



Analysis of Factors Influencing Legal Consciousness Among College Students

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Abstract. The cultivation of legal consciousness among contemporary college students has become an important issue that needs to be solved urgently for universities, society, and the country. To explore the current status and influencing factors of contemporary college students' legal consciousness, this study adopted an online questionnaire survey and used structural equation modeling to explore the individual-level and environmental-level factors that influence contemporary college students' legal consciousness. The results show that contemporary college students' legal cognition, legal emotions, legal evaluation, and legal will are all at a high level. The education level, age, and personal experience at the individual level as well as the media reports, student mutual aid relationships, school system standardization, and societal factors such as the development of socialist ethnic politics at the environmental level have a positive impact on the improvement of college students' legal consciousness.

Keywords: College Students; Legal Consciousness; Current Situation Analysis; Influence Factor

1 Introduction

In reality, social problems such as the weak legal consciousness of college students have become increasingly prominent. The cultivation of legal consciousness among contemporary college students has become an important issue that needs to be solved urgently for universities, society, and the country^[1].

As a kind of ability to know the law, understand the law, abide by the law, and use it, which is acquired through long-term hard work, college students' legal consciousness reflects a person's acquired ability to acquire legal knowledge and is a dynamic process of continuous development and improvement^[2]. As builders and successors of socialist modernization, college students are not only builders of a socialist country governed by the rule of law but also participants in maintaining a society governed by the rule of

law. They are also advocates of the pursuit of a correct view of the rule of law. Discussion on the importance of college students' legal consciousness needs to be based on the national level, social level and individual level^[3].

First of all, from a national level, cultivating the legal literacy of college students is a requirement of the times for realizing the rule of law. Adhere to the joint advancement of governing the country according to law, governing according to law, and administering according to law, insisting on the integrated construction of a rule-of-law country, a rule-of-law government, and a rule-of-law society, adhering to the combination of governing the country according to law and governing the country by virtue, organically integrating governing the country according to law and governing the party according to rules, deepening the reform of the judicial system, and improving The legal literacy and moral quality of the entire nation. "It can be seen that it is particularly urgent to promote the cultivation of legal consciousness among college students in the current era. Cultivating the legal literacy of college students is not only the mission of the times proposed by the party and the country to the whole society but also the requirement of the times faced by college students in the context of the new era^[4].

Secondly, from a social perspective, cultivating college students' legal consciousness is a practical need for building a legal society. From an academic point of view, a society ruled by law is not only an objective requirement for the operation of the rule of law but also a subjective choice for China's construction and development. But whether it is an objective requirement or a subjective choice, building a society ruled by law must be the basic pursuit of modern society. Especially for college students, have a certain degree of public rational cognitive ability and basic needs. However, judging from the actual situation, the current crime problem among college students is not uncommon. Cases of violent crimes, Internet crimes, fraud crimes, etc. that occur on some campuses are still ongoing and have caused great social harm and adverse effects. This is undoubtedly important for building a society governed by the rule of law. brought many challenges. Therefore, improving the legal consciousness of college students and strengthening their ability to apply the law will inevitably become a good medicine to resolve the current social rule of law problems, and is also a practical need for the development of a rule of law society^[5].

Finally, from a personal perspective, improving college students' legal consciousness is the basic requirement for establishing a correct view of the rule of law. It is not difficult to see from a series of policy requirements of the party and the state that the so-called view of the rule of law is essentially a socialist view of the rule of law. Some scholars believe that the socialist rule of law is a value standard that advocates and examines socialist rule of law issues at the value level and uses the rule of law to judge social progress and work success or failure. However, in the practice of legal education, except for law majors, college students in other majors currently ignore the educational issue of establishing a correct view of the rule of law to a large extent. Not only do their students find it difficult to comprehensively and systematically receive rule of law education, but they also lack understanding of the rule of law. Interest in learning legal knowledge and correct motivation. To this end, as individuals in social development, college students urgently need to strengthen their legal consciousness and cultivate their legal consciousness. This can not only enhance the basic ability of citizens in the whole

society to respect, abide by, and use the law. At the same time, as builders and successors of socialism, college students also It should establish a pioneering and exemplary role for the whole society^[6].

2 Theoretical Analysis and Conceptual Model

Legal consciousness is an individual's subjective experience and value evaluation of legal phenomena. In terms of content, it includes an individual's knowledge, understanding and grasp of legal phenomena, his or her emotions, attitudes and evaluations of static legal norms and dynamic legal behaviors, as well as his or her understanding of the law. Willingness, requirements, and expectations include four dimensions: legal cognition, legal emotion, legal evaluation, and legal will. Specifically, college students' legal consciousness mainly includes four dimensions: legal cognition, legal emotion, legal evaluation, and legal will. First, legal cognition refers to college students' knowledge of national laws and regulations, and their ability to relate them to legal behaviors in real life; second, legal emotion refers to college students' understanding of legal provisions and related legal phenomena. The basic emotional experiences held at the time, including trust, respect, rejection, disappointment, and other positive and negative emotions; third, legal evaluation is based on the first two, college students' attitudes and views on law and related phenomena; fourth, legal evaluation is based on the first two. Legal will is reflected in whether college students have a firm consciousness of law-abiding. In the context of the new era of comprehensive rule of law, college students' legal consciousness can not only encourage them to adhere to the bottom line of law-abiding, but also help college students legally safeguard their own rights and interests. For schools, the level of legal consciousness of college students is also a reflection of the school's comprehensive quality^[7].

Existing research on the influencing factors of legal consciousness has mainly been carried out from two aspects: the individual level and the environmental level. The individual level mainly includes three main factors: the individual's education level, age, and personal experience. Existing research has shown that the higher the education level, the higher the students' knowledge of legal knowledge, the more positive their attitude towards the law, and they also show higher legal consciousness. As age increases, students have wider access to legal knowledge and information, and their rich experience also strengthens their legal consciousness. Personal experience mainly explains the impact of personal family environment, legal consciousness of family members, personal schooling experience, etc. on legal consciousness^[8].

The environmental level mainly includes four main factors: media reports, school systems, student mutual aid relationships, and the development of socialist democratic politics. In the context of the Internet, media reports have a more significant impact on students' legal consciousness. Traditional TV legal programs, online live broadcasts, etc. will all affect the improvement of students' legal consciousness^[9]. The standardized development of the school system can also affect students' concept level of having rules to follow and laws to abide by, and their legal consciousness. The mutual-helping relationship between students is the main source of role model learning for students, which

is conducive to the improvement of students' legal consciousness. The construction of socialist democratic politics is an important part of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and striving to develop socialist democratic politics is our party's unswerving goal. Democratic politics is a politics based on the rule of law^[10-11]. The Constitution and laws specifically stipulate citizens' extensive democratic freedom rights, and stipulate the scope, limits, methods and procedures of the power operation of state organs and their staff. At present, under the leadership of the party, my country's socialist democratic politics continues to develop and improve, which has generally awakened the legal consciousness of members of society and promoted the improvement of legal consciousness among college students^[12].

A conceptual model, as illustrated in Figure 1, is formulated based on the aforementioned analysis.

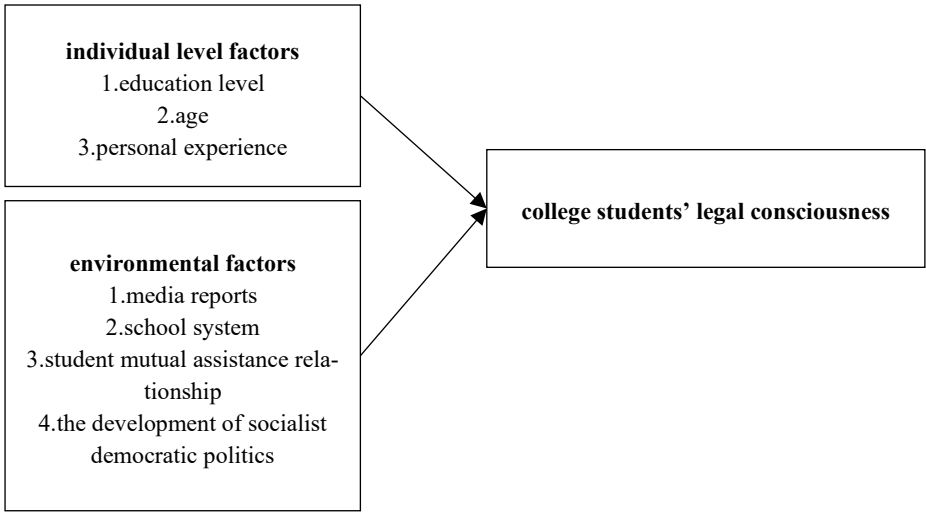


Fig. 1. Concept model

3 Data Sources and Research Methods

3.1 Data Sources and Sample Characteristics

This study employs a questionnaire survey method with an online questionnaire to examine the legal consciousness of college students in July-August 2022. The survey targets are students studying in colleges and universities. The demographic characteristics of the sample are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Descriptive statistical analysis of samples

category	options	number of samples	proportion (%)
gender	male	100	55.6%
	female	80	44.4%

types of school	university	105	58.3%
	college	33	18.3%
	higher vocational college	42	23.4%
college year	freshman	60	33.3%
	sophomore	55	30.6%
	junior	45	25.0%
	senior	20	11.1%

3.2 Variable Measurement and Research Methods

This study primarily utilizes a structural equation model to examine the influencing factors of legal consciousness among college students. Legal consciousness is mainly measured from four dimensions: legal cognition, legal emotion, legal evaluation and legal will. The scales used are all developed and verified by domestic scholars. Both individual-level and environmental-level influencing factors are directly measured using items.

4 Research Results and Analysis

SPSS22.0 was used to analyze the data for reliability and validity. The results showed that Cronbach's alpha value of legal consciousness was 0.771, greater than the critical value of 0.7, indicating the scale's high reliability. The items used in the scale are all derived from scales developed and verified by domestic scholars and have high content validity. At the same time, the validity analysis results show that the KMO value of legal consciousness is greater than 0.6, indicating that the scale has high structural validity.

SPSS22.0 was used to conduct descriptive statistical analysis of variables. The results showed that the mean value of the legal cognition dimension was 4.08, the mean value of the legal emotion dimension was 4.51, the mean value of the legal evaluation dimension was 4.01, and the mean value of the will dimension was 4.77, all greater than 3. It shows that college students have good legal consciousness, with higher levels of legal cognition, legal emotion, legal evaluation, and legal will. At the same time, the level of legal will is the highest. The descriptive statistical analysis of variables is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Descriptive statistical analysis of variables

variable	dimensions	the value of Cronbach's α	mean
legal consciousness	legal knowledge	0.771	4.08
	legal sentiment		4.51
	legal evaluation		4.01
	legal will		4.77

AMOS22.0 was used to analyze the data, and the path analysis results are shown in Figure 2. The results show that the seven influencing factors at the individual level and environmental level all positively affect college students' legal consciousness.

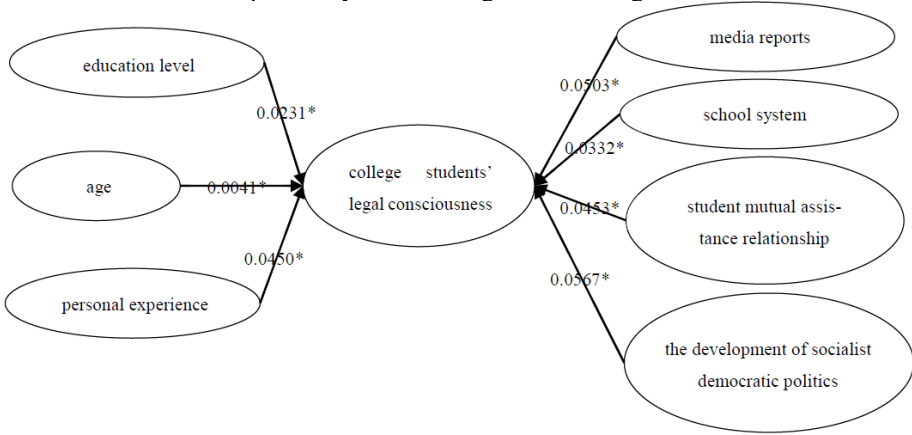


Fig. 2. Path analysis results

Note: All estimated values of path coefficients are significant at the statistical level of 0.01, so "*" is used to indicate their significance results; All path coefficients are standardized coefficients.

5 Conclusions

This study analyzed the current status and influencing factors of contemporary college students' legal consciousness and found that college students' legal consciousness mainly includes four dimensions: legal cognition, legal emotion, legal will, and legal rating. At the same time, the improvement of college students' legal consciousness is affected by the education level, age, and personal experience at the individual level, as well as media reports at the environmental level, student mutual assistance relationships, school system standardization, and the development of socialist national politics. At present, to improve the legal consciousness of college students, we need to start from both the personal level and the environmental level to promote the improvement of students' legal consciousness and work together to promote the development of the rule of law in schools, society, and the country.

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