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О ПРИЧИНАХ ПРАВОВОГО НИГИЛИЗМА В МОЛОДЕЖНОЙ СРЕДЕ В УСЛОВИЯХ ПРАВОВОГО ГОСУДАРСТВА

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Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются причины правового нигилизма в молодежной среде в условиях современного правового государства. В рамках исследования в первую очередь уточняется понятие «молодёжь» и подчёркивается размытость возрастных рамок данной категории населения, исходя из действующего законодательства. Затрагиваются разные подходы к трактовке понятия правового нигилизма, встречающиеся в современной научной литературе, с учетом отсутствия законодательно закреплённого определения нигилизма. Анализируются документы стратегического планирования, отражающие состояние рассматриваемой проблемы как в целом, так и применительно к молодёжной среде. Отмечается крайняя негативность данного явления при его вполне естественном характере для современного правового государства, и важность преодоления. Предпринимаются попытки обобщённо осмыслить существующие социально-экономические, правовые и некоторые иные факторы, которые прямо или косвенно способствуют формированию нигилистических взглядов на закон, государство и связанные с ними институты у представителей современной молодёжи. В статье также отражается объективный характер предпосылок правового нигилизма. Обосновывается важность преодоления данной проблемы и излагаются авторские взгляды на вопросы правового нигилизма и устранение способствующих ему причин в молодёжной среде.

Ключевые слова: законность, молодежь, правовое государство, правовой нигилизм, правопорядок, правосознание, причины правового нигилизма

Original article

ON THE CAUSES OF LEGAL NIHILISM AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN A RULE-OF-LAW STATE

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Abstract

The article examines the causes of legal nihilism among young people in a modern rule-of-law state. The study primarily clarifies the concept of "youth" and highlights the blurred age range of this category of the population, based on current legislation. The article touches upon different approaches to the interpretation of the concept of legal nihilism found in modern scientific literature, taking into account the lack of a legally fixed definition of nihilism. The strategic planning documents are analyzed, reflecting the state of the problem under consideration both in general and in relation to the youth environment. The extreme negativity of this phenomenon is noted, given its quite natural nature for a modern rule-of-law state, and the importance of overcoming it. Attempts are being made to generalize the existing socio-economic, legal and some other factors that directly or indirectly contribute to the formation of nihilistic views on the law, the state and related institutions among representatives of modern youth. The article also reflects the objective nature of the prerequisites of legal nihilism. The importance of overcoming this problem is substantiated and the author's views on the issues of legal nihilism and the elimination of the causes contributing to it in the youth environment are presented.

Keywords: legality, youth, rule of law, legal nihilism, law and order, legal awareness, causes of legal nihilism

Introduction

Legal nihilism for some part of society, even in a modern state governed by the rule of law, where the rights and freedoms of man and citizen are respected, and all the necessary tools for their state protection are created, can be considered a completely natural phenomenon, although extremely negative. Overcoming it is the most important task of the state and at the same time-the problem of the state. This also means the need to study the specific reasons that give rise to legal nihilism. This justifies the relevance of the topic under consideration.

The main part

Within the framework of studying the problem of nihilism in relation to the youth environment, first of all, it is necessary to clarify the range of subjects that form this environment. And this task seems to be extremely difficult, since the concept of "youth" is defined excessively broadly, in many respects even abstractly, both in the framework of science and in the framework of legislation. To understand this, it is enough only to refer to clause 1 of Article 2 of Federal Law No. 489-FZ of 30.12.2020 (as amended on 23.07.2025) "On Youth Policy in the Russian Federation" [1], according to which young people are a socio-demographic group of people whose age is determined by the state budget. age ranges from 14 to 35 years, inclusive.

It is noteworthy that the same article provides for the possibility of setting a different age limit for classifying a person as a youth, and this age must be at least 35 years inclusive. That is, the de jure category of young people includes a fairly wide range of subjects, some of which are minors, children, while others are quite mature individuals who are fully independent and have reached certain heights, including in their careers.

For research purposes, of course, these limits may be narrowed, including conditional exclusion of minors from the category of youth. But in any case, this term can refer to the most active part of the population.

If we speak in relation to modern realities, the concept of "youth" covers almost the entire part of the population that was brought up in the post-Soviet period of national history. This is exactly the generation that did not find the Soviet era and did

not adopt the corresponding Soviet values. In this sense, the category under consideration, despite its diversity, is of particular interest for studying the manifestations of legal nihilism.

The very phenomenon of legal nihilism, regardless of the category of the population under consideration, is interpreted in different ways. And in this regard, there are many approaches outlined in the literature, not only legal, but also philosophical. Therefore, it is extremely important to emphasize the multi-faceted, interdisciplinary nature of this phenomenon and its sociality.

In general, the essence of legal nihilism is that it reflects a deformed state of legal consciousness and is characterized by a complete or partial denial of the value of law, a disdainful attitude to law, which ultimately is projected onto legally significant behavior, exerting an exclusively destructive influence on it [7, p. 9].

On the other hand, we can also see some elements of the constructive influence of legal nihilism. In particular, the manifestation of nihilism and the study of this problem gives an understanding of the shortcomings that the legislation contains. And this creates a certain incentive for its improvement. Although such a constructive component is very conditional.

The variety of manifestations of nihilism allows us to consider it from different angles. Thus, T. V. Rekhacheva identifies nihilism coming from the people, calling it legal nihilism, as well as nihilism coming from public authorities, calling it constitutional. And in many ways, the latter is a prerequisite for the formation of the former [8, p. 29].

G. Khamitova, describing the essence of legal nihilism, emphasizes its expression in the denial of law as a social good. Moreover, such denial is expressed in disrespect not only for the law, but also for justice, in violation of legal regulations and prohibitions, which ultimately harms the state, society and individual citizens. In general, nihilism reflects alienation from the existing legal system. A specific manifestation of legal nihilism, she calls disrespectful attitude to the activities of authorities and law enforcement agencies [10, p. 79].

The above statement, in general, quite clearly reflects the essence of legal nihilism. However, it is not necessary to say that this concept has received legal consolidation, and therefore the scope of this phenomenon remains extremely vague. Nevertheless, it is impossible not to recognize that nihilism itself can manifest itself in different ways, both in the form of lawful actions (inaction) and in the form of illegal actions (inaction), recognized, for example, as administrative offenses or criminally punishable acts.

The problem of legal nihilism, including in the youth environment, could not be ignored by the authorities, and therefore it is mentioned in a number of strategic planning documents, primarily in the Strategy for the Implementation of Youth Policy for the Period up to 2030[2], which reflects a number of issues related to the development of legal nihilism. There are very serious problems present in the field of youth policy, which determine the phenomenon of legal nihilism. First of all, this Strategy draws attention to the presence of two barriers that are socio-economic in nature. The first one concerns the financial and housing conditions of the family, the second one-combining work and raising children. It is obvious that in difficult living conditions characterized by financial, housing, family, and professional difficulties, there are also certain prerequisites for the formation of a nihilistic attitude towards the state and its existing legal system.

This document also outlines the problem of offenses committed by young citizens. Persons between the ages of 14 and 29 account for about 30% of all criminal acts. In this regard, it is not possible to adequately correlate the proportion of crimes committed by young people with the proportion of crimes committed by other categories of citizens, including due to the heterogeneity of the youth environment [2].

It is necessary to pay attention to the fact that in recent years there has been a tendency to increase the number of minors who are victims of crimes, which is also noted in the Strategy under consideration. Obviously, this factor cannot but influence the formation of a nihilistic attitude to the law, because if criminal acts are committed

against an individual, then trust in the state, law enforcement system and justice is undermined.

In general, the Strategy under consideration identifies a fairly wide range of issues that are complex in nature, complicate the life of young people and influence the formation of a nihilistic attitude to the law:

- issues of a value-ideological nature;
- demographic issues.
- social issues;
- economic issues;
- issues related to state and public security;
- issues of youth participation and youth self-government [2].

The following issues are highlighted:

- lack of measures for the social reintegration of young people at risk, including young people who find themselves in a difficult life situation;
- insufficient conditions for personal growth and self-realization of young citizens with disabilities;
- continuing administrative and legal barriers to youth employment;
- the weakness of the education system in the field of working with information, identifying false information flows, responding to bullying situations, and ensuring the security of personal data [2].

In the Strategy discussed above, the problems of legal nihilism are not singled out separately, as are the factors that generate nihilism. However, the problematic issues presented above can also be considered in the context of factors that contribute to nihilism.

In the literature, a slightly different approach is more often used, in which the factors contributing to legal nihilism are grouped into socio-economic, political-legal, and socio-cultural ones. In addition, the problem of insufficient effectiveness of the legal education system is highlighted [6, p. 45]. Of course, these factors are complex, and each of them can be represented by a whole group of specific problems.

These factors are as abstract as possible, and in general they can explain almost any socio-legal phenomenon. However, there are also factors that are specific to young people. In this regard, V. V. Fedotovskaya emphasizes the difficulty of adapting young people to such social phenomena as unemployment, a legal and information vacuum, and an inadequate educational process [9, pp. 444-445].

Other authors take a more differentiated approach to understanding the factors that generate nihilism, highlighting:

- general reasons (socio-economic, political and legal reasons, historical);
- special reasons (self-serving material, moral, cultural);
- particular causes [7, pp. 9-10].

Among the reasons that give rise to nihilism, it is impossible not to mention the presence of shortcomings in the current legislation. Often, citizens, especially those representing the younger generation, are simply not informed or poorly informed about the rules of conduct that are established by current legislation. In many respects, this problem is mediated by an extensive regulatory framework, and it contains a lot of contradictions [10, p. 80].

Among the causes of legal nihilism among young people, it is impossible not to highlight social contradictions, in particular, between the prescribed goals that are considered significant in society and the legal opportunities that this society provides to young people; contradictions between broad opportunities for choice in various fields of activity and limited legal means of realizing these opportunities; contradictions between the expansion of needs in qualified, prestigious and highly paid work and limited opportunities to meet them [5, pp. 46-47].

Of course, the efforts of the state and society as a whole, including within the education system, are trying to minimize these contradictions. However, the results of this work do not give the proper effect for various reasons, including the lack of a comprehensive approach to problem solving [6, p.45].

Speaking about the lack of a comprehensive approach, let's turn to the Report on the implementation in 2024 of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs ' action plan for

the period 2019-2024 [4], which notes extremely positive aspects, what has been done, and without reference to specific problems. That is, the results in the context of solving individual problems that would somehow reflect the dynamics of the situation of young people are not presented in this document. In other words, the results of the implementation of the youth policy are presented outside the context of youth problems.

As part of the problem of legal nihilism among young people, it is worth noting the established practice in law enforcement agencies, characterized by the lack of tracking crime statistics specifically among young people, as well as the commission of crimes against young people [3]. Perhaps, in the context of the problems that law enforcement agencies are trying to solve, this nuance is not particularly important, but from the point of view of improving youth policy and overcoming the problems of legal nihilism among young people, this issue plays an important role.

Conclusion

Summing up, we can conclude that there are many reasons for legal nihilism, and the role of each of them cannot be unambiguously assessed. Nevertheless, one of the most important reasons is the lack of systematic measures on the part of the state aimed at overcoming legal nihilism, which would take into account the characteristics of each specific category of the population, including young people, and its individual age groups. Taking into account this circumstance, it is necessary to organize systematic targeted work to overcome legal nihilism among young people, including, first of all, legal education within the educational system, which ensures the formation of ideas about the law and the possibilities of its practical use. The basic understanding of constitutional, civil, criminal and administrative law should serve as a guideline for the development of legal education in this area.

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