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# CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE FORMATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

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**Abstract.** Civic consciousness can be understood as a process associated with the formation of a set of ideas about citizenship, the prospects for the development of society. With this regard the article deals with the issues of the regulatory functions in the civil society, its foundations and elements in the formation of civil society. A strong political relationship between the state and the citizen is an essential condition for an established civil society. The quality and scope of these relationships depend on the civic consciousness that is embedded in the person, and ultimately the civic consciousness that is formed in the individual is manifested through civic activism. The active participation of citizens is very important in the formation of civil society, but we also want to emphasize the important role of civic consciousness in ensuring the legitimacy of the existing socio-political relations.

**Key words:** civic consciousness, element, formation, civil society, function, citizenship, individuals, actions, rules, regulations.

## **INTRODUCTION.**

According to American political scientists G. Almond and S. Verba, when studying the phenomenon of civil society, its foundations are not politics, but common cultural feelings, interpersonal trust relations, tolerance, respect for the interests of others. concludes [1]. Civil society can be understood as an institution

established to regulate various social interests, to alleviate social tensions and to ensure consensus in society. The regulatory function of civil society is in its place the basic principles of coexistence, the rule of law, and adherence to universal values, which is reflected by the concept of civic consciousness we seek to explore. According to R. Aron, civic consciousness prevails over the interests of individual groups, individuals, and protects the interests of society as a whole, because it has always been focused on universal values, the inalienable goal of human survival and development. Civic consciousness can be understood as a process associated with the formation of a set of ideas about citizenship, the prospects for the development of society, a sense of belonging to its destiny, the formation of higher rules governing the general direction of social behavior [2].

According to M. Reznik, civic consciousness is the understanding that the common interests of the whole people take precedence over the personal interests of groups. Civic consciousness is a consciousness "focused on basic democratic values" [3].

Yu. Erme further explores the understanding of the concept of civic consciousness within a society: these people understand their rights and responsibilities as members of society. The author emphasizes the superiority of the legal aspect in defining the concept of civic consciousness. Civic consciousness means awareness of the existing relationship between society, man and the state in terms of democratic values, ideals, rights and freedoms, regulated by the principles and norms adopted in society, the state. He emphasizes that at such a stage of development of a certain mental state of a society, democratic norms and values should become the main foundation of its vital activity [4].

## **THE MAIN PART.**

In our view, civic consciousness performs various functions in the economic, political, legal, spiritual spheres of activity: normative-regulatory, coordination, formation, training, evaluation and operational, communicative, directional and

others. It should be noted that most of them are systematically formed by the state and its institutions.

The functions of civic consciousness do not depend on the state functions of laws, actions, rules, strict regulation. On the contrary, it does not have special institutions that develop the norms of civic consciousness and implement them. Civic consciousness is realized in various forms of social life, in which norms, ideas, views, ideals, aspirations of citizens, an understanding of their personal and social interests are expressed. Civic interests, in which the social interests of society, group, individual are reflected, are of a systemic nature. Because of their system, integrity, they are able to realize the dignity of the individual, his relationship with society, the state, citizens, they help to understand the appointment, the meaning of existence, civic duties, civic responsibility and other socially important qualities. One of the main tasks of civic consciousness is the existence of values and norms, ideas that contribute to the formation of civil society, aimed at achieving perfection, freedom of society.

The process of forming a full civil society spans a long historical period and involves the change of several generations. Civic consciousness also has a historically defined character. Based on the study of social systems of historical significance, it can be concluded that civic consciousness lies in the specific idea that characterizes this society.

The formation of civic consciousness is a natural and gradual process of development. It is a constant process related to social, economic, political determinants, the direction of spiritual research. Each new generation not only assimilates existing democratic values, but also creates new ones. At the same time, one of the most important factors is the preservation and continuous improvement of the norms and values that define civic consciousness.

The evolution of development leads to the gradual accumulation of civic experience and the consolidation of democratic ideas. Civic consciousness has a number of important features.

First, civic consciousness has the ability to self-manage and renew. This occurs as a result of adapting to the changing conditions of society and changing its values and norms in accordance with the new needs of society.

Second, civic consciousness is an active factor in social change. It is a tool that accelerates the whole system of social development, self-awareness and support of society, and becomes a mechanism of self-transformation of society, as it encourages people to active civil action. related to ideas. Civic consciousness creates a certain spiritual and valuable paradigm of social development and helps to strengthen society. In civil society, civic values are embedded in the governing mechanism of society and regulate its activities.

Third, civic consciousness is open and always ready to perceive new ideas. However, new elements are gradually added to its composition, proving that it is organic and viable only for a particular system. Gathering cultural change to change civic consciousness helps to create a constant pressure on the mind in general and to develop new ways of understanding reality. As Diligensky points out, it can radically change policy and even revolutionize property relations, but you cannot quickly change people's core beliefs and values [6].

Fourth, civic consciousness not only relies on universal patterns, but changes its content. Of course, the permanent and stable elements present in various models of social and political life play an important role in it. The historical experience, traditions, foundations of the society are a deterrent to prevent drastic changes in the civic consciousness. At their core, there is a gradual accumulation of new experience that is firmly embedded in the civic consciousness over time.

In the legal literature, the concept of 'civic consciousness' primarily involves the political-legal relationship between the individual and the state, in which the individual is characterized by an understanding of belonging to that state and is subject to the laws of that state. A person's belonging to a particular state is determined by his legal status. The existence of mutual rights and obligations of

the parties is the essence of a stable political and legal relationship between the individual and the state.

Civic consciousness reflects and encompasses the relationships that exist in society, in which the real interests and practical cooperation of different social actors are realized. In addition, it influences people's interactions, giving them clarity, content, and design. It represents the opinions of the people who exist on the basis of their behavior, their views on social life, the state and their relations of real and normative significance.

Socio-political, religious, moral, legal, economic and other norms (rules, principles, requirements) can serve as constituent elements of civic consciousness related to a particular element system combined with a common civic worldview.

These criteria intersect and complement each other under the influence. Many of them belong to the state and its institutions. However, if public authorities operate within the legal framework of laws, regulations, rules and requirements, civic consciousness is freely formed. The norms of civic consciousness are formed as a result of socio-political processes, there are no special structures that coordinate or implement it. The functions of civic consciousness are not related to the individual, but to the activities of society as a whole.

Civic consciousness takes many forms in society. People express their views, perceptions, values, aspirations, and norms about personal and social values in different ways. Civic interests, which reflect the social interests of society, groups, and the individual, become a system. As a system, civic interests implement the values of each individual, shape his or her attitude toward society, the state, and other citizens. It helps to define the responsibilities, goals, duties of the citizen, to form socially significant features. It is in this way that the civic consciousness is formed to form the values, norms, ideas and perceptions that serve the formation of civil society, to lead society to perfection and freedom.

Civic consciousness is a product of natural and evolutionary development that cannot be accelerated artificially. It is formed gradually on the basis of social, economic and political factors. Each generation assimilates existing democratic values and creates new ones. In this process, the most important activity is the preservation and continuous improvement of the norms and values that define civic consciousness.

As a result of progressive development, democratic ideas are strengthened and civic experience is gradually accumulated.

Civic consciousness has a number of unique characteristics. Civic consciousness adapts to changing values as the social system changes. Civic consciousness, on the other hand, is an active factor in social change. Because it is associated with perceptions that motivate citizens to take action, society can become a factor in the renewal of identity, the accelerator of social progress. Civic consciousness serves to strengthen society by creating a spiritual foundation for social development.

Civic consciousness is open at the level of acceptance of new ideas. When new ideas prove to be compatible with this system, they gradually become ingrained in society.

Civic consciousness is not only based on general principles, but also changes in essence. Of course, there are values in society that are stable, inherent in any political system, such as historical experience and traditions, which prevent the rapid changes that can occur in the civil consciousness. . The new historical experience is based on such values and is absorbed into the minds of citizens.

The concept of "civic consciousness" refers primarily to a citizen's political and legal relationship with the state, and to the fact that a person belongs to a state and is subject to the laws of that state. Citizenship, as expressed in the legal status of the individual, is enshrined in a number of rights and duties that apply between the state and the citizen.

The stability of a democratic society requires enrichment with democratic values. This process depends on how ready the citizens of the society are to live in a socially free environment, that is, on the civic maturity and activism of the individuals. In turn, civic maturity and civic responsibility are determined by the level of civic consciousness of members of society. It is the civic consciousness that shapes the spiritual, intellectual and socio-economic potential of a society.

Civic consciousness serves to unite society, to create harmony between citizens in the common interest. Under the influence of various socio-cultural factors that take place in society, civic consciousness changes and civic activism is affected. At the heart of the desire to volunteer, that is, to volunteer, is the personal and social needs of each individual. In particular, the desire to benefit others, to express oneself, and to communicate leads to activity. There is also a need for social recognition. The desire to apply professional and life experience can also motivate one to do so. The desire to realize one's potential and implement one's own ideas can also be a driving force. The need to influence and participate in social processes also leads to activism.

Volunteering is a unique opportunity for a person to adapt his or her personal needs to the needs of society. This need is a sign of people's understanding of their moral duties and of human perfection. As a volunteer, a person develops morally, develops a culture of communication, develops a sense of cooperation and brotherhood, and a sense of humanity. Volunteering is active and creative, and people have the opportunity to show their potential. This activity helps to develop an active attitude to the events taking place around them, to take a closer look at the political reality.

In order to understand civic activism, it is necessary to pay attention to the following aspects;

- Active citizens are mostly people who are ready to learn about the political and economic system;

- Active citizens have the knowledge and ability to actively exercise their rights;

- Active citizens will have the skills to apply this knowledge [6].

The stability of a democratic society involves the process of enriching democratic values, which depends mainly on the conditions of social freedoms of members of society, that is, the level of civic maturity of individuals, the activity of their civic activities. In turn, civic maturity and civic responsibility are determined by the level of civic consciousness that shapes not only the socio-economic, but also the intellectual, spiritual potential of society.

Civic consciousness ensures the social integration of society, the civic position and the consistency of the actions of individuals in the realization of civic interests. The emerging civic consciousness changes its content under the influence of various socio-cultural factors, which is a natural reflection in the development of the idea of citizenship.

## **CONCLUSION.**

In conclusion, the understanding of democratic values, ideals, rights and freedoms on the basis of civic consciousness, reflecting the existing relations in society, as a unit of developed relations aimed at ensuring the welfare of the citizen, society, state, governed by the principles and norms adopted in society it can be said that understandable citizenship is formed. The formation of civic consciousness can affect the development of the whole social organism by introducing the whole spectrum of social relations, which is based on a single set of basic values and norms that determine the overall direction of development.

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