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FORMATION OF LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION CULTURE

Annotation. The article explores the crucial role of legal consciousness in shaping an anti-corruption culture within the context of modern Kazakhstan. It argues that while legislative and institutional reforms have been implemented in recent years, the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts largely depends on the level of legal awareness among citizens. Legal consciousness is viewed as a key factor influencing individual attitudes toward justice, law, and state institutions. The study is based on a sociological survey involving university students and public servants, highlighting current perceptions of corruption and the tools believed to be most effective in countering it. The findings suggest that although most respondents recognize the harmful effects of corruption, there is a lack of active resistance due to limited legal knowledge and civic engagement. The article emphasizes the need to integrate legal education and anti-corruption values into the formal education system and public policy.

Keywords: legal consciousness, legal culture, civil society, education, digital technologies, legal education, anti-corruption culture.

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СЫБАЙЛАС ЖЕМҚОРЛЫҚҚА ҚАРСЫ МӘДЕНИЕТТЕ ҚҰҚЫҚТЫҚ САНАНЫ ҚАЛЫПТАСТЫРУ

Аннотация. Мақалада қазіргі Қазақстан жағдайында сыбайлас жемқорлыққа қарсы мәдениетті қалыптастырудағы құқықтық сананың шешуші рөлі қарастырылған. Онда соңғы жылдары заңнамалық және институционалдық реформалар жүзеге асырылғанымен, сыбайлас жемқорлыққа қарсы іс-қимылдың тиімділігі көп жағдайда азаматтардың құқықтық санасының деңгейіне байланысты екендігі дәлелденді. Құқықтық сана жеке тұлғаның сот төрелігіне, құқыққа және мемлекеттік институттарға қатынасына әсер ететін негізгі фактор ретінде қарастырылады. Зерттеу университет студенттерінің қатысуымен жүргізілген социологиялық сауалнамаға негізделген, сыбайлас жемқорлықтың қазіргі түсінігі мен оған қарсы күресте ең тиімді деп саналатын құралдарды көрсетеді. Нәтижелер респонденттердің көпшілігі сыбайлас жемқорлықтың зиянды әсерін мойындағанымен, құқықтық білім мен азаматтық белсенділіктің шектеулі болуына байланысты белсенді қарсылық жоқ екенін көрсетеді. Мақалада құқықтық білім беру мен сыбайлас жемқорлыққа қарсы құндылықтарды формальды білім беру жүйесі мен мемлекеттік саясатқа біріктіру қажеттілігі атап өтілген.

Кілтті сөздер. Құқықтық сана, құқықтық мәдениет, азаматтық қоғам, білім, цифрлық технологиялар, құқықтық тәрбие, сыбайлас жемқорлыққа қарсы мәдениет.

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ФОРМИРОВАНИЕ ПРАВОВОГО СОЗНАНИЯ В АНТИКОРРУПЦИОННОЙ КУЛЬТУРЕ

Аннотация. В статье рассмотрена решающая роль правового сознания в формировании антикоррупционной культуры в современных условиях Казахстана. Несмотря на то, что в последние годы были проведены законодательные и институциональные реформы, эффективность борьбы с коррупцией во многом зависит от уровня правового сознания граждан. Правовое сознание рассматривается как ключевой фактор,

влияющий на отношение личности к правосудию, праву и государственным институтам. Исследование основано на социологическом опросе с участием студентов университетов и демонстрирует современное понимание коррупции и наиболее эффективные средства борьбы с ней. Результаты показывают, что большинство респондентов признают вредное влияние коррупции, однако из-за ограниченного уровня правовых знаний и гражданской активности активного противодействия нет. В статье подчеркивается необходимость интеграции правового образования и антикоррупционных ценностей в формальную систему образования и государственную политику.

Ключевые слова: правовое сознание, правовая культура, гражданское общество, образование, цифровые технологии, правовое воспитание, антикоррупционная культура.

It is undeniable that corruption has a significant impact on the socio-economic development, stability, and the establishment of the rule of law in any society. Without a comprehensive and systematic approach to combating corruption, the effectiveness of public administration, the country's investment attractiveness, and citizens' trust in the legal system cannot be ensured. Today, one of the most pressing global issues is the formation of an anti-corruption culture.

In recent years, the Republic of Kazakhstan has undertaken a series of legislative and institutional reforms aimed at combating corruption. Notable among these efforts are the adoption of the Law "On Combating Corruption," the establishment of specialized authorized bodies, and the implementation of e-government and open budget systems. These initiatives represent significant steps toward enhancing transparency and accountability in public administration.

However, the existence of legal mechanisms alone is not sufficient to effectively address corruption. There is a critical need for the continuous development of legal culture and legal consciousness among the population. Sustainable anti-corruption efforts must not rely solely on punitive measures, but also on fostering public respect for the law and promoting legal awareness as a foundation for long-term change.

Legal consciousness represents a set of citizens' perceptions and attitudes toward legality, justice, the law, and the state. In the context of building an anti-corruption culture, legal awareness plays a crucial and defining role.

The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that, despite the availability of sufficient legislative and institutional mechanisms in

Kazakhstan today, the overall level of legal awareness remains inadequate. Low legal literacy among youth, the persistence of corruption-prone behavior among public officials, and the limited engagement of civil society institutions continue to hinder the process of fostering a legal culture. Therefore, from a scientific perspective, examining the interrelation between legal consciousness and anti-corruption culture, and developing concrete recommendations, is of particular importance.

Scientific novelty – This article provides a comprehensive examination of the interrelationship between the concepts of anti-corruption culture and legal consciousness. Furthermore, based on international best practices, the study proposes new mechanisms adapted specifically to the socio-legal context of Kazakhstan.

The concept of legal consciousness is regarded as one of the fundamental categories in legal theory. Many scholars interpret it as individuals' attitude toward the law, their perception of legal values, and their trust in legality. For instance, the Russian researcher A.V. Malko describes legal consciousness as "a specific form of social consciousness," emphasizing that it consists of a system of views, ideas, and perceptions related to legal phenomena [1]. Kazakh legal scholar G.Sapargalyev, in turn, identifies legal consciousness as the core of legal culture in society, viewing it as a crucial factor that determines the qualitative nature of the relationship between the state and society [2].

The issue of fostering legal culture and legal consciousness has also been widely examined in international practice. Transparency International, in its annual reports, demonstrates that low levels of corruption are often closely linked to the

public's legal literacy and trust in the rule of law. Studies conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) emphasize that in addition to the legal framework, cultural and educational factors play a critical role in combating corruption [3].

Foreign researchers, such as R. Klaus and S. Rose-Ackerman, emphasize that the effectiveness of anti-corruption culture is directly linked to the activity level of civil society institutions. A review of the literature reveals that legal consciousness and anti-corruption culture are closely interconnected phenomena. A low level of legal awareness serves as one of the social foundations of corruption. Conversely, a high level of legal consciousness contributes to the rejection of corrupt practices and fosters respect for the rule of law. In this regard, many scholars underline the critical importance of shaping legal awareness through the education system [4].

Based on international experience, the

following approaches are highlighted as effective ways to strengthen legal culture and foster an anti-corruption culture:

- Introducing specialized courses in schools and higher education institutions (for example, the practices of Singapore and South Korea);
- Enhancing transparency and accountability in public service (as seen in Sweden and Finland);
- Increasing the engagement of civil society and the media (based on experiences from the United States and European countries).

Therefore, as identified through the literature review, a comprehensive approach to the issues of legal consciousness and anti-corruption culture remains highly relevant in the context of Kazakhstan. Further research is needed in this area, particularly focusing on the socio-psychological and cultural aspects of developing legal awareness.

Analysis of scientific literature	The study used a survey method.	Comparative legal analysis	Content analysis
The works of domestic and foreign scientists on the topic of legal consciousness and legal culture were studied.	This method allowed us to assess the level of legal awareness in society.	The anti-corruption legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and international legal documents (UN Convention against Corruption, OECD recommendations) were compared	A review of official reports and statistical data from Transparency International, UNODC, and the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan was conducted.

The study employed a survey method, which allowed for the assessment of the level of legal consciousness within society.

Survey description:

- Sample size: 200 respondents, including students from universities in Astana, Almaty, and regional higher education institutions, as well as public sector employees.

- Social composition: 60% of respondents were students, while 40% were employees of state and local government bodies.

- Age range: 18 to 25 years old.

- Survey format: Conducted both online (via Google Forms) and offline (paper-based).

The main sections of the survey questions were as follows:

Level of legal consciousness:

- "Do you consider your knowledge of Kazakhstan's legislation to be sufficient?"

- "In your opinion, does respect for the law ensure justice in society?"

Attitudes toward corruption:

- "Do you believe that corruption hinders the development of society?"

- "Have you ever witnessed instances of corruption in everyday life?"

Ways to develop legal culture:

- "What do you consider the most effective tool for raising legal awareness?" (education, mass media, social networks, strengthening legislation)

- "Do you promote an anti-corruption attitude within your community?"

The survey was conducted only in certain regions and therefore does not fully represent the entire population of Kazakhstan.

The respondents' answers were subjective in nature. Due to the limited

timeframe of the study, it was not possible to compare the results with long-term dynamics.

These methodological approaches allowed for measuring the level of legal consciousness, identifying societal attitudes toward corruption, and assessing which factors play a decisive role in fostering an anti-corruption culture.

The survey conducted during the research made it possible to determine the level of legal awareness in society and attitudes toward anti-corruption culture.

According to the survey results, 62% of respondents believe that respect for the law ensures justice in society. Meanwhile, 21% expressed doubt about this view, and 17% completely disagreed. This indicates that the level of public trust in the law has not yet been fully established.

The vast majority of respondents — 83% — identified corruption as the main obstacle to societal development. Only 10% described this phenomenon as "sometimes potentially beneficial," while 7% expressed a neutral opinion.

In response to the question, "What is the most effective tool to increase legal awareness?" 45% of respondents pointed to the education system, 28% to mass media and social networks, 19% to strengthening legislation, and 8% to civil society organizations.

These findings underscore the importance of fostering legal culture within the educational process. According to young people, anti-corruption culture should be systematically introduced as a separate subject or educational focus in universities and schools.

Several key conclusions can be drawn from the results obtained:

- The level of legal awareness remains insufficient. Nearly half of the respondents admitted to lacking a full understanding of the legislation. This highlights the relevance of improving legal education at all levels.

- There is a declared anti-corruption stance, but practical engagement is limited. Although the majority of participants perceive corruption as a harmful phenomenon, few take active steps to prevent it in practice.

- Education emerged as a decisive

factor. The role of schools and higher education institutions is crucial in shaping legal culture. This finding aligns with international best practices, where countries such as Singapore, South Korea, and Finland integrate legal education from early stages of schooling.

- A distinction was observed between students and public servants. While students pointed to a lack of legal knowledge, government employees were more likely to report direct exposure to corruption incidents.

These insights emphasize the need for a comprehensive and systemic approach to developing legal consciousness and anti-corruption culture, particularly through the education system.

In a society with a high level of legal consciousness, the social foundations of corruption are significantly weakened, and as trust in the rule of law strengthens, citizens are more likely to take an active stance against unlawful actions. Overall, the findings of the study confirm that enhancing legal awareness plays a pivotal role in fostering an anti-corruption culture.

The results also revealed the need for a comprehensive approach to developing both legal consciousness and anti-corruption culture. In this regard, the following recommendations can be proposed:

- Introduce dedicated modules on legal culture and anti-corruption education into school curricula. It is essential not only to teach students about the law but also to instill values such as justice, integrity, and transparency from an early age.

- Integrate a compulsory elective course titled "Fundamentals of Anti-Corruption Culture" into higher education programs across all disciplines. This course should aim to promote ethical behavior and civic responsibility among future professionals, regardless of their field of study.

These measures would contribute to forming a legally literate and socially responsible generation, thereby strengthening the institutional and cultural resistance to corruption.

The use of interactive teaching methods—such as case studies, role-playing, and debates—can significantly enhance

students' ability to critically evaluate legal issues and develop independent reasoning in addressing them.

Improving the public service career model is also essential. In the recruitment and promotion of civil servants, not only professional competencies but also adherence to anti-corruption behavior and ethical standards should be evaluated.

Introducing a system of rewards and incentives is recommended, wherein public officials demonstrating exemplary anti-corruption behavior are formally recognized and rewarded.

Expanding e-Government (eGov) services plays a key role in reducing corruption risks by ensuring that all public services are accessible in an online format, minimizing direct contact between citizens and officials.

Enhancing the "Open Budget" and "e-Construction" platforms would enable citizens to monitor the use of budgetary funds in real-time, thereby increasing transparency and public accountability in public spending.

These strategies reflect a multi-level approach to institutional reform and cultural transformation in the fight against corruption.

In his Address to the Nation entitled "Kazakhstan in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Key Challenges and the Need for Comprehensive Digital Transformation", President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasized the development of artificial intelligence and its influence on youth behavior [5]. In this regard, it is imperative to introduce AI-based monitoring systems to automatically detect suspicious activities in public procurement and tenders.

Enhancing digital literacy is crucial for increasing public trust in online platforms and encouraging active civic engagement through digital tools.

It is also essential to support anti-corruption projects by NGOs and youth organizations through state grants, thereby fostering grassroots initiatives and civil society participation.

Consistent anti-corruption awareness campaigns should be conducted through mass media and social networks to promote a culture of integrity and transparency.

Furthermore, engaging youth

volunteer movements in anti-corruption efforts can serve as a powerful mechanism for mobilizing civic responsibility and promoting ethical behavior among younger generations.

The findings of the conducted research clearly demonstrate the decisive role of legal consciousness in shaping an anti-corruption culture. Legal consciousness, understood as the collective perceptions and attitudes of citizens towards the law, justice, and state institutions, serves as a key factor in fostering intolerance toward corruption. When the level of legal awareness is low, individuals tend to perceive corruption as a normal phenomenon and are less likely to engage in active resistance. In contrast, in societies with a high level of legal consciousness, trust in the law is strengthened, and corruption is widely condemned as a socially unacceptable behavior.

The survey results obtained during the research enabled several important conclusions. First, nearly half of the respondents acknowledged that they do not fully understand Kazakhstan's legal framework, indicating that the system of legal education still requires significant improvement. Second, while the majority of respondents recognized corruption as a major obstacle to the country's development, they also demonstrated a lack of personal initiative in preventing it. Third, the fact that education and public awareness were identified as the most effective tools for cultivating legal awareness confirms the presence of a demand for legal culture, particularly among the younger generation in Kazakhstan.

From a scientific perspective, the novelty of this study lies in the comprehensive examination of the interrelationship between legal consciousness and anti-corruption culture. While previous research has often addressed legal culture or corruption as separate issues, this article highlights their synergy and mutual influence.

In the current context, there is a growing necessity for the systematic development of legal education and anti-corruption culture within the education system. To achieve this, the introduction of specialized courses in schools and higher education institutions, along with the implementation of

innovative teaching methods, is essential.

Digital technologies are emerging as effective modern tools for reducing corruption. E-government platforms, open budget systems, and artificial intelligence-based monitoring mechanisms enhance public trust and significantly minimize corruption risks.

Moreover, civil society and the media play an active role in cultivating legal consciousness. The projects implemented by non-governmental organizations and sustained information campaigns contribute to embedding anti-corruption values within society, reinforcing a culture of transparency, accountability, and rule of law.

Within the scope of the study, certain limitations were encountered. As the survey was conducted only in selected regions, the findings may not be fully representative of the entire population of Kazakhstan. Additionally, due to time constraints, it was not possible to track dynamic changes over a longer period. Nevertheless, the data collected were sufficient to identify key trends in the formation of anti-corruption culture and legal consciousness.

In the future, it is essential to conduct more in-depth research on the socio-psychological dimensions of legal consciousness. This includes examining the psychological causes of corruption-prone behavior, the value orientations of youth, and the social factors influencing legal culture. Furthermore, comprehensive studies assessing the impact of digital technologies on legal culture are of particular relevance.

In conclusion, fostering an anti-corruption culture in Kazakhstan must go beyond legislative measures and focus on enhancing society's level of legal awareness. This is a long-term process that requires coordinated efforts from the education system, public service institutions, digital governance tools, and civil society organizations. Raising the level of legal consciousness will ultimately weaken the social foundations of corruption and contribute to building a rule-of-law-based and just society in Kazakhstan.

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