



Research Article

DIGITAL LITERACY AS A TOOL TO COMBAT CORRUPTION OFFENSES

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ABSTRACT

It is known that today's world is changeable and these changes occur every day and concern all spheres of human activity and the whole country as a whole. These changes are associated with the global digitalization of society, the development and emergence of new systems. However, it should be noted that with the development of old and the emergence of new systems, new methods of committing various crimes through information and communication means appear. The most interesting thing is that these offenses or crimes do not always carry with them special great skills, computer knowledge and skills in this area. The reverse side of this problem is digital illiteracy of the population: it is digital literacy that can become the key moment in preventing the commission of corruption offenses.

This study examines the possibilities of digitalization in the fight against corruption, as well as the need to develop digital literacy among the population who use public services.

KEYWORDS

Digitalization, information and communication technologies, public services, crime prevention, corruption, digital literacy.



INTRODUCTION

Digitalization of public administration, economy, education, healthcare and other spheres of state and public life has become a global trend. The legal system of the Republic of Uzbekistan is no exception, all structural elements of which are influenced by digital technologies. On September 22, 2020, at a meeting on the introduction of the digital economy and e-government, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev said: "The heads of regions and industries must realize that without digitalization there will be no result, there will be no development. Managers at all levels should define this issue as their daily task, deeply study the field of digitalization from the very basics". [1] In this regard, an example can also be given that one of the serious shortcomings and problems in the activities of internal affairs bodies according to Presidential Decree No. 5005 of 10.04.2017 is the unsatisfactory level of introduction of the latest information and communication technologies into their activities, equipping internal affairs bodies with modern means and equipment. The same document notes that one of the most important areas of reforming the system of internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to further improve the material and technical support of the activities of internal affairs bodies and create decent conditions for the effective work of employees. [2] At the present stage, the use of digital technologies in all spheres of public life is a necessity, since we must not forget that with the development and progress in a particular area, crimes that are committed in it are developing in parallel. From this we can conclude that digitalization is necessary not only to keep up with the times, but also to prevent the commission of certain crimes. Having touched upon the topic of crime prevention and the activities of internal affairs bodies, we will focus our attention on the field of combating

corruption. Considering the fact that corruption today is one of the most dangerous threats to the normal development of the state system, society as a whole, the use of information and communication means in the fight against corruption has become one of the main tasks of the state. In this regard, it should be noted that effective mechanisms aimed at preventing corruption and abuse in many areas, such as the issuance of state license plates for vehicles, the provision of notary and other public services, the allocation of land plots, monitoring compliance with traffic rules, have been introduced in Uzbekistan to date with the extensive use of digital technologies and others. The process of digitalization of public administration has a serious anti-corruption significance and dimension. The development of fundamentally new mechanisms of public administration based on information and communication technologies makes it possible to develop previously unknown and completely unexpected means of countering traditional negative phenomena of public administration, including such as bureaucracy, low efficiency, corruption. At the same time, the development of information and communication technologies can generate new corruption and bureaucratic schemes, which in its potential can be reduced to electronic bureaucratization or even electronic corruption. [3] That is, there is a reverse side of development – the state can develop any electronic platform for digitalization, but unscrupulous officials can always find a loophole to satisfy their thirst for material goods, there may be cases of a conflict of interest in the public service or in the implementation of public procurement. In this sense, the formation of an anti-corruption legal policy with the use of digital technologies requires serious scientific analysis,

formulation of such priorities of legal policy, principles and models of legal structures that would exclude the possibility of the development of the above negative trends and consequences of digitalization, and, on the contrary, would form the basis of fundamentally new legal mechanisms for regulating public administration, public authorities, law enforcement activities [4]. That is, first of all, it is necessary to introduce new technologies in stages. And also in advance, i.e. before the start of the functioning of a new system, it is necessary to make sure that it has been developed taking into account all the nuances and does not leave the possibility of corrupt actions by officials or other interested parties. It is necessary to note one more important point: taking into account the processes of digitalization of society, we consider it expedient to increase the literacy of the population in the field of information and communication technologies, that is, the so-called "digital literacy", since this is not only a requirement of time, but a way not to be in a situation where a citizen served in a state structure may become a victim of a corruption offense. Possession of the necessary knowledge in this area will allow:

- Be aware of new electronic systems, their functions, what purpose they were created for and what services they provide;
- Independently carry out actions to obtain public services;
- To have information in advance about which documents are needed in the implementation of a particular service;
- Know the terms of service provision;
- Authorized bodies and persons responsible for the timely performance of the service;
- The amount of state fees for the service rendered.

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