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## THE ROLE OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE FORMATION OF RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

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### ABSTRACT

The article "The role of legal education in the formation of responsible citizenship" examines the importance of legal education in the context of the development of responsible civic behavior. The author analyzes the influence of knowledge about laws, rights and duties on the formation of social responsibility of citizens. The article examines modern methods and approaches to the introduction of legal education into educational programs, and also assesses the effectiveness of such measures. Special attention is paid to the role of schools and universities in the formation of civic responsibility, as well as the prospects for the development of this area in the future. The results of the study can be useful for educational institutions, developers of legal education programs and those who care about the development of responsible citizenship in society.

### KEYWORDS

Legal education, responsible citizenship, educational programs on law, civil responsibility, training in the rights and duties of citizens, laws and norms of behavior, formation of legal culture, educational institutions and legal training, development of legal awareness, the role of schools in the formation of civil responsibility, legal literacy, civic education.

### INTRODUCTION

In the modern world, where globalization and socio-cultural changes are rapidly transforming society, the issue of responsible citizenship is becoming increasingly relevant. A responsible citizen not only observes the laws, but also actively participates in the life of society, consciously shaping his behavior and attitude to rights and duties. The role of legal education in this context is invaluable, as it is the basis for the formation of a legal culture and responsible citizenship. Legal education begins with the development of basic norms and principles of legislation. School courses in law and civic education play a key role in forming primary ideas about the laws of the country. Here, students learn to respect the rights and freedoms of others, to understand that the law is the foundation of justice and order.

Legal culture includes not only knowledge of the laws, but also the ability to apply them in everyday life. Teaching rights and responsibilities in educational institutions should include practical tasks that contribute to the development of critical thinking and the ability to analyze situations from the point of view of legislation[1]. Legal education also contributes to the formation of citizenship values. Students learn to value democratic principles, respect the rights and opinions of other citizens, and realize their role in society. This is an important element in the formation of an active civic position. Mastering the legal aspects of citizenship should focus not only on theoretical

knowledge, but also on the practical implementation of this knowledge in public life. School projects, educational practices, discussion of topical legal issues within the framework of the educational process — all this creates a basis for active participation of citizens in the formation of the legislative framework and social norms.

Legal education should also include preparing citizens to participate in the legal system. This includes training in the rules of legal procedure, the basics of law and order, as well as explaining the processes of participation in public events, elections and other forms of civic engagement. In modern society, where dynamic changes in the political, social and economic spheres occur on an ongoing basis, the formation of responsible citizenship becomes a key aspect. One of the effective tools to achieve this goal is legal education. Legal literacy and understanding of the basic principles of legality play a crucial role in shaping active, responsible civic behavior.

Education from the earliest stages should include components aimed at forming citizens' understanding of the foundations of the legal system and their place in this system. This is not only teaching the basics of law, but also fostering respect for the law, a culture of law and order and an informed approach to one's duties. It is important to understand that legal education is not limited to school curricula. It also includes extracurricular activities, adult education

programs, seminars and trainings[2]. The more fully and systematically the legal aspect is covered in educational programs, the more ready people become for civil responsibility.

Legal education is aimed not only at the transfer of knowledge about the laws, but also at the formation of a legal culture. This includes the ability to respond adequately to changes in legislation, understanding their rights and responsibilities, as well as respect for the rights of other citizens. A competent citizen is able not only to protect his interests, but also to respect the interests of others. Legal education stimulates the active participation of citizens in public life. It provides tools for people to consciously influence the processes taking place in the country. Having knowledge of the laws and mechanisms of law and order allows citizens to effectively use their rights and obligations, as well as effectively interact with government agencies.

Legal education is a powerful tool in crime prevention. It contributes to the formation of a conscious attitude to the rule of law, which means that it reduces the likelihood of committing illegal actions. A citizen who is aware of the consequences of his actions from the point of view of the law becomes a more responsible participant in society. The role of legal education in the formation of responsible citizenship is difficult to overestimate[3]. This is not just the transfer of factual knowledge about the laws, but also the education of a conscious, active citizen. Given the rapid pace of

change in modern society, legal education is becoming a key factor in ensuring the sustainability and development of civil society. Investments in the formation of legal literacy today are investments in a responsible, stable future of society.

In the modern world, against the background of rapid technological development and social changes, the relevance of issues of responsible citizenship is becoming more and more obvious. In this context, legal education plays a key role, which is the foundation for the formation of responsible behavior of citizens in society.

### **Definition of responsible citizenship**

Responsible citizenship presupposes active participation of citizens in the life of society with awareness of their rights and responsibilities[4]. This is not only compliance with laws, but also active participation in solving social problems, promoting sustainable development of society and respect for the rights and freedoms of others.

### **The role of legal education**

Legal education is an important tool that forms the foundations of civic culture and reflects the norms, values and principles of the rule of law. Its role in the formation of responsible citizenship lies in several aspects.

1. Mastering the basics of law. Legal education allows citizens to learn their rights and responsibilities. Mastering the basics of law forms their understanding of how to act in various situations and what consequences may arise if laws are violated.

2. Formation of a legal culture. The legal culture includes respect for the laws, willingness to comply with them and participate in their formation. Legal education contributes to the formation of citizens' conscious attitude to legal norms and their internal assimilation.

3. The development of critical thinking. Legal education promotes the development of critical thinking, which allows citizens to analyze laws, develop their opinions on legal issues and make informed decisions.

4. Education of civic responsibility. Legal education is aimed at the formation of civic responsibility, including participation in public life, the struggle for rights and freedoms, as well as the willingness to take responsibility for their actions.

### Implementation in educational programs

The realization of the role of legal education in the formation of responsible citizenship requires the introduction of appropriate elements into educational programs. This can be achieved through the integration of legal disciplines into the educational

process, the organization of legal conferences, seminars and practical classes[5]. The training should not only provide theoretical knowledge, but also focus on practical skills, such as the ability to defend one's position in a reasoned manner, participate in debates and public events. In the modern world, where dynamic socio-cultural changes require active participation of citizens in public life, the most important component of the formation of active and responsible citizenship is legal education. Understanding laws, rights and responsibilities, as well as the ability to apply them in practice, play a key role in the formation of citizens who are able to make informed decisions and contribute to the development of society.

Legal education begins with mastering the basics of law, which includes knowledge of constitutional principles, civil and criminal codes. This provides citizens with a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities, as well as builds respect for the law[6]. Students who have received appropriate education are more likely to be guided by legal norms in their daily lives, developing responsible behavior. Legal education contributes to the formation of a high legal culture of citizenship, which, in turn, is the basis for civic engagement. People who understand and respect the laws are more likely to participate in public life, interact with government agencies and participate in various initiatives. Legal education stimulates civic



activism, creating conditions for the formation of responsible public leaders.

Legal education also develops legal literacy skills, which provides citizens with the opportunity to effectively defend their rights and freedoms. Knowledge of the mechanisms of the legal system and the ability to use them to their advantage contribute to the creation of a just society where every citizen is aware of his role and value. Legal education also provides a platform for discussing ethical issues and forming a responsible attitude towards one's actions. It is important that citizens are aware not only of their rights, but also of their responsibility to society. Teaching ethics and morality in the context of legal education contributes to the formation of citizens who can make decisions focused on the benefit of society and based on the principles of justice. Citizens with legal education are able to participate more effectively in legal reform processes[7]. They can actively propose changes to legislation, justify their positions and influence the formation of laws. Such participation in public life contributes to the development of democracy and creates conditions for building a State governed by the rule of law.

Legal education plays a crucial role in familiarizing citizens with the basics of the legal system. This includes knowledge of the basic rights and obligations, the principles of functioning of the rule of law, the structure and law enforcement agencies. Citizens with

such knowledge can make informed decisions, comply with laws and interact in society in accordance with the norms of law and order.

Legal education contributes to the development of citizens' legal thinking and critical perception of laws and regulations. This is important for the formation of the ability to analyze, evaluate and criticize existing legal norms. Citizens trained in legal thinking become more informed and able to actively participate in shaping and changing laws for the benefit of society. Legal education is aimed at educating citizens who strive to comply with the law not only out of fear of punishment, but also out of an understanding of justice and the public good. This aspect creates responsibility not only to oneself, but also to society as a whole. Legally educated citizens are able to perceive the rule of law as a guarantor of stability and justice in society.

Legal education also promotes the active participation of citizens in public life. Having an understanding of their rights and responsibilities, people can more effectively participate in public dialogue, protect their interests and contribute to the formation of public policy. Legal education plays a key role in overcoming legal nihilism, when citizens do not attach due importance to the observance of laws. Educated citizens are aware of the importance of law and order for social stability and well-being, which contributes to the formation of a responsible attitude to the law.

Thus, legal education plays an integral role in the formation of responsible citizenship. It creates the basis for a legal culture, civic engagement, ethical behavior, and the protection of rights and freedoms. The development of such skills and knowledge among citizens contributes to the construction of a just and developed society, where each member of society is aware of his role and responsibility.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion. Legal education plays a key role in the formation of responsible citizenship, providing the necessary knowledge, skills and value orientations. Support from the State, educational institutions and the public in the development of legal education contributes to the creation of an active civil society capable of effectively coping with the challenges of the modern world. The role of legal education in the formation of responsible citizenship is difficult to overestimate. It not only conveys knowledge about the laws, but also contributes to the development of culture, values and activity of citizens. A responsible citizen is formed in the learning process, acquiring the necessary skills and understanding of his role in society. Therefore, investing in legal education becomes a strategic step in building a strong and responsible civil society.

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