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Major aspects for the development of anti-corruption culture and education in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Indifference towards corruption remains a serious social problem. Corruption is a crisis of values, expressed in public conscience through the prevalence of material benefits over spiritual ones. “Nur Otan”, representing the interests of population’s majority as the leading political party of the country, should become the main inclusive power of Kazakhstani society in creating “zero” tolerance for corruption. Some citizens classify corruption as a common occurrence, whereas the others as the solution of pressing issues bypassing the law. The anti-corruption measures are often taken as irregular and incomplete work with poor results. In population’s opinion, the corruption prevention is the national task. Societal distrust and stereotypes significantly weaken the fight against corruption. However, there is no achievement of the desired result if citizens have not any anti-corruption culture, a strong immunity from corruption, and its public reprimand as well.

The anti-corruption culture of each person and society as a whole reflects civic engagement and contributes to the enforcement of rights, safety and legal protection. The education of such culture will lead to the formation of respect towards democratic legal institutions, as well as strict observance of legality. The most important feature of anti-corruption ideology should be the focus on the formation of moral values, national honor and self-awareness in the public consciousness.

The anti-corruption goal of legal education and training, carried out at the academician E.A. Buketov Karaganda University, is based on enhancing a positive attitude towards the law and its strict observance; improving the level of legal knowledge, including corruption standards of behavior and measures to prevent them; the formation of ideas on legal liability that can be applied for committing

corruption offenses. Such a course as “Fundamentals of Law and Anti-Corruption Culture” is taught at all faculties of the university as part of legal culture and anti-corruption behavior formation. Thus, students develop a high level of anti-corruption culture, which is an integral part of legal culture.

Each Kazakhstani citizen and each family should understand that corruption prevention is the cause of each and every one of us. Therefore, the devotion to native country, respect for other people and traditions, the desire for knowledge and labour, decency and honesty should be instilled from early childhood. Since time immemorial, our people have these feelings in genes. It is necessary to educate the Kazakhstanis generation, for whom the above values will be real life reference points in life. Therefore, it is upbringing and education that is the basis for the formation of a person’s anti-corruption culture. Here, family and education play key role. Every parent and every teacher should become a worthy example to follow for children and help them in choosing true values. The model of anti-corruption education and training should be built around such fundamental concepts as “Law”, “Justice”, and “Equality”. Anti-corruption behavior should be formed at all levels of education. The best specialists in the field of education, psychology, jurisprudence, political science, economics, cultural studies, and sociology should be involved in building this model. For the younger generation, only honest and conscientious work should become a key standard of success, high achievements, knowledge and material well-being. It is impossible to achieve the desired result if citizens have no anti-corruption culture, a strong immunity to corruption, and its public reprimand. Each Kazakhstani citizen and each family should understand that corruption prevention is the cause of each and every one of us.

Working with the younger generation is a key to the anti-corruption culture formation. Only the introduction of anti-corruption behavior standards from an early childhood will allow to root out this social blemish. Therefore, youth organizations will take a special place in “zero” tolerance propaganda for corruption. The vanguard of these forces should include the youth wing of “The

Zhas Otan” party, uniting the efforts of all youth associations and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) in countering corruption. The party aims to strive for: cultivating traditional and national values of self-sufficiency in the family and society (moderation and frugality in demands, moral values towards immoderacy), the priority of spiritual wealth over material ones; a dramatic increase in population’s legal literacy, the elimination of rule scepticism in society; promoting the ideological party project “A Country without Corruption is a Prosperous Nation”, as well as assistance to civil initiatives in creating an atmosphere of “zero” tolerance for corruption and the development of specific proposals for countering it together with the Civic Alliance of Kazakhstan and other social associations. It also intends to take measures on fighting against corruption in the corporate sector together with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs and other self-regulatory organizations; to include such a course as “Fundamentals of Law” at all levels of education of anti-corruption topics in the amount of at least 15% of the whole content since 2016; to draw up an annual corruption public ranking of higher education institutions based on comprehensive social research since 2015; to ensure transparency of higher educational institutions by developing an online portal, as well as the formation of an atmosphere of intolerance towards corruption at the universities; to promote honest labor and labor dynasties everywhere, as well as to give wide publicity to anti-corruption, including the development of special mass media projects.

The goal of anti-corruption education of different age children and youth is the need to form students’ anti-corruption legal awareness by instilling value attitudes and developing the abilities necessary for forming students’ stable citizenship regarding corruption.

The essence of anti-corruption education and training is confined to internalization, i.e. transfer of the anti-corruption social requirements into the internal values and beliefs of each student. Once they become such, they will serve as a real roadmap for the rest of his life. In this sense, anti-corruption education and training can be spoken of as a two-track process. On the one hand, it is

expected that students will form necessary knowledge and ideas on moral ideal, moral and immoral behavior, as well as moral principles and standards. On the other hand, anti-corruption education is in creating a person's internal need to behave and act in accordance with the moral conscience elements perceived and learnt by him.

The result of the anti-corruption culture and behavior formation will be: corruption threat perception for society and state by citizens; negative attitude towards corrupt officials and rejection of corrupt behavior; a dramatic decrease in population proportion that accepts bribery as a way to resolve their matters; increase in the level of population's legal literacy to 60% by 2025.

The work on forming the foundations of legal behavior and anti-corruption, carried out in the Republic of Kazakhstan, is part of the state and society's common task to develop a new view on the formation of legal awareness. The state and society should not oppose each other, and for that, citizens' trust in the state system, as well as in the law enforcement authorities should be fostered.

Corruption elimination is a key condition for strengthening the fundamental value of our people and state - Independence. The Anti-Corruption Program states that "the core task is to form an anti-corruption worldview and legal consciousness in society, to consolidate the state and society in the fight against this social malady. The key condition for achieving the Program goals and objectives is to develop a new model of relations between the state and society based on the principles of trust, mutual responsibility, partnership, transparency, openness and accountability".

Reference list

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