

# College Students' Legal Awareness Cultivation and Legal Education Strategies

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**Keywords:** college students; legal awareness; legal education

**Abstract:** Since ancient times, the law has been an important guarantee for national stability and social stability. So the law is very important to our life. If a country wants to achieve long-term development and progress, it must improve its laws. And college students are the hope of the country's future, so it is necessary to strengthen the cultivation of college students' legal awareness, and strengthen the impact of college legal education on cultivating college students' legal awareness. Strengthening the legal awareness of the general public is the only way for my country to implement the rule of law and the development of social modernization. College students, as a socially knowledgeable group, cultivate their legal awareness, which is a historical responsibility that college teachers must undertake. This article starts with the era significance of college students' legal awareness training and legal education, analyzes the difficulties faced by contemporary college students' legal awareness training and legal education, and puts forward effective strategies for college students' legal awareness training and legal education.

## 1. Introduction

Fairness, justice and democracy are the keys to building a harmonious society and a society ruled by law[1]. If we want to realize democracy and the rule of law quickly and put fairness and justice into practice, we must constantly speed up the process of social legalization, implement the principles of equality and justice, strengthen the authority of the law, and do a good job in popularizing social laws and promoting the publicity of law popularization. In the new era, Chinese college students bear the hope of national rejuvenation and national prosperity, so it is necessary to improve college students' legal education and cultivate their legal awareness[2]. College students are the main force and fresh force in the future socialist construction. They shoulder the sacred mission of the motherland. No matter which field they work in the future, obeying the law is their essential basic quality[3]. The legal awareness education for them aims to make them become new intellectuals who know professional knowledge and strong legal awareness, and can adapt to various social development needs. In the new era, the requirements of society for college students are not simply reflected in professional knowledge, but society pays more attention to students' individual comprehensive ability and comprehensive quality. Admittedly, legal quality is one of the main standards to evaluate students' individual comprehensive quality. Nowadays, the state pays attention to the all-round development of talents, which to some extent requires schools to enhance students' legal awareness through education, and the enhancement of their legal awareness specifically covers: a perfect legal knowledge system, a firm legal concept, and the practical application level of legal knowledge, so that students can establish firm legal beliefs. Modern college students need not only advanced consciousness, but also more important legal consciousness than ever before[4]. It is worth noting that legal awareness is not innate, nor the result of some unchangeable "national spirit" or "traditional culture", and it must be integrated and constructed through a series of practical processes such as legal perception, legal operation and legal judgment[5]. Therefore, it is an urgent need for modernization to educate college students on legal awareness.

## 2. The cultivation of contemporary college students' legal consciousness and the dilemma faced by legal education

### 2.1. Contemporary college students' legal knowledge level is not high, and their legal concepts are weak

College students' legal knowledge level is not high, and their legal concepts are weak[6]. Many college students attach importance to professional courses, but ignore the legal basis. Some even make a surprise attack when they come to the exam, and most of them pay more attention to credits than practical results[7]. Under the domination of this idea, college students can't have a solid legal basic knowledge. On the other hand, due to the limited teaching hours of basic legal education in colleges and universities, it is impossible to complete a rich introduction to law. College students' legal consciousness is the form of college students' reaction to law or its phenomenon, that is, their psychology, knowledge, opinions and thoughts, including their inner experience of feelings, cognition, evaluation and belief in law. At present, college students' legal knowledge is generally not high, their legal concepts are weak, and incidents of breaking the law occur frequently. According to the survey of college students in University Park, 12.1% of them can master and use the law flexibly, 77.9% of them can't use it flexibly, and 10% of them don't understand it at all, as shown in Figure 1.

### Awareness of legal importance

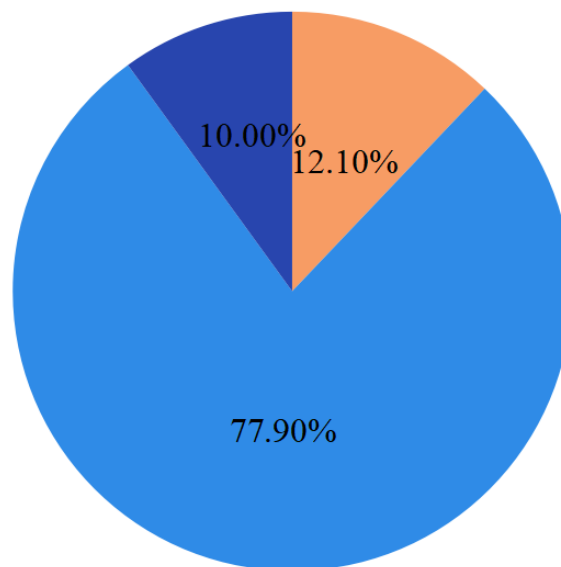


Figure 1 College students' awareness of the importance of law

As for the cognition of the importance of law, 78.5% need to learn legal knowledge in depth, 11.00% need to know it, and 10.50% don't need it at all, as shown in Figure 2.

It can be seen that college students have a weak legal concept and a weak sense of rights. In recent years, criminal cases frequently appear in colleges and universities in China, which can not help but arouse the attention of the society and colleges. People began to worry about the current ideological situation and legal awareness of college students. According to the relevant survey data, college students' crimes have accounted for 16% of all criminal cases, and there is a continuous upward trend. According to the survey data of college students' legal consciousness in China, only a few students know more about our legal system, but they usually only pay attention to their own immediate interests, but they lack the ability to bear setbacks.

## Awareness of the importance of the law

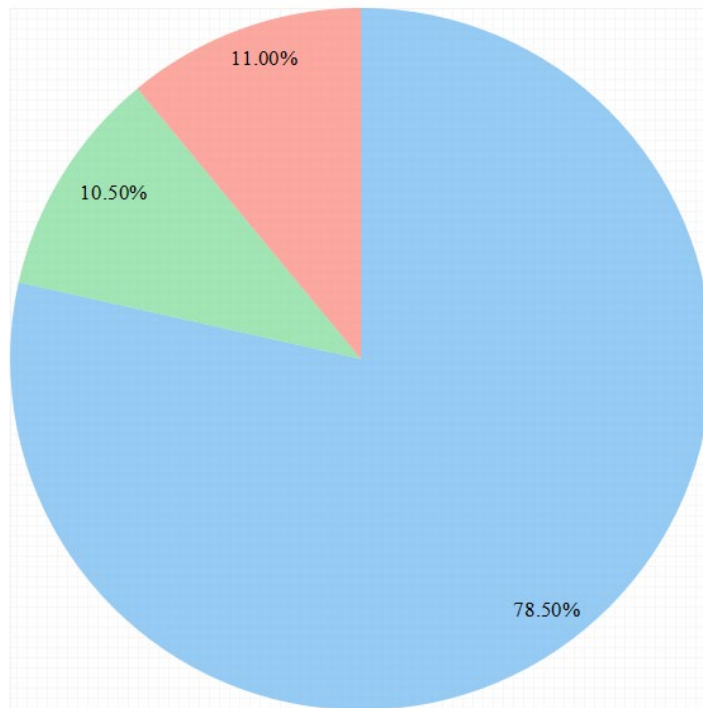


Figure 2 College students' understanding of the importance of law

### 2.2. The overall effect of legal education in colleges and universities is not great

The lack of legal education in schools is also the main reason. Although some colleges and universities offer legal courses, most of them are elective courses. This virtually makes students no longer pay attention to this course, only hope that they can pass the exam, and don't care whether their legal awareness has really been improved, let alone how to use legal knowledge flexibly in real life[8]. Cultivating contemporary college students' modern legal awareness is an educational system project, which needs to be carefully cultivated by creating conditions and environments from all aspects. In recent years, most students have great employment pressure, and they are tired of textual research, postgraduate entrance examination, etc. after the completion of their studies. The employment difficulty of college students has become one of the social reality problems, which leads to the extreme utilitarianism of many college students in their studies. For example, most college students spend too much energy on English learning during school, laying the foundation for obtaining registration certificates in the future, ignoring the study of legal knowledge and relevant national laws and regulations, as well as the all-round improvement of individual comprehensive quality. At the same time, some teachers engaged in student affairs, including class teachers and counselors, as well as deputy secretaries of various departments engaged in student affairs, did not carry out the democratic spirit in the work of students joining the Party, evaluating the excellent, evaluating the first and promoting the cadres, etc. In these work processes, there was a general problem of floating in the form, which weakened some college students' firm belief in democratic laws objectively, mythologized the utilitarian degree of college students, and had a negative impact on the cultivation of their legal consciousness and legal education. Colleges and universities also pay too much attention to the knowledge learning of students' group culture courses. With the strengthening of employment competitiveness and the deepening of the legal concept, there are some problems of "discount" in the aspects of legal-related curriculum setting, legal classroom teaching time and the selection of legal textbooks, which to a certain extent has a negative impact on the cultivation of students' group legal awareness and the development of legal education.

### **3. Cultivation of College Students' Legal Awareness and Effective Strategies of Legal Education**

#### **3.1. Improve the current social environment and strengthen the legal authority**

Changing the view that basic legal education is only ideological education and legal knowledge education should aim at improving college students' legal awareness. Actually, legal education should be the education of legal consciousness. Legal awareness, as a form of social awareness, "is the sum total of people's legal views and legal feelings, which includes their views on the nature and function of law, their requirements and attitudes towards the current law, their evaluation and interpretation of the law, their awareness of their rights and obligations, their evaluation of the legality of certain acts, their knowledge of legal phenomena and their legal concepts." Good citizen's legal awareness can drive citizens to actively abide by the law. Only when citizens have a good sense of law, can law-abiding be transformed from the external compulsion of state power into citizens' recognition of the authority of the law and the value elements contained in the law, so that they can exercise their rights and fulfill their due obligations in strict accordance with the law; We will fully respect the legitimate and reasonable rights and freedoms of others. Colleges and universities should create a school environment to educate college students on legal awareness. The management of institutions of higher learning should be "running the school according to law" and "educating people by law", which will exert a subtle influence on the formation and improvement of college students' legal consciousness. According to the relevant principles and policies of the Party and the state, the trend of economic and social development and higher education development, and the reality of college students' physical and mental development, we should take students as the foundation, respect the value of students' rights, cultivate students' awareness of rights, motivate students' pursuit of rights, and effectively promote the realization of students' right to know, participate, supervise and relieve. Schools should formulate their own rules and regulations under the framework prescribed by the state, and the management of students should also be carried out in accordance with state laws and abide by relevant regulations; Secondly, only when the procedure is proper, the evidence is sufficient, the basis is clear, and the nature is accurate, can the punishment be appropriate. The school should set up a student complaint committee to deal with the statements and arguments of the students before being punished, so as to ensure that the procedure is proper and in compliance with the regulations. For example, to establish a perfect interest expression system, so that students in a weak position can fully and effectively express their reasonable opinions and reflect their own interests, so that different interests of colleges and universities can get an effective game in fair procedures, thus increasing the legitimacy of regulations and the recognition of students. Only in this way can we ensure judicial justice, strengthen judicial authority and credibility, and then cultivate students' legal feelings, laying a foundation for improving legal education and cultivating students' legal consciousness.

#### **3.2. Innovate the mode of legal education and deepen legal education**

China's legal system is relatively perfect and contains a lot of contents, but it is impossible for college students to master all the legal knowledge firmly. Therefore, colleges and universities need to combine their own actual situation to enrich the content of legal education. To a large extent, the mode of talent training in colleges and universities determines whether college students can grow into outstanding talents who conform to the social reform and development in the future. For colleges and universities, on the one hand, if they want to strengthen the legal awareness of students, they should implement the rule of law. Because the actual legal situation of the school has an invisible influence on students' legal consciousness. Constructing perfect rules and regulations, relying on the existing laws and regulations, and determining the principle of establishing a school is the foundation for colleges and universities to manage their schools according to law in the new period. On the other hand, the democratic principle should be firmly adhered to in the student work, especially in the student evaluation, and the corresponding workers should always adhere to the openness, fairness and transparency of their work. Colleges and universities can also actively cultivate high-quality and high-level legal education teachers, and actively absorb outstanding

graduates from law colleges into the faculty of our school. Law teachers should establish correct teaching concepts. In teaching, teachers should establish three kinds of teaching concepts. First, establish the concept that "students are in the dominant position and teachers play a leading role", so that students can change from passive acceptance to active study; The second is to make teachers realize that the fundamental purpose of teaching is to make students develop the habit of independent thinking, not just to impart legal knowledge, that is, to cultivate college students' legal awareness; Third, in the teaching process, "teaching" and "educating people" are closely combined and complement each other to avoid the separation of teaching and educating people. In classroom teaching, teachers should adopt the leading-in case education mode, avoid monotonous and boring analysis of laws and regulations, deepen classroom interaction between teachers and students, and strengthen the interest of legal education.

#### **4. Conclusions**

The policy of governing the country according to law puts forward the goals of strengthening the concept of the rule of law of the whole people, carrying forward the spirit of socialist rule of law, building a socialist culture of rule of law, and promoting the construction of a society ruled by law, so that all the people will become loyal advocates, conscientious adherents and firm defenders of socialist rule of law. In view of this, it is of great practical significance to strengthen the research on legal education of college students. The cultivation of college students' legal awareness and legal education are always the key issues in modern society, belonging to social and political issues, and closely related to the construction of a democratic and legal society in the country. At the same time, the cultivation of legal awareness is a practical issue to further strengthen and promote the development of ideological and political education. College students' legal education and the cultivation of legal awareness touch on a wide range, with many restrictive factors, and it is difficult to solve them, which requires the joint efforts of government agencies, social forces, schools and individual students. The improvement of college students' legal awareness can help them better safeguard their legitimate rights and interests, improve their comprehensive quality, and help build a harmonious campus environment and social environment. Therefore, colleges and universities must attach importance to the role of legal education in cultivating college students' legal consciousness.

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