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**ACTUAL PROBLEMS OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND LEGAL
CULTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS**

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Abstract

The article deals with the issues related to legal education and legal culture of students in Russian educational institutions. Speaking about the forms of legal education, the author identifies the most effective ones, where one of the most important is legal education. The article emphasises that currently, there are not enough opportunities taken in this direction by the subjects of upbringing. In addition, the article raises one of the important issues of Russian education, i.e. the problems of legal education. Legal education is the main means of forming and raising the level of legal awareness and legal culture of citizens, a tool of spiritual education of the individual in the conditions of building a state based on the rule of law in Russia. One of the main directions of increasing the effectiveness of knowledge on law is the training of teaching staff, because it is on them that the preparation of a civic position and the acquisition of legal knowledge by schoolchildren largely depend. The mentioned system should meet the demands of the time and pay enough attention to the latest educational technologies. The level of teacher's knowledge should be up-to-date, i.e. teachers should be prepared to perform labour functions in the new conditions of Russia's innovative development. Authors noted that increasing the level of legal education of students is one of the most important tasks of the domestic education system of Russia.

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1. Introduction

The construction and functioning of a state based on the rule of law are impossible without legal education of its society. In the Russian Federation, the legislative base is in a moving, constantly changing state. But in modern Russian society, the problem of legal education of the younger generation has not become the subject of due attention on the part of politicians, public figures and scientists.

For the study of current problems and peculiarities of legal education in modern Russian society, the formulation of the concept of legal education is of paramount importance.

Legal education is a systematic, multidimensional and comprehensive process of educational work aimed at the correct formation of legal consciousness and legal culture of the individual by developing a legal way of thinking based on knowledge and understanding the national legal system.

Teaching and education belong to the oldest type of human cultural activity. Acquiring a certain set of knowledge and skills, a person strives to pass them on to others. Teaching is a specially organised purposeful process of interaction between a teacher and a student, as a result of which knowledge, skills and abilities are assimilated, as well as the upbringing and development of the learner's personality.

Since modern society is in constant change, education and upbringing should prepare a person for life in such society, teach him/her to make quick decisions in emergency situations and to think not only creatively, but also in the "legal field". The Concept explicitly states that the main goal of teaching is to form, among other things, a legal culture. Implementation of the Concept requires the teacher to use modern pedagogical technologies and teaching methods.

The legal culture of student youth continues to be one of the topical problems of modern higher education. It is established that legal education is part of a more general civic education, which is represented by the system of citizens' attitudes: an attitude to the Motherland, to other people, to oneself, to the natural environment, to the surrounding reality as a whole (Vaganova et al., 2017).

The identified relations should be formed on the basis of legal and moral norms regulated by them, in connection with which there is a need to form an appropriate culture, i.e. legal culture of each member of society, including student youth. This necessity is caused by a number of reasons being not only objective, but also subjective: the restructuring of society and in connection with this change of goals of each stratum and each individual; mismatch of personal and public interests, worldview positions.

Characterising the legal education of university students, one notes that the key directions and forms acceptable for universities are legal agitation, pedagogical support, legal propaganda, legal education, legal education, participation in law enforcement agencies (Kutepov et al., 2019).

One of the most important tasks of higher education is to form a set of social qualities in future specialists, a comprehensively and harmoniously developed personality. There is no doubt that in social and pedagogical respect, the student as a personality is formed under the influence of the general professional orientation of specialist training in our universities, so sometimes students mistakenly believe that professional training exhausts the development of their personality. Hence, a nihilistic element often appears in relation to humanitarian, social and legal disciplines (Kritskaya, 2018). And this, in turn, leads to the impoverishment of spiritual needs and interests of the individual.

2. Problem Statement

Therefore, it is especially important that in the process of mastering special educational disciplines by students, not only the attitude of the personality to the creative nature of the knowledge received, but also the direct relationship of the personality with the social environment, which is expressed in all manifestations of social reality, is taken into account. It is these relations that serve as the basis (criterion) for assessing the level of socio-legal consciousness of the individual

In this article we applied the dialectical method in the form of analysing the use of innovative educational technologies for the formation of legal culture of students. The descriptive method, a method of analysis of pedagogical literature and axiological approach were also applied. This approach is organically inherent in modern pedagogy, as the human being is considered in it as the highest value of society and the goal of social development.

The scientific novelty of the study lies in the analysis of the regional practice of using innovative educational technologies for the formation of legal culture and legal education of students of higher education.

3. Research Questions

It should also be noted that at the level of a student, groups most clearly manifest the need to differentiate legal education for the peculiarities of this collective and the ability to organise legal education work taking into account these features (Shpileva & Romanenko, 2019). In student groups, courses, faculties, the most systematic and comprehensive educational activities are achievable, covering, on the one hand, all means and forms of legal education, starting with legal education and ending with individual work with offenders and involvement of each student in the struggle to strengthen the rule of law. On the other hand, an integrated approach implies the inclusion of legal education in the general system of all educational, professional, organisational and preventive activities of a given educational institution.

4. Purpose of the Study

To form legal consciousness of students, it is necessary to achieve the growth of their legal culture, which includes not only the knowledge of law, but also the attitude to legal values, the attitude to the expression of social and legal activities, the development of training. This is done to follow legal prescriptions and to actively realise their rights and duties, as well as to protect the rights of other citizens. In order to stay in line with the increasingly complex tasks of social development, higher education must constantly improve the forms, methods and means of legal education, respond to changes in social demands, promptly restructure its legal education programme to improve legal culture.

A student, as a specialist with higher education, should be a person of high culture of behaviour, a model for other representatives of the labour collective, especially for young people (Tkhakokhov, 2017).

To improve legal culture, it is necessary to raise the level of culture in general. In this regard, the interaction of legal and ethical culture is of particular importance. It is moral consciousness as an element

of moral culture that indirectly contributes to the activity of the individual in accordance with the prescription of the legal law.

5. Research Methods

The legal-educational process in modern Russian society is characterised by the following main features and problems:

- i. historical development of the Russian legal-educational process at the present stage is in a state of stagnation;
- ii. law as an institution is currently experiencing a crisis, the preconditions for which are the crisis of the social institutions of family, education, army, government and the institution of citizenship;
- iii. lack of motivation for legal education and negative attitude to laws against the background of deformation of legal consciousness prevails not only among young people, but also among adult citizens of the Russian Federation;
- iv. privileged and inaccessible legal education to the general population;
- v. absence of specific directions of the state youth policy on the realisation of their rights and interests;
- vi. deterioration of the situation around legal education against the background of flourishing corruption and the collapse of the authority of the state as an apparatus by means of state coercion, ensuring the rule of law and the law on the territory of the Russian Federation;
- vii. chaotically developing process of formation of legal consciousness of citizens of the Russian Federation;
- viii. growth of nihilistic attitude to law and strengthening the process of deformation of legal consciousness of citizens of modern Russian society.

To date, Russian society needs enhanced theoretical development of ways, forms and methods of organisation and effective practical implementation of legal education of citizens of the Russian Federation.

At present, it is necessary to pay the closest attention to the issues of legal education and upbringing of the entire population and, first of all, of the younger generation, pupils and students. Legal education is one of the main means of creating a high level of legal consciousness among the population. Among the forms of legal enlightenment, it is necessary to single out, first and foremost, legal education (the teaching and assimilation of legal knowledge in secondary, specialised secondary, higher and other educational establishments, both legal and otherwise) and legal propaganda (the dissemination of legal knowledge in the mass media).

The need to improve the level of legal education in modern conditions has sharply increased; this is due to the increased importance of the role of law and the requirements of legality in improving the legal basis of the state and public life of society. As a negative circumstance, it should be noted that at present the concept of "legal education of the population" is gradually leaving the lexicon of law enforcement officers. It is necessary to overcome the opinion of some authors that, against the

background of the "criminological nightmare" unfolding on the Russian expanses to speak about some kind of education, it has become somehow, to put it mildly, awkward.

6. Findings

The strengthening of discipline, organisation and the development of democratic institutions in the country depend to a large extent on the level of legal consciousness of the population. It depends on each citizen's correct understanding of his or her rights and freedoms, the ability to use them, the readiness to fulfil his or her duties and to act always in accordance with the law. Therefore, a further strengthening of the legal basis of state and public life is conditioned by the need to improve the legal education of the population and especially of young people.

7. Conclusion

Legal education occupies an important place among various forms of legal education for young people. It presupposes the permanence of the audience, the availability of a training programme, the wide use of pedagogical methods of training and education. The most effective legal education work among the young generation can be carried out in educational institutions with students. The importance of legal education of young people is also due to the fact that more and more new generations of people are coming into life. And each new generation of young people, assimilating the experience of the past, feels the urge to learn new phenomena, theory and practice of building society. This puts a certain imprint on the methods, forms and means of legal education of young people, which require careful development.

Today, fragments of legal culture are included in the compulsory minimum education, in the educational standards of higher professional education. Legal academic disciplines are developed and introduced. And yet, in our opinion, this is not enough. There is an obvious gap between the new democratic legislation and the proper level of legal culture of young people and citizens. Law has not yet been established as an independent school subject in the basic curriculum, there is no system of training and retraining of teachers in legal disciplines, and the teaching of law is not sufficiently linked to legal education.

The level of legal awareness among students and young specialists with higher education also does not yet meet the requirements. Due to the lack of legal culture among students, it is not uncommon for them to have a careless attitude to their studies, to violate public order, to be addicted to drugs, to commit crimes, including serious ones. Where do these people with a limited range of interests and needs, often with a criminal orientation, come from? These are our students and graduates, who, as it turns out, have an underdeveloped sense of civic responsibility, respect for the law, the need to comply with the law, and poorly developed habits, beliefs and skills of active social reality (Modina, Kheckert, Epikhin, et al., 2021).

Legal education in higher education, as well as other types of legal education, is a strictly ordered process consisting of a number of interrelated and, moreover, interpenetrating stages. It seems that the legal education of students involves the following main steps: knowledge of law; understanding of law; respect for law; active defence of rights; need to comply with law. This should be developed into the need

to comply with legal regulations. Education of conscious fulfilment of the law by virtue of inner conviction, deep and respectful attitude to it is a qualitatively higher stage of legal education. The task of legal education cannot be reduced to equipping with the sum of legal knowledge. It is necessary to ensure that respect for law becomes a personal conviction of each student.

It is known that the system of legal education, along with other types of education, achieves its goal only if it carries to citizens not only knowledge about laws, not only factual information, but mainly knowledge of evaluative character. It forms in the consciousness and psychology of each person an internal stable basis with which he could be guided without error in the sphere of legal relations. It is very important in this case, through what motivational filter legal knowledge passes, how they are refracted in the system of worldview attitudes of an individual, his intellectual and emotional moods, value perceptions and relevant orientations (Modina, Khekert, Voskanian, et al., 2021).

That is why, along with information about laws, such issues as the tendency of development of the political system of the state, expansion and strengthening of democracy in the management of the state, strict execution of laws by legislative are important. There are executive and other branches of power, the concept of legality and law and order and conditions for its strengthening, improvement of legislation in the fight against offences, crimes and social consequences of violations of the law are more and more to the forefront of legal education work with students. They instill in students a consciousness of the inevitability of punishment and strengthen it as one of the most important tasks of legal education.

The whole educational work in the university should be aimed at developing these qualities in students. There is nothing secondary here, it is equally important both to obtain legal knowledge and to discuss and evaluate by comrades seemingly insignificant actions of a student: non-attendance, slovenliness, arrogance, not to mention drunkenness and drug use. Underestimation of both "trifles" and more significant factors of formation of legal consciousness affects the effectiveness of legal education work among students. In general, legal education and training in higher education have their own peculiarities, determined by a number of specific features of the forming personality.

Students occupy a special place in the social structure of society and have a certain social and legal status. They are often economically dependent on adults. The scope of their legal knowledge is sometimes limited to an insignificant sphere of social relations and little life experience. Qualitatively, their views have not yet been deeply thought through. They often only mechanically reflect the real reality and, moreover, not in all its diversity. Legal consciousness is still at the beginning of its formation. The experience of previous generations is only beginning to be mastered by them, there is like a "dress rehearsal" before adult life, so the views are fragmented, amorphous, do not represent a stable complex, system, as they do in an adult. Students are often not yet deeply aware of their personal responsibility to society for their behaviour, nor have they developed strong skills in exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties. Many rights and duties have not become personally significant for them, because when participating in one or another activity, they are only preparing to fulfil various social roles, trying their hand. Therefore, depending on the age characteristics, their (students') legal consciousness is more subject to both positive and negative influence than it is for an adult (Abramyan & Golubkina, 2021).

In addition, in our opinion, it is obvious that the degree of influence of one or another method will be different depending on the age and psychological characteristics of the student. And it is necessary to

apply specific methods of education only after careful study and consideration of these features, as well as the level of development of legal consciousness of the individual. It is important to keep in mind the often existing contradiction between limited life experience, not yet formed yet understanding the social consequences of their actions and limited in this regard legal status, typical of this age, usually overestimating legal claims. Legal education here can be effective only if the educator will be well aware of the real level of legal consciousness of the educated, their ideas in the field of law, legal concepts mastered by them. Their attitude to the law of the educated, to the observance of those or other of its norms, rules of life is crucial. Only specific knowledge of all these components allows choosing correctly the appropriate methods of influence, taking into account the level of individual legal consciousness of an individual, its depth, stability, existing defects and so on.

Among the most important problems of higher education is the task of developing in future specialists a set of social qualities of a comprehensively and harmoniously developed personality. There is no doubt that in the socio-pedagogical sense, the student as a personality is formed under the influence of the general professional orientation of specialists' training in our universities. Therefore, sometimes students mistakenly believe that professional training exhausts the development of their personality. Hence, there is often a nihilistic element in the attitude to humanitarian, social and legal disciplines. This, in turn, leads to the impoverishment of the spiritual needs and interests of the individual. Therefore, it is especially important that in the course of students' mastering special educational disciplines, not only the attitude of the personality to the creative nature of the knowledge learnt, but also the direct attitude of the personality to the social environment, expressed in all manifestations of social reality, should be taken into account. These relations are the basis (criterion) for assessing the level of social and legal consciousness of the individual (Abramyan & Golubkina, 2021).

An important point is the weak legal training of future specialists as a consequence of insufficient legal competence of teachers of legal disciplines at a non-legal university. These teachers have to present the norms of Russian legislation. Naturally, they should have a basic legal education. The issues of professional development of teachers of legal disciplines require urgent solution. For example, a lecturer who reads the course "Jurisprudence" should be a "universalist". He is obliged to know not a particular branch of law, but also all branches included in the course programme (civil, labour, criminal, administrative, etc.), to answer competently any questions of students. Difficulties are also seen in the fact that lectures are delivered to a large group of students (four or five groups), which has a very negative impact on the quality of learning material (Tkhakokhov, 2017).

Forming students' legal consciousness, one must achieve an increase of their legal culture. It includes not only knowledge of law, but also attitudes to legal values, attitudes to the manifestation of social and legal activity, the development of readiness not just to follow legal regulations, but to actively implement not only their rights and obligations. But it also defends the rights of other citizens (Vaganova et al., 2017).

In order to improve the level of legal culture, one can recommend more actively using projects on topical issues of moral and legal education, formation of law-abiding behaviour of students. This involves a more active use of interactive technologies of the new generation: cases, animations, quests and other

analogues of dynamic intellectual games: "I and the law"; "Human Rights"; "My rights and rights of other people, my duties", etc.

One of the main directions of increasing the effectiveness of knowledge on law is the training of teaching staff, because it is on them that the preparation of a civic position and the acquisition of legal knowledge by schoolchildren largely depend. The mentioned system should meet the demands of the time and pay enough attention to the latest educational technologies. The level of teacher's knowledge should be up-to-date, i.e. teachers should be prepared to perform labour functions in the new conditions of Russia's innovative development.

Hence, summarising the above, we noted that increasing the level of legal education of students is one of the most important tasks of the domestic education system of Russia.

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