readers, he is the leader in the world of information and books. Thematic exhibitions, assistance in selection of literature — all this affects thinking, outlook and the level of legal culture increases. That's why then experienced specialists will take an active part in the development of democracy and civil society.

Social organizations play an important role in shaping legal culture, their activities should be directed to:

1. legal protection and active defense of the rights of citizens;
2. combating all forms of lawlessness and arbitrariness;
3. assistance, including legal one, to citizens in solving any issues and so on.

¹ The philosophy of legal education: teach. guidance/Ed.: A. P. Getman, O. G. Danilyan; Nat. University "Law Academy named after Yaroslav the Wise" – Kh.: Law, 2012. – P. 15.

The state, in its turn, must:

1. implement reforms aimed at protecting human rights;
2. thoroughly cover activities of state and local governments in the mass media;
3. popularize legal knowledge among the population.

Only under these conditions it is possible to increase the level of legal culture, which in its turn will positively influence the development of civil society in Ukraine.

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Realization of functions of the legislative (representative) body of state authority in the Russian Federation during the parliamentary hearings

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