

## ENHANCING LEGAL EDUCATION AND UPBRINGING IN NEW UZBEKISTAN - THE FOUNDATION OF AN ENLIGHTENED SOCIETY

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**Abstract:** This article highlights the fundamental importance of enhancing legal consciousness and legal culture within society. The improvement of legal education and upbringing processes is analyzed as a key foundation for ensuring the sustainability of democratic reforms and building an enlightened society. Furthermore, the article puts forward theoretical and practical proposals regarding the mechanisms for increasing the legal literacy of the younger generation and the role of legal education in ensuring the rule of law.

**Keywords:** legal education, legal upbringing, enlightened society, legal culture, legal consciousness, rule of law, reform, civil society

Indeed, an enlightened society is the foundation of New Uzbekistan. An enlightened society is a knowledge-based society consisting of educated individuals. Furthermore, it is a society where citizens possess high intellectual potential, operate on the basis of science, spirituality, and legal culture, and participate consciously in all spheres of social life. In such a society, science, justice, knowledge, the rule of law, and moral values serve as the primary criteria. “A person’s place in society is determined not by their material wealth, but by their high spiritual character. If the body of social life is the economy, its soul and spirit are spirituality. For an enlightened society is capable of any reform”[1].

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, noted: “We consider the consistent implementation of new ideas such as Society - the initiator of reforms and The people - the creator of the Constitution and laws, and the systematic increase of the participation of both citizens and civil society institutions in state administration and decision-making, as the result and effectiveness of our reforms, and a guarantee of the irreversibility of this path”[2]. These profound thoughts signify how important and relevant legal education and legal upbringing are in today’s enlightened society.

The mechanisms for forming legal education and upbringing in an enlightened society are directly manifested in the development of legal consciousness and legal culture. This process must be carried out systematically, consistently, and step-by-step. Legal education and upbringing in an enlightened society are inherently linked to the stable growth of society, the strengthening of citizens’ legal consciousness, and the insurance of the rule of law.

In this process, the state’s involvement is reflected in the improvement of the normative-legal framework in this field. To increase the effectiveness of legal education in an enlightened society, a fair and solid normative foundation is required. The mechanism created for this purpose includes developing and improving state programs and laws on legal education and upbringing, updating educational standards, and goals related to promoting anti-corruption policies while strengthening legality.

Consequently, the work on implementing this mechanism accelerated immediately after our independence. In particular, on August 29, 1997, the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the “National Program for Raising Legal Culture in Society”. “It focused on developing legal

culture and increasing legal literacy on a national scale, improving legal upbringing, increasing the volume of popular legal literature, and enhancing the people’s knowledge in the legal field, placing the issue of developing social legal consciousness and culture on the agenda”[3].

The issue of developing and improving anti-corruption norms, which negatively impact the legal upbringing of the population, can also be integrated into the structure of this mechanism. This is because corruption is the enemy of legal culture. Specifically, the law adopted within the framework of the fight against corruption is of significant importance, as its contribution to legal education and upbringing is an undeniable reality. According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 419 “On Combating Corruption”, adopted on January 3, 2017: “one of the main directions of state policy in the field of combating corruption is to raise the legal consciousness and legal culture of the population, and to form an intolerant attitude towards corruption in society”[4]. It is evident from this that corruption is a unique barrier to legal progress in an enlightened society. Combating it can only be achieved through legal education and upbringing.

Following the dynamics of changes in this field, another normative basis adopted was the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5618 dated January 9, 2019, “On Radical Improvement of the System for Raising Legal Consciousness and Legal Culture in Society”. This normative-legal act is one of the most important works carried out within the state-participatory mechanism. This is because the concept approved by the decree was developed to reveal how crucial legal culture is for the development of the country. This concept outlines the mechanism of legal upbringing based on the “family-neighborhood-educational organization-society” system. As stated in the decree, the primary goal of this concept is: “to create a comprehensive and systematic process for educating citizens from all walks of life to achieve legal literacy, possess a strong will, know their rights and respect the laws, apply their legal knowledge in daily life, maintain an active civic position, and hold an intolerant attitude towards legal violations”[5].

In particular, the practical results of the decree include an increase in the scope of legal promotion. State programs on legal culture are being adopted annually. To ensure the implementation of Presidential Decree No. PF-5618, a “roadmap” for the realization of the concept of raising legal culture in society for 2020–2021 was developed and presented for discussion. This draft resolution was also submitted for public discussion in that same year. Specifically, on October 30, 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 678 “On organizing the activities of the “Adolat” National Legal Information Center under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as measures to increase the effectiveness of work on raising the legal culture of the population”. This resolution approved the program of measures for raising legal culture in society for 2020-2021. According to the program, the following tasks are explicitly listed: “raising the legal culture of the population in the mutual relations between the individual, state, and society; introducing innovative methods of legal promotion; strengthening the role of mass media in raising legal culture; developing the system of legal education, as well as training, retraining, and advanced training of legal personnel; and researching the scientific foundations of raising legal culture”[6].

In conclusion, the enhancement of legal education and upbringing in New Uzbekistan serves as the primary engine for building an enlightened society. The analysis demonstrates that legal culture is not merely a collection of legal knowledge, but a vital component of a citizen’s spiritual and social identity.

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