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THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN SHAPING LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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Abstract

This article examines the role of the state and the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms in shaping legal consciousness in the digital age. Through digital technologies, e-government systems, online legal information platforms, and social media, citizens gain easier access to legal knowledge, learn how to apply laws in practice, and improve their legal literacy. The research demonstrates that, in the context of Uzbekistan, the "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" strategy, electronic court systems, and state information policy serve as important tools in developing legal awareness. International scholarly approaches also confirm that digital technologies play a crucial role in promoting legal consciousness and ensuring access to justice. Therefore, the primary objective of this article is to analyze and substantiate the role of the state in shaping the legal consciousness of society under the conditions of the digital era.

Keywords: digital age, legal consciousness, role of the state, e-government, legal literacy, information policy, institutional mechanisms.

Introduction

The digital age has become one of the most transformative periods in human history, characterized by unprecedented technological progress and unlimited opportunities. The term "digital" reflects not only technological advancement but also fundamental changes occurring in all spheres of society through innovative systems and approaches. Today, many complex and previously abstract issues are gradually being resolved through digital transformation. In this sense, the "digital age" represents a new worldview and a new stage of societal development.The primary purpose of this era is the widespread implementation of electronic technologies and digital systems into social life and state governance. Consequently, the digital age has penetrated every sphere of society, including public administration, with the ultimate goal of simplifying human life and improving social efficiency. Modern society is not only witnessing this transformation but also actively participating in it.Legal consciousness, unlike ordinary social awareness, is formed on the basis of scientific knowledge, legal thinking, and a developed understanding of rights and obligations. It represents a mature level of intellectual and social awareness that ensures respect for law and legal order within society. In the conditions of the digital age, the state plays a decisive role in the development of legal consciousness by creating mechanisms aimed at protecting citizens' rights through digital technologies and modern legal instruments.

Scientific and Theoretical Analysis

The Institutional and Normative Role of the State in Shaping Legal Consciousness in the Digital AgeThe process of forming legal consciousness in the digital age differs significantly from traditional approaches. Today, legal consciousness is no longer shaped solely through educational institutions or law enforcement agencies. It is increasingly formed through digital platforms, electronic public services, online legal information systems, and social media networks. As a result, the role of the state in

developing legal awareness has become more complex and multidimensional.In legal scholarship, legal consciousness is recognized as the foundation of legal relations between the state and society. A high level of legal consciousness is considered a necessary condition for ensuring the rule of law, protecting citizens' rights and freedoms, and establishing a democratic legal state. In the digital era, this process is characterized by speed, openness, accessibility, and interactivity.The normative role of the state in shaping legal consciousness is primarily reflected in strategic legal documents aimed at digital development. In Uzbekistan, the adoption of the "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" strategy has created a systematic framework for state digital policy. Within this strategy, the government has focused on developing e-government services, open data platforms, digital public services, and online legal information systems. These initiatives ensure citizens' free access to legal information and directly contribute to the formation of legal consciousness.The development of legal consciousness in the digital environment is also closely connected with institutional mechanisms established by the state.

Electronic court systems, online appeals platforms, and open electronic databases of normative legal acts facilitate citizens' participation in legal processes. As a result, individuals not only become aware of their rights and obligations but also acquire practical skills in applying legal norms in everyday life. Thus, legal consciousness develops not only theoretically but also practically.Moreover, the state plays an essential role in shaping legal consciousness through information policy. Legal awareness campaigns conducted through social media, official websites, and digital mass media contribute to increasing legal literacy among citizens. In this process, the reliability, accuracy, and clarity of legal information provided by the state are of critical importance. Otherwise, misinformation and false legal content may negatively influence public legal consciousness.President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has repeatedly emphasized in his speeches that ensuring human dignity, rights, and freedoms should remain a priority of state policy. This approach serves as the ideological foundation for shaping legal consciousness in the digital age. Legal consciousness is not limited to knowledge of laws; it also includes respect for legal norms and a culture of conscious compliance with them.International scientific research also highlights the influence of digital technologies on legal consciousness. According to the study "Leveraging Legal Technology to Enhance Legal Awareness and Access to Justice in Underserved Communities," digital technologies significantly expand citizens' access to justice and function as effective instruments for strengthening legal awareness. However, these processes become effective only when supported by fair state information policies and reliable institutional mechanisms.Therefore, in the digital age, the role of the state in shaping legal consciousness is manifested through the combination of normative-legal, institutional, and informational mechanisms. By introducing digital technologies, the state not only improves administrative efficiency but also creates conditions for the development of a modern model of legal culture and legal consciousness in society.

Analysis of National Legislation

"Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" StrategyThe "Digital Uzbekistan – 2030" strategy aims to develop the digital economy and e-government system in Uzbekistan through the large-scale introduction of modern information and communication technologies into public administration, education, healthcare, and agriculture. More than 220 priority projects are planned within the framework of this strategy, creating opportunities for citizens to use digital services and improve their legal knowledge.This strategy clearly demonstrates the active role of the state in shaping legal consciousness. Through electronic services, citizens learn how to apply laws in practice and interact effectively with public authorities. Consequently, digital opportunities contribute to the development of legal culture and legal literacy within society.

Formation of Legal Consciousness in Society

The state applies a comprehensive approach to shaping legal consciousness through educational institutions, families, local communities, and civil society organizations. This process aims to cultivate respect for law, loyalty to national values, and intolerance toward legal violations. Innovative

educational methods, public awareness campaigns, and foreign experiences are also widely implemented.Researchers emphasize that legal consciousness is formed not only through legislation but also through social and cultural environments, youth education, and interactive learning within society. From this perspective, Presidential Decree PF-5618 established a systematic strategy for legal education and legal awareness activities in Uzbekistan.Law on Electronic GovernmentThe Law "On Electronic Government" regulates the provision of state services in electronic form, allowing citizens to exercise their rights online. Through the "one-stop-shop" principle, information exchange and public services are integrated into a unified system, increasing state transparency and efficiency.The practical significance of this law lies in enabling citizens to apply legal knowledge in practice while strengthening the principles of transparency, interactivity, and the rule of law in relations between individuals and state institutions.

Law on Informatization

Through the development of state information systems and digital resources, the government ensures citizens' free access to information, digital services, and artificial intelligence technologies. At the same time, ensuring information security and forming digital legal immunity are defined as important priorities of state policy.Scientific studies demonstrate that effective use of digital technologies and information resources contributes to increasing citizens' legal consciousness because it enables them to exercise their rights, use public services efficiently, and actively participate in social and legal processes.International Experience in Shaping Legal Consciousness Through Digital TechnologiesThe issue of shaping legal consciousness through digital technologies has become increasingly important at the international level. Many developed countries and international organizations have introduced effective mechanisms aimed at ensuring citizens' free access to legal information, expanding access to justice, and improving legal literacy through digital platforms.For example, the European Union's e-Justice Portal functions as a unified digital legal platform for citizens. Through this portal, individuals can obtain detailed information about national legislation, judicial systems, legal procedures, legal assistance, and justice services within European countries. The accessibility and transparency of the portal contribute significantly to strengthening citizens' legal awareness and enabling them to exercise their rights consciously and independently. Estonia, recognized as one of the world leaders in digital governance, effectively uses digital identification systems in shaping legal consciousness. Nearly all public services in Estonia are provided online, while citizens can use a single electronic ID to access courts, communicate with state institutions, and review normative legal documents. This system encourages active participation in legal processes and promotes the practical development of legal consciousness.Furthermore, the concepts of "Access to Justice" and "Legal Empowerment" promoted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provide important theoretical and practical foundations for developing legal consciousness through digital technologies. These concepts recognize digital legal information systems, online consultation services, and electronic government platforms as essential tools for improving legal literacy and expanding access to justice, especially for socially vulnerable groups.In conclusion, international experiences demonstrate that the digital reforms implemented in Uzbekistan correspond to global trends. Developing these reforms on the basis of national legal traditions and values will contribute to strengthening legal consciousness and legal culture in society.

Conclusion

The digital age is fundamentally transforming the process of shaping citizens' legal consciousness. Today, legal consciousness is no longer limited to theoretical knowledge of laws but develops practically through digital technologies, electronic services, and online legal information systems. State normative acts, institutional mechanisms, and information policies create opportunities for citizens to acquire legal knowledge, respect legal norms, and apply laws effectively in everyday life.International

experiences from Estonia, the European Union, and the United Nations also demonstrate that the effective use of digital technologies and electronic platforms contributes to improving legal consciousness, increasing public participation in legal processes, and strengthening the rule of law.Moreover, the formation of legal consciousness reinforces legal culture, promotes justice, and strengthens respect for law within society. Under the conditions of the digital age, the active role of the state creates unique opportunities for the establishment of a modern model of legal consciousness and legal culture.

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