

CAUSES, SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES, AND REMEDIAL MECHANISMS OF LEGAL
NIHILISM

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Annotation: This article analyzes the negative impact of legal nihilism on legal behavior and legal culture in society. In particular, the factors causing legal nihilism, their impact on public consciousness and civic position, as well as the negative socio-political changes that arise as a result of this situation are highlighted. The article also substantiates ways to eliminate legal nihilism through the formation of legal consciousness and behavior.

Keywords: legal nihilism, legal behavior, legal consciousness, causes of nihilism, consequences of nihilism, legal reforms, ways to overcome it.

Today, legal awareness and legal culture are considered one of the important factors for the development of society. At the same time, cases of legal nihilism, formed under the influence of certain factors, have a serious negative impact on these processes.

Legal nihilism is a negative or disrespectful attitude of citizens and officials towards the institution of law and the legal system, expressed in actions such as non-recognition of laws, disregard for them in practice, and denial of obligation. This leads to a violation of order, a decrease in public trust, and a weakening of legal consciousness in society [1]. At the same time, this legal behavior is considered a cause of legal nihilism. Legal behavior is the conscious behavior of subjects of law, corresponding to the norms of law, causing legal consequences, having socially useful significance [2].

Legal consciousness is the totality of knowledge, emotional attitudes, and beliefs formed by citizens regarding legal relations in society, laws, legal norms, the state, and legal institutions, which forms the basis of legal behavior [3].

Causes, consequences, and ways out of legal nihilism:

Firstly, failure to comply with legal norms on social networks. Today, the fact that some bloggers openly disregard laws and promote actions contrary to legal norms in public forms a misconception among young people that there is a tendency to deny legal restrictions. This destroys legal culture.

Secondly, the weakness of legal education in the education system is explained in the same way. Insufficient attention to the formation of legal knowledge and consciousness in students at the school and college stage leads to their misunderstanding of their place in society and legal responsibility. Moreover, according to the analysis conducted by the Ministry of Justice in 2018, the textbooks on legal subjects taught in schools - especially for grades 8-11 - turned out to be so complex that they do not correspond to the age and psychological characteristics of students. This weakens the formation of legal behavior and culture"[4].

Thirdly, lack of corruption and the inevitability of punishment. Corruption, especially in the form of abuse of office, creates tolerance for injustice in society. This increases distrust of the law. In Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Impact Index, Uzbekistan scored 32 points on a 100-point scale and ranked 121st among 180 countries. The regional average was 35 points. This reflects a high-risk problem in relation to corruption [5].

Fourthly, Approaches remaining from the USSR period. During authoritarian rule, laws were enforced by force, and human rights were ignored. Therefore, "avoidance from the activities of the authorities" still persists among some citizens.

Legal illiteracy means that people do not interfere in the activities of government bodies, are afraid to defend their rights, or are indifferent because they do not know their rights and obligations. This situation leads to a weakening of civic position. The consequences of this are explained as follows:

- I. **Decreased trust in the state and laws.** Citizens cease to trust government services and legal mechanisms, preferring informal ways to resolve legal issues.
- II. **Impacts political stability.** Following nihilism, citizens' activity in supporting presidential policies or government decisions weakens. This will negatively affect the country's development path.
- III. **Weakening of personnel activity.** Public distrust of civil servants creates a negative attitude towards their activities, which reduces overall work efficiency.
- IV. **Destruction of democratic values.** Democratic principles such as freedom of thought, equality before the law, and the right to vote remain indifferent and distrustful.
- V. **Increased number of violations.** Due to people's disregard for the law, minor and moderate offenses are becoming widespread.
- VI. **Passivity in elections and other political processes.** Citizens do not participate in elections and participate in socio-political processes.
- VII. **Degradation of legal behavior.** Positive behaviors such as recognition of rights, adherence to them, and appreciation of justice will disappear.

Different scholars have expressed different interpretations and views on the elimination of legal nihilism. But, summarizing all this, the following solution can be given.

Improving legal literacy in educational institutions. In schools, students should develop legal thinking through interactive lessons, simulations of court cases, and real-life examples.

Ensuring the inevitability of punishment for disregard for the law. Applying strict penalties to officials who abuse their positions, and covering this process through the media, will inspire confidence in citizens.

Creation of technologies that popularize legal knowledge. Easy and free access to legal information should be provided through mobile applications and internet platforms.

Reforming a fair and transparent judicial system. The validity, transparency, and credibility of court decisions are key factors in strengthening legal culture. This system was reformed in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 13.01.2021 No. UP-6134 "On Measures for the Fundamental Improvement of the System of Financing the Activities of Judicial Bodies"[6].

In conclusion, legal nihilism has a significant negative impact on the legal behavior of society, its trust in the law, and civic engagement. The roots of this situation lie in shortcomings in the education system, legal illiteracy, corruption, historical factors, and incorrect patterns circulating in the media. That is why raising legal awareness and culture, improving legal education, forming a transparent judicial system, and strictly ensuring the rule of law are of paramount importance in overcoming legal nihilism.

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INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

SJIF 2019: 5.222 2020: 5.552 2021: 5.637 2022:5.479 2023:6.563 2024: 7,805
eISSN :2394-6334 <https://www.ijmrd.in/index.php/imjrd> **Volume 12, issue 06 (2025)**

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