

Formation of Legal Consciousness of Youth as a Condition of Sustainable Development of Society

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Abstract: The pressing issue of modern society is to ensure its sustainable development. One of the conditions is the formation of the legal consciousness of young people and the prevention of mass protests. In the protesting crowd, strong emotions and unconscious instincts become the main regulators of behavior, hence the protesters are unable to resist the impressive influence of the "leader" proposing radical ideas. Research methods: a comparative psychological analysis of the protesting crowd across the world and Russia, the study of the case-study of three protest demonstrations in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The results of the study suggest that modern youth in the protesting crowd in any country behave in the same way. The main danger of unauthorized protests is radicalism, when protesters turn from peaceful activities and slogans to clashes with law enforcement forces. The modern young generation is under the influence of a huge amount of information received from the media, first of all, social networks. This draws the attention of leaders of radical organizations in spreading destructive ideology. The establishment of a system of legal education for the modern young generation, knowledge of the legal standards, and relevant rules of conduct by young people helps to prevent the illegal behavior of young people and their participation in unauthorized rallies. Due to the influence of information technology, Internet users are rapidly transforming into protesting crowds. Some young people are not content with the social and economic conditions of life, which can create protest moods. Prevention of unauthorized protest actions of young people should be aimed at forming an advanced legal consciousness among young people. It is necessary to expand legal knowledge scope in the school system of secondary and higher education


1 INTRODUCTION


The relevance of ensuring sustainable development of society is determined by the increasing complexity of modern world processes aimed at globalizing the political and economic spheres of life. Globalization trends in the world economy lead to contradictions in the development of Western and Eastern civilizations, resistance from local communities. The mounting of international tension is facilitated by the policy and practice of holding protest actions and color revolutions across the world. Globalization is accompanied by interethnic and confessional conflicts, the growth of extremism and terrorism. The


situation is worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a production decline, an economic recession, a sharp increase in morbidity and mortality. We believe that one of the conditions for ensuring the sustainability of the development of society is to strengthen the system of legal education for young people.

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research objective was aimed to search for social and psychological conditions for ensuring sustainable development of the country. The research included

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the next stages: 1) theoretical analysis of scientific literature on the psychology of the protesting crowd; 2) study of three case-studies of the behavior of people in the protesting crowd; 3) consideration of the social and psychological problems of modern youth participating in protest actions; 4) justification of the need to increase the role of legal education of young people.

3 RESEARCH RESULTS

Protest Crowd Psychology. The revolutions in France forced scientists to seek for reasons of the riots and aggressiveness of the crowd. G. Le Bon explained the behavior of people in a crowd by their psychological characteristics: the loss of a rational explanation of their actions, a propensity to direct action, infection with aggressive emotions, resulting in a hypnoidal state (Le Bon, 1969).

G. At the end of the 19th century, Tard predicted information globalization, the creation of unified world networks of information (Tard, 1998). Due to information technology, bloggers are instilling "new radical ideas", pliability to calls for protest demonstrations.

The behavior of the crowd on the streets of Petrograd during the revolution of 1917 was described by P.A. Sorokin. He noted the sharply increased social activity, policy of all-permissiveness, the creation of short slogans, lack of subordination and discipline, unstable emotional states, the emergence of feelings of hatred, contempt for human life and human suffering, and the cruelty of a raging crowd (Sorokin, 1992). Foreign scientists also pay attention to crowd psychology – J. Drury (Drury, 2020), D. Helbing (Helbing, 2018), J. Hoggett (Hoggett, 2020), B. Kingshott (Kingshott, 2014), Scoppa (Scoppa., 2020). In Russian psychology, the study of the crowd was conducted by A.P. Nazaretyan (Nazaretyan, 2001), D.V. Ol'shanskij (Ol'shanskij, 2002).

The digitalization of public life leads to the fact that young people can be filled with certain feelings and encouraged to protest. On the other hand, the protests themselves take place not in digital, but in real space on the squares of different cities. This is not by accident that the modern leaders of the crowd do not go out with people on the square, but act through the Internet, arousing anxious feelings and touching upon the unrealized expectations of the younger generation.

Case-study № 1. Content analysis of scientific, journalistic literature, television reports of mass

protests in Kyiv in 2014, in Paris from 2017-2020, in Washington in 2021, in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2021, showed that the crowd in any country behaves in the same way. Characteristics of human behavior in a crowd:

1. Decrease and even ultimate cessation of interpersonal communication through verbal communication.

2. The movement of people in a crowd is characterized by aimlessness, aggressiveness, psychomotor agitation, chaotic physical activity, low control and coordination of actions, and a tendency to the same type of movements increase.

3. High impulsivity, impetuosity in actions.

4. Prompt response to the calls and slogans of the leaders, imitation of their behavior and movements.

5. Emotional arousal, unfocused gaze, shift eyes.

6. Frequent mood swings.

7. High opinionated and judgmental thinking.

8. The need for simple solutions.

9. Inability to act creatively.

10. The possibility of visual, auditory, olfactory hallucinations, seizures with convulsive disorder in some members of the crowd (Pochebut, 2017). In a crowd, a person develops an altered state of consciousness (ASC), the sensory thresholds are reduced, the perception of objects is distorted, emotions are intensified, the cognitive sphere is disturbed, the attitude of a person to himself, his body, the perception of time and space changes (Burgin'on, 2001). A person can fall into a trance state and act in a way that they would never act in a normal state.

The psychological phenomena of the crowd described by scientists found confirmation in modern events. The main danger of unauthorized protests is radicalism, when protesters turn from peaceful activities and slogans to confrontations and clashes with the police.

Case-study No. 2. Description of the features of the protest rallies on Bolotnaya Square on May 6, 2012, in Moscow. The action was organized against the results of the presidential elections. As reported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, 8 thousand people took part in the action. Crowd leaders A. Navalny, S. Udaltsov, B. Nemtsov took a direct part in the protest action and led the way of the column. There was a clash between protesters and police officers. The opposition rally authorized by the authorities degenerated into riots, more than 430 people were detained (Informacionnoe agentstvo «REKH»). Footage of these clashes was repeatedly shown on TV.

We studied how outrages and collisions took place. Description of the case-study: three qualified psychologists watched the video footage of the clashes between the protesters and the police. We make it clear that the video was filmed not by law enforcement officers or journalists, but by the protesters themselves. This was of special interest from the point of view of psychological analysis of the state and behavior of people in this crowd. The crowd members were extremely aggressive. The police officers were repeatedly attacked by them. The protesters were the first to attack the police, trying to break through their ranks, "crash into the defense", provoke reflex actions. In fact, unarmed young men in a state of ecstasy attacked well-trained and armed police officers.

During the restraint of violations of public order on Bolotnaya Square, 29 police officers were injured (Bolotnoe delo).

Protest performances in several cities of Russia took place from December 04, 2011, to July 18, 2013. So, for example, according to unofficial data on December 10, 2012, about 25 thousand people came out to protest in various regions of the country. Gradually, the protests in Russia ceased, then spill over to Ukraine.

In 2021, there is an outbreak of protest movement in many countries of the world: demonstrations against the global security law in France, torch-lit parades in Germany, Denmark, anti-covid protests in the USA, Great Britain, Norway, Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, riots in Lebanon.

The growing slowdown in economic growth, the fall in oil prices, the growing social inequality, and anti-pandemic measures are the main irritants of the population. As a result, burned cars on city streets, destroyed shops, pogroms, and clashes with the police.

Case-study No. 3. In Russia, on January 23, 2021, protests were held in 100 cities against the arrest of A. Navalny. According to media estimates, up to 50 thousand people took part in them in Moscow and more than 10 thousand people in St. Petersburg and the region. 3,157 people were detained for violations of public order, including 214 minors. 45 law enforcement officers were injured.

Description of the case-study: we interviewed three police officers who witnessed these events at Vosstaniya Square in St. Petersburg. They describe the situation in the following way: "The crowd gathered in the central district of St. Petersburg and consisted of 85-90% of young people - schoolchildren and students. About 8% of the participants in the protest crowd were middle-aged people. About 2%

were elderly people. The number of men and women was roughly equal. In the crowd, there were "trouble-makers" who instigated and called people to aggressive actions, obscene language, and insults to the authorities were heard. Protesters used containers with red paint, bottles, snowballs against police officers. During the detention of the most aggressive citizens, knives and traumatic weapons were confiscated from them, which were not used during the rally".

According to The Bell, a survey of participants in an unauthorized rally in Moscow on January 23, 2021, showed that the majority of the protesters were 30-35 years old. Minors were no more than 10%. For the first time, 42% of the protesters attended a rally. People went to unauthorized events with a single agenda and slogans (Izдание The Bell).

The organizers of the protest intentionally involved minors in illegal actions. Roskomnadzor has identified on social media about 2.5 thousand calls for the participation of teenagers in illegal actions (Izдание Rossijskaya Gazet).

According to the official Internet data portal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia "Ministry of Internal Affairs MEDIA", "90 criminal cases were initiated on the facts of crimes committed during unauthorized actions in January - February of this year" (Izдание MVD MEDIA).

Socio-Psychological Characteristics of Modern Youth

The young generation, entering an individual life, naturally faces many complex social problems. Young people born in the 21st century (Gen Z, "digital or networked generation", "millennials") are actively involved in protests.

A rally under nationalist slogans was held in Moscow on December 11, 2010. Then a survey was conducted among young people (1,600 people). It was revealed that 80% of respondents sympathized with the participants, not counting this event as nationalist actions, and with a protest against corruption in law enforcement agencies (78%) and "ethnic" crime (58%), noted that modern Russian society is not organized fairly, expressed dissatisfaction with social inequality and corruption (Tishkov and Barash 2014). T.A. Nestik and his colleagues, studying the fears of young people about a collective future, believe that young people are at a "cultural crossroads", fearing both stagnation and revolution (Nestik, 2019). Young people also have a sense of the impermanence of what is happening, a tendency to make decisions quickly (Bezbogova and Ionceva, 2020.). Most young people experience psychological distress during the period of

professional identity (Erpyleva, 2017). Currently, society is facing a crisis of basic values. The survey findings of the Russian Public Opinion Research Center in June 2020 (1,600 respondents aged 18 to 30) showed that Russian youth (60%) consider material well-being as their most significant life goal (Izdanie LEVADA-CENTR).

A.V. Bakina and her colleagues identified three groups of young people, depending on their migration intentions - patriots, pragmatists, and anti-patriots. Patriots have interesting jobs, are financially secure, and lead an active life. Anti-patriots believe that they have no opportunity to implement their plans, assess the level of their incomes as low, they are not satisfied with the economic and social situation. Pragmatists are satisfied with life, feel safe, but not satisfied with their income. Both pragmatists and anti-patriots are about to leave their native town (Bakina, Orlova and Yaremchuk 2019). The dissatisfaction of some of the youth with the social, economic, and environmental conditions of life can create migration or even protest moods.

Young people of today are under the influence of a huge amount of information received through the media. 98% of Russian youth aged 13 to 24 use the Internet every day (Volkov and Goncharov, 2017). This is what the leaders of radical organizations are staking on in spreading destructive ideology (Sergienko and Ejdel'man, 2017). Teenagers learn about violence early on through the media or from movie videos that are full of scenes of violence. But, in general, the "digital" generation is quite rational. Young people understand that not all information posted on the Internet is true. They have developed the ability to recognize fake news. They are able to compare facts and analyze information. Young people are far from being the most protest-minded group of the population. Generally, they are happy with their lives, have little interest in politics (Izdanie Uralweb).

The study of the features of social identification of young people was carried out by E.P. Belinskaya. She interviewed senior pupils, students of universities and technical schools in Moscow, Yekaterinburg, and Krasnoyarsk in 2001 (268 respondents) and 2015 (243 respondents). In a 2001 survey, young people described a "hero of our time", a model for identification as a person who "loves Russia, believes in its future, does not take capital abroad, but invests in domestic production". A 2015 survey showed that the civic position of young people cannot be reduced to patriotism ("loves Russia"), but also "obeys the law" (Belinskaya, 2017). Consequently, it can be argued that young people who do not participate in

protest actions are characterized by such qualities as patriotism and orderliness.

4 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The formation of a developed legal consciousness of modern youth is, in our opinion, one of the conditions for the prevention of unauthorized protests and ensuring sustainable development of society.

Law is the most important spiritual value created by humanity in the process of historical evolution. The denial of generally accepted social norms and values leads to anomie in society. The essential method of preventing illegal behavior is the formation of a developed legal consciousness of young people, the prevention of legal nihilism. Regulatory requirements fulfill the functions of a regulator of behavior only if a person has a positive attitude towards legal norms, which is an indicator of civic maturity (Kruglov, 1986).

D.S. Beznosov notes that three factors influence legal realism as a normal type of legal consciousness: knowledge of legal laws, a system of value orientations, and personal characteristics (internal locus of control, low levels of aggressiveness and anxiety, high achievement motivation). It has been proven that people who have received legal education and legal knowledge are more likely to show legal realism, seeking to pursue their goals by legal means, taking into account the interests of society and others, than people who have not received basic legal knowledge. The study shows that a positive attitude towards the law, as the main component of developed legal consciousness, is positively associated with such personal qualities as organization and responsibility (Beznosov, 2013).

Nowadays, it is important for young people to instill a legal culture aimed at achieving law and order. The law serves as social control and affects directly the consciousness of people, forming their legal consciousness. Legal culture should be considered as part of the culture of the whole society. This phenomenon is broader and more value-rich than legal consciousness. Legal culture is the unity of legal knowledge, assessments, and behavior, the value content, and the materialization of this knowledge.

The consciousness of participants in unauthorized protest rallies should be viewed as an immaturity of legal culture and distortion of legal consciousness, manifested in the form of legal nihilism or infantilism. A deformed sense of justice is expressed in the fact that a person considers the law to be useless and even a harmful social phenomenon. You can

ignore legal rules, participate in unauthorized rallies and protest actions. On the contrary, with a positive attitude, a young person recognizes the importance to comply with legal norms, understands the significance and value of law as the main regulator of social behavior.

It has been established that the basis of legal nihilism is based on the following factors: people's ignorance of the foundations of legal legislation, poor awareness of the administrative apparatus of laws and regulations. Legal nihilism is a sharply critical, negative attitude towards generally accepted legal norms, laws, the rule of law, and social values; massive non-observance and non-performance of legal regulations. Legal nihilism is a deformation of legal consciousness, as it emerges under the condition of ignorance of the laws and a negative attitude towards them, which is expressed in illegal behavior and extremely understated estimates of the importance of legal regulation of social relations. Legal nihilism forms the basis of the ideology of extremism and is expressed in calls for a radical change in all foundations of modern society, primarily legislative ones.

The essence of unlawful conduct is that it contradicts existing social relations. Such conduct harms or is capable of harming the rights and legitimate interests of citizens, labor collectives, and organizations. Participation in unauthorized rallies should be considered as an offense subject to legal liability.

Young people are more likely to be characterized not so much by legal nihilism as by legal infantilism - ignorance of laws and lack of understanding of their role and significance in society. Therefore, an extremely important task at the present time is to create a system of legal education, starting from secondary school, continuing in technical colleges and universities. It is the knowledge of legal norms and regulations that is a solid barrier to the illegal conduct of young people and their participation in unauthorized rallies.

5 CONCLUSION

1. A pressing problem is to ensure the sustainability of the social, political, and economic development of Russian society. Sustainability gives an understanding of the prospects for further development, the achievement of the well-being of citizens in an evolutionary way, not through unauthorized protest actions.

2. Internet users under the influence of radical ideas are able to quickly turn into a protest crowd, in which there is a transformation of psychical processes and behavior, expressed in:

- imbalance of emotional states and mutual infection with aggressive emotions;
- susceptibility to the suggestible influence of the "leader" proclaiming radical ideas;
- permissiveness of behavior and lack of a sense of responsibility for their actions.

3. The reasons for the protest actions of some of the youth are dissatisfaction with the social and economic conditions of life, the uncertainty of the future, the pursuit of justice, and the desire to fight corruption, as well as the susceptibility of some of the youth to the ideology of radicalism.

4. Schools and universities of our country have to provide legal education in order to prevent illegal unauthorized rallies with radical slogans. Only a legal culture and a developed legal consciousness are able to offset the influence and appeals of the radical "leaders" of the protest movement.

The prevention of unauthorized protest actions should be directed to the formation of patriotism and mature legal consciousness, the elimination of legal nihilism in the youth environment.

5. In order to prevent the Internet addiction of young people, it would make sense to study and use the experience of creating special services (China) and counseling centers (Singapore), which are actively involved in the problems of Internet addiction and digital addiction of young people.

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