

**THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION ON
INCREASING THE LEGAL CULTURE OF WOMEN****Azimov Ashirali Mexmonboyevich**

Researcher at the Andijan State Medical Institute

E-mail: ashurali.azimiv@gmail.com

Abstract. This article analyzes the influence of the social environment and public opinion on enhancing the legal culture of women from a socio-philosophical perspective. It highlights the role of the family, the mahalla, educational institutions, the labor collective, the media, and civil society institutions in shaping women's legal consciousness. It also reveals the positive and negative influence of public opinion on women's activity and the process of realizing and protecting their rights. The article substantiates that raising legal culture is an important factor in strengthening justice, equality, and human dignity in society.

Keywords: women, legal culture, legal consciousness, social environment, public opinion, gender equality, mahalla, family, civil society, legal literacy.

The formation of legal culture in society is not limited to the study of laws or official propaganda. A person's attitude toward law is primarily formed under the influence of the social environment in which they live, family, mahalla, educational institution, labor collective, circle of friends, and mass media. The influence of the social environment is particularly strong for women, as their life decisions are often influenced by the attitudes of those around them, views in the mahalla, family values, and public opinion. If the social environment supports a woman's education, vocational training, protection of her rights, and active participation in society, her legal culture will also develop steadily [1]. On the contrary, if indifference, outdated stereotypes, and negative views on women's activism prevail in the social environment, it can become an obstacle to women exercising their rights. The concept of the social environment has a broad meaning and encompasses the entire system of social relations that influence human formation and development. The family, mahalla, school, higher education institution, labor collective, state organizations, non-governmental institutions, mass media and digital information space are the components of this environment. Each of these factors plays a unique role in enhancing the legal culture of women. For example, if a girl is instilled with respect, equal opportunities, freedom of expression, and a sense of responsibility in the family, she will grow up to be a person who understands her rights and can protect her legal interests. If there is a system of fair treatment of women, social support and legal advice in the mahalla, women will strive to solve their problems without hiding them.

The role of the family in increasing the legal culture of women is invaluable. The family is the first social school of a person, in which the child receives the first ideas about life, morality, law, duty, justice and responsibility. When a girl feels that her opinion is taken into account in the family, that she is encouraged to acquire knowledge, and that she is respected as an individual, her self-confidence increases. Such trust will subsequently serve as the basis for his legal activity. Conversely, if a girl's opportunities are limited in the family and her decisions are always determined by others, she may become afraid to demand her rights. Therefore, increasing the legal culture of women must begin with improving the content of upbringing within the family. The mahalla institution is also an important social factor in the formation of the legal culture of women. In the historical experience of our people,

the mahalla has been formed as a place of mutual assistance, solidarity, consultation, control, and upbringing. Currently, the mahalla plays an important role in studying women's problems, vocational guidance, preventing family conflicts, providing legal advice, and supporting women in need of social protection. Mahalla activists, women's activists, and legal advocacy specialists have a direct influence on increasing the legal literacy of women. If there is an approach to women's issues in the mahalla, not superficial, but based on human dignity, then the legal culture will also develop consistently.

Public opinion is one of the most powerful spiritual and social factors influencing the legal culture of women. Public opinion is understood as the general attitude of society's members toward a specific event, behavior, value, or social issue. Many women pay attention not only to legal possibilities but also to how others evaluate them when making their life decisions. For example, if a woman's desire to obtain a higher education, engage in entrepreneurship, seek a leadership position, or seek legal assistance is positively perceived by the public, it increases her activity [2]. However, if such actions are criticized or misinterpreted, a woman may experience hesitation, fear, and passivity. For the development of legal culture, public opinion must have a content that supports justice, equality, and human dignity. It is necessary to widely promote that the protection of women's rights is not an act against society, but a civic position aimed at ensuring the rule of law. In some cases, women face domestic violence, violations of labor rights, property disputes, or restrictions on access to education. In such situations, public opinion should serve not to condemn the woman, but to help her, find a legal solution and restore justice. Because the cultural level of any society is also measured by how it treats people who are in a weaker position.

The education system is an important institution that has a long-term and sustainable impact on improving the legal culture of women. Starting from preschool education, it is necessary to develop qualities in girls such as self-awareness, respect for the rights of others, intolerance of violence, and appreciation of fair treatment. If legal knowledge is taught in general secondary education based on real-life examples, young people will understand that the law is not just a formal document, but an important criterion for regulating daily life. In higher education institutions, it is advisable to expand programs aimed at strengthening women's legal activity, leadership potential, social initiative, and civic responsibility [3]. The social environment in the labor collective also directly affects the legal culture of women. If a woman's labor rights are respected in the workplace, if she is given the opportunity to grow professionally, improve her qualifications, strive for leadership positions, and freely express her opinion, she feels like a full member of society. At the same time, it is necessary to regularly conduct legal advocacy in labor collectives on issues of gender equality, workers' rights, labor safety, the protection of motherhood and childhood, and the prevention of discrimination. When a woman knows that her labor is valued and protected by law, positive changes occur in her legal consciousness. This has a positive impact not only on the woman herself but also on the spiritual atmosphere of the entire team.

Mass media and social networks have become one of the primary tools for shaping public opinion in the modern era. Through television, radio, online publications, blogs and social media pages, women's rights, their achievements in society, legal problems and ways to solve them can be widely covered. Properly organized information policy inspires women, encourages them to acquire legal knowledge, and sets a positive example in society. However, incorrect views, discriminatory opinions, stereotypes, and groundless criticism can also spread in the information space. Therefore, it is important to increase media literacy and deliver legal propaganda materials in a simple, reliable, and

effective form. The harmony of national values and modern legal views plays a special role in enhancing the legal culture of women [4]. In the historical and spiritual heritage of the Uzbek people, values such as respect for women, respect for mothers, the sanctity of the family, kindness, and harmony occupy an important place. These values should serve to enhance the dignity of women. However, in some cases, under the guise of tradition, there are cases of limiting women's legal opportunities. Therefore, it is necessary to harmonize national values with modern legal thinking. True values do not humiliate a person, do not deny their freedom and dignity, but, on the contrary, serve to establish fair relations in society.

Social stereotypes are one of the important problems in improving the legal culture of women. According to some views, a woman's primary duty should be limited to household chores and child-rearing, while her activity in society is considered secondary. Such views can negatively affect women's education, career choices, achievement of financial independence and seeking legal protection. Official propaganda alone is insufficient to eliminate stereotypes. To achieve this, it is necessary to widely represent the image of successful, educated, legally cultured women in society who harmoniously manage their families and professions. A positive example is a powerful tool for changing public opinion. As women's legal culture rises, their social activity also intensifies. A woman with legal knowledge will raise her children in the spirit of respect for the law, contribute to the formation of fair relations in the family, and take an active part in the life of the mahalla and society [7]. Such a woman is not indifferent to problems and responds consciously to cases of violence, injustice, discrimination, or violations. Thus, increasing the legal culture of women serves not only the personal interests of women but also strengthens the democratic development of society as a whole, the rule of law, and social stability.

Civil society institutions, along with state organizations, must take an active part in increasing the legal culture of women. Non-governmental non-profit organizations, women's associations, youth organizations, trade unions, legal advisory centers, and volunteer groups play an important role in providing practical assistance to women. They enhance women's knowledge and skills by organizing legal trainings, seminars, consultative meetings, social projects, and outreach activities. In particular, individual work with women living in remote areas, in need of social protection, unemployed, or facing family problems will yield effective results in increasing legal culture [5]. Digital technologies also create great opportunities for increasing the legal culture of women. Today, legal information can be obtained quickly and conveniently through the internet. E-government services, online consultation platforms, legal information portals, mobile applications, and educational pages on social networks help women learn about their rights. But digital literacy is also necessary to take advantage of these opportunities. Some women, especially those living in rural areas or older women, may have difficulty accessing digital services. Therefore, developing digital skills is also an important task in the process of increasing legal culture.

Support in the social environment also manifests as a psychological factor that strengthens a woman's legal activity. If a woman knows that she is not alone in her problem and that there are organizations, specialists, and communities that can help her, she will not be afraid to seek legal protection. In many cases, low legal culture is associated not only with a lack of knowledge but also with fear, shame, insecurity, and social pressure. Therefore, it is important to create a trusting communication environment for women, to listen to them, to study their problems while keeping them confidential, and to provide practical assistance. Legal culture is formed faster in an environment

where a person feels protected [6]. The participation of men is also important in changing public opinion in a positive direction. The legal culture of women is not just a matter for women, but a common task for the entire society. The respectful attitude of fathers, brothers, spouses, and sons toward women's rights in the family creates a healthy social environment. Stability in both the family and society is strengthened when men support women's education, employment, participation in social life, and legal knowledge. It is necessary not to misinterpret gender equality, but to explain it based on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation, and justice.

In the process of increasing the legal culture of women, the content and method of legal propaganda are also of great importance. Advocacy should not be limited to explaining complex legal terms. It is effective only when it is based on real-life examples, real situations, practical recommendations, and simple explanations. Women need to know in which cases, where to apply, and in what order they can exercise their rights. For example, the provision of specific legal knowledge on labor contracts, alimony, inheritance, marriage, divorce, protection from violence, entrepreneurship, loans, subsidies, and social assistance will be of practical benefit. From a socio-philosophical perspective, raising the legal culture of women is linked to honoring human dignity, building a just society, and ensuring individual freedom. Legal culture harmonizes the relationship between the individual and society. As a woman understands her rights, she also feels her responsibility in society more deeply. This ensures a balance between freedom and duty, rights and responsibilities, personal interests and social interests. Thus, the legal culture of women is a complex social phenomenon related not only to jurisprudence but also to philosophy, sociology, pedagogy, and spirituality.

In a society with a high legal culture, the honor and dignity of a woman are protected, her opportunities are not restricted, her opinion is heard, and her work is valued. In such a society, public opinion is based on the principles of legality, justice, and humanism. Social stability is strengthened when women know their rights and society respects these rights. By raising the legal culture of women, a healthy environment in families, harmony in mahallas, justice in labor collectives, and trust in state and social relations are strengthened.

In conclusion, the social environment and public opinion are among the decisive factors in enhancing the legal culture of women. Although laws and state programs are an important foundation, their effective implementation depends on social relations, family upbringing, mahalla activity, the quality of education, the information space, and people's worldview. A woman's legal culture draws strength from her self-awareness, the support of the environment, and society's attitude toward justice. Therefore, in the renewing Uzbekistan, raising the legal culture of women should be viewed as a national task, and every family, mahalla, educational institution, labor collective, and civil society institution should take an active part in this process. Only in this way will women become active, educated, and responsible individuals who fully realize their rights and potential and make a worthy contribution to the development of society.

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