

THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND UPBRINGING

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Abstract: This article primarily focuses on the impact of corruption on legal education, as well as on the legal upbringing that is formed on its foundation. Additionally, the article presents information on scientific analyses regarding the decline of legal culture as a result of corruption.

Keywords: corruption, legal education, legal upbringing, development, country, program

Corruption is undoubtedly a situation that negatively affects the development of a country, nation, and people. Due to this vice, all sectors that need to develop, as well as all sectors formed on their basis, may face decline.

From a moral standpoint, corruption is considered immorality and vice, while from a legal perspective, it is a crime. The term “corruption” originates from the Latin word “corruption”, which literally means “to sway through bribery”.

The Legal Encyclopedia states that “Corruption is criminal activity in the sphere of politics or public administration, expressed in the use by officials of their granted rights and powers for personal enrichment”. Thus, corruption, in general, is considered a crime related to the use of official position for personal purposes. In most cases, corruption is understood as government officials accepting bribes from citizens and obtaining illegal monetary income for personal gain, with the aim of accumulating wealth”[1].

Legal education and legal upbringing may face a crisis due to this vice. If there is corruption in education, know that a crisis is imminent. Knowledge cannot be purchased with money. Education cannot be shaped through monetary transactions or the sale of positions. Education and upbringing always go hand in hand. Legal education and legal upbringing are extremely important for the formation and enhancement of legal culture. As our First President Islam Karimov said: “Education cannot be separated from upbringing, and upbringing cannot be separated from education - this is an Eastern perspective, an Eastern philosophy of life”[2].

Legal culture is formed as a result of legal education and upbringing. Corruption, however, is precisely the condition that leads to the deterioration of this legal culture.

“Legal culture refers to the level of legality in society, the extent of public awareness of existing laws, the adherence to legal norms by citizens and officials, and the intolerance towards those who fail to comply with them”[3]. Legal culture is an essential condition for the advancement of a democratic society, and developing legal culture in a democratic society is one of the most urgent and significant issues. Indeed, as stated by the Chairman of the National Human Rights Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academician Akmal Saidov: “In the process of building a legal democratic state and a just civil society, the primary and crucial task is to cultivate the legal consciousness and legal culture of every citizen”[4].

“According to Article 81 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Combating Corruption”, the Anti-Corruption Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Agency) is entrusted with the task of developing and implementing state policy in the field of preventing and combating corruption. Within this scope, the Agency coordinates the activities of ministries and departments in the field of preventing and combating corruption and ensures the effective functioning of their joint activities.

The Agency performs the following tasks in implementing the state policy in the field of combating corruption:

First, it develops strategies and state programs to combat corruption and ensures their implementation;

Second, it prepares draft normative legal documents aimed at strengthening the legal framework for combating corruption;

Third, it ensures systematic analysis of the state of corruption in the country, and studies the causes and conditions for the occurrence of corruption-related risks and offenses in high-risk sectors;

Fourth, it ensures compliance with the requirements of the UN Convention against Corruption, promotes international cooperation in this field, and implements systematic measures to strengthen the country’s image and improve its ranking in international indices;

Fifth, it prepares the national report on combating corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan annually;

Sixth, it supports the activities of civil society institutions, the mass media, and other non-governmental sector representatives in establishing public oversight over anti-corruption efforts.

The Agency may also carry out other tasks within its competence related to the implementation of state policy in the fight against corruption”[5].

Legal upbringing, which contributes to the formation of legal culture, is defined as follows:

“Legal upbringing is the process of continuously instilling legal knowledge into the culture and consciousness of members of society through various means of influence. The tools of legal upbringing include legal advocacy, legal education and practice, and self-discipline. In a broad sense, legal upbringing refers to the process of shaping the legal consciousness and legal culture of society members and instilling an understanding of their rights and duties in their consciousness. In a narrower sense, legal upbringing expresses the methods and tools that serve to improve the legal knowledge and cultural literacy levels of citizens.

The role of legal upbringing in the development of the state and society, and in the formation of the foundations of a civil society, is determined by the level of legal knowledge and skills of individuals and citizens. Legal upbringing is implemented through the existing system, state and government bodies, neighborhoods, families, organizations, and their activities. Legal upbringing is a multifaceted and complex process, and its issues are studied within the fields of law, pedagogy, psychology, national ideology, foundations of spirituality, ethics, and aesthetics.

The effectiveness of legal upbringing depends on the harmonious implementation of the spiritual and educational activities of families, communities and educational institutions. The media, radio, television, legal-themed events, and discussion circles also play an important role in forming legal upbringing. All of these contribute, first and foremost, to enhancing the legal awareness and thinking of citizens, especially the youth, and to nurturing them as well-rounded individuals”[6].

To reduce corruption in society, legal education must be implemented not only in educational institutions but also by the media, government bodies, and public organizations. Effective

methods of combating corruption can be achieved by improving the legal awareness of citizens, expanding legal education, and ensuring justice in society.

In conclusion, it must be emphasized that corruption significantly impacts legal education and upbringing, as it leads to violations of legal norms and diminishes citizens' legal awareness. Such circumstances necessitate the effective organization of the education and upbringing system to maintain justice and the rule of law in society. Strengthening the connections between legal education and anti-corruption efforts is essential for ensuring social stability in society.

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