

GENDER EDUCATION AS AN ELEMENT OF MODERN LEGAL EDUCATION

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Summary. The article deals with the issues of gender education as an element of modern legal education. An important task of educational work should be the inclusion of gender knowledge in the education system, the formation in the public consciousness of the need for social equality of men and women in all spheres of public life. Expanding basic knowledge about gender equality and introducing it into the legislative system should ensure that decisions are made at the level of public administration in the field of education.

Gender education is a fairly relevant phenomenon for the world community. The need to introduce gender education in the Republic of Belarus is due to international trend-ensuring equal opportunities for men and women in all spheres of public life. As the Director of the gender program of the American Bar Association L. N. Zavadskaya notes, “just over a century ago, equality on the basis of gender was included in the catalog of the comprehensive principle of equality of citizens and cannot be excluded from the overall process of development of society, the formation of ideology and practice of its implementation” [1, p. 17].

Gender equality issues continue to be important for the full development of Belarus in the international arena. As part of the modernization of the legal framework for the implementation of gender equality, it is necessary, first of all, to bring the Belarusian legislative system in line with international standards. After all, the constitutional and legal regulation of gender equality is one of the key legal categories that can be used to Supplement the legal nature, place and role of subjects of legal relations, as well as the complex of their rights and obligations in relation to each other.

Gender education involves the acquisition of knowledge and its use not only in the course of professional activities, but also in the performance of everyday household roles. The basis of gender knowledge is the differentiation of the concept of «gender» and «sex», the development of gender terminology, the refutation of gender stereotypes, as well as the analysis of legal mechanisms for ensuring gender equality in international legislation and its penetration into the national legal system.

Work on the implementation of the main provisions of the concept of gender policy in the Republic of Belarus began not so long ago. In 2001, the Council of Ministers approved the first national action plan for gender equality in the Republic of Belarus for 2001 – 2005 (hereinafter – national plan), paragraph 4 of which provides for the development of the draft Law of the Republic of Belarus “On gender equality” (hereinafter – the Law). The draft law will expand opportunities for all citizens, both men and women, to exercise their full range of rights and freedoms in Belarus, which are provided for by the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and international law. It should be noted that in 2017, the fourth national plan for 2017-2020 was approved, which reflects the main tasks of developing mechanisms for implementing a gender approach in the process of developing and implementing state policy measures in various spheres of society.

Since the 2000s, our country has been working to determine the main directions and means of achieving gender equality in various spheres of society, such as:

- expanding economic opportunities for women and men;
- ensuring gender-oriented health care;
- implementing family policy;
- countering domestic violence and human trafficking;
- gender education and awareness.

As noted earlier, the primary activity was the analysis of normative legal acts of the Republic of Belarus on the subject of consolidation in their regulations on the inadmissibility of gender discrimination, as well as determining the feasibility of preparing a comprehensive legislation to ban such discrimination. An important task of this document should be the inclusion of gender knowledge in the education system, the formation in the public consciousness of the need for social equality of men and women in all spheres of public life.

The expansion of basic knowledge and its implementation in the legislative system should ensure that decisions are made at the level of public administration-taking into account significant social and economic factors that could be missed. Thus, according to the human development Report 2019, the gender inequality Index for Belarus is 0.119, which ranked the country 27th out of 162 countries in the 2018 Index. In Belarus, 33.1% of Parliamentary seats are held by women,

and 87.2% of adult women have completed at least an average level of education, compared to 92.5% of their male counterparts. Women's participation in the labor market is 58.1% compared to 70.3% of men [2].

A number of CIS and Baltic countries were among the first to adopt laws on gender equality in different versions: Uzbekistan in 1995, Lithuania in 1998, Estonia in 2002, Kyrgyzstan in 2003, and Tajikistan in 2004.

It is worth noting that in November 2005 The Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member States unanimously voted for the model law "on equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men", which in turn accelerated the appearance of such acts in those CIS countries that did not hurry with their development, namely: in Ukraine – 2005, Moldova – 2006, Azerbaijan – 2006, Turkmenistan – 2007, Kazakhstan – 2009, Georgia – 2010, Armenia – 2013. The Russian Federation and Latvia have not yet adopted the law of the same name, despite the successful implementation of norms that establish equal status of women and men in the legal framework.

Experience in the legislative regulation of gender equality and gender education in foreign countries, where the integration of gender issues in the educational space is primarily influenced by the requirements of the UN and its members, UNIFEM, UNESCO, UNDP, as well as the Council of Europe. Contributes to the development and adoption of documents that recommend the introduction of the potential of gender knowledge in the system of higher national education. Higher Education institutions create training programs that provide international information resources, as well as Finance gender research and educational projects. Thus, fruitful cooperation has been established between various higher educational institutions of the Republic of Belarus and the Institute of human rights and international humanitarian law. Raoul Wallenberg (g. Lund, Sweden), which annually hosts various round tables, seminars, conferences, and publishes research results such as: "Gender stereotypes in the University environment of Minsk" [3], "Gender equality in higher education: ways and means of achievement" [4], etc.

An important step towards the dissemination of gender education is the entry of the Republic of Belarus into the Bologna process, which has become another platform for the harmonization of higher education systems in the participating countries. Thus, in the Bologna Declaration, among the primary goals, the implementation of which in the future is intended to form a Zone of European higher education, will provide «assistance to European cooperation in ensuring the quality of education in order to develop comparable criteria and methodologies» and «promotion of the necessary European views in higher education» [5].

Thus, conditions are being created in the Republic of Belarus for implementing gender education and raising the overall level of gender culture in Belarusian society. At the same time, this work needs to be improved, since

gender education should become a mandatory part of the education system in the future. Thus, by means of conducting gender expertise of educational literature and including information on gender equality in the developed textbooks on subjects (disciplines), it will be possible to popularize this kind of knowledge. But until then, legislators need to complete the normative work on ensuring gender equality in the Republic of Belarus with the necessary special law.

List of references

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