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Article

## Social Significance of Civic Culture

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**Anotation:** The article discusses the structural elements and important aspects of the theoretical model of individual civil culture. In particular, since the reforms being implemented intensively towards the establishment of a New Uzbekistan are aimed at the interests of the people, citizen activity plays an important and decisive role on this path. After all, citizen activity is the main criterion for building a civil society. From the perspective of this relevance, the article presents the introduction of individual civil culture into scientific circulation, the components of its theoretical model, namely, the components of civic consciousness and civic activity, in turn, are composed of certain internal elements. Ultimately, the theoretical model of individual civil culture and its social significance are interpreted as a product of the mutual harmony of civic consciousness and civic activity. The extremely important and significant functions of individual civil culture for building a people-oriented state and a free civil society are revealed on the basis of philosophical and historical methods.

**Keywords:** Personal civic culture, theoretical model, civic consciousness, civic activity, civic responsibility, social activism, patriotism, social significance.

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### Introduction

Since the creation of a new Uzbekistan is our ultimate goal, bold steps must be taken towards building a civil society in our country. Because, "In building a democratic state and civil society, it is important to raise the legal awareness and culture of the population, to convey the essence of the laws and decisions being adopted to the general public. Therefore, the formation of a sense of respect for and adherence to the law among citizens should be the primary task of all educational institutions, from kindergartens and schools to universities" [1].

In addition, in order to fulfill the tasks that serve to ensure social development, it is necessary for members of society to develop a civic culture. Because unless a person is formed as a citizen, he will not understand his duties and responsibilities to society, will not diligently begin to fulfill them, and will not contribute to the fulfillment of socially significant tasks.

### Review of literature on the topic

Many scientific works on the subject express valuable ideas about the composition of a person's civic culture, on the basis of which it is possible to form a model of civic culture. Aristotle, Polybius, N. Machiavelli, Ch. Montesquieu, A. de Tocqueville, J. St. Mill and others, who first addressed this topic in one form or another, limited themselves to mentioning some elements of civic culture [2].

It was not until the 20th century that the civic culture of an individual began to be analyzed as a holistic system. For example, the American scientist C. Merriam, who first used the concept, described it as a specific form of cultural synthesis [3]. Later, American political scientists G.A. Almond and S. Verba emphasized that in civic culture, political and legal, moral and aesthetic knowledge and values organically blend [4].

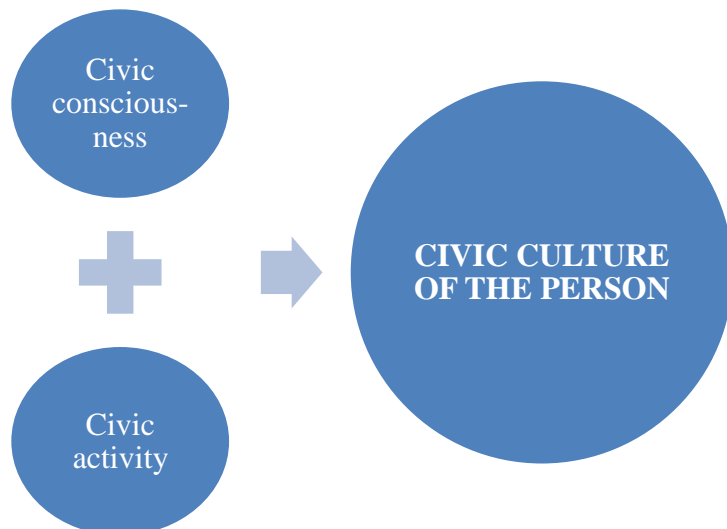
### Research methodology

The article initially used a comprehensive approach to the problem of individual civic culture, modeling in analysis, analysis and synthesis to reach a more precise conclusion, and comparative analysis and generalization to provide new conclusions on the problem.

### Analysis and results

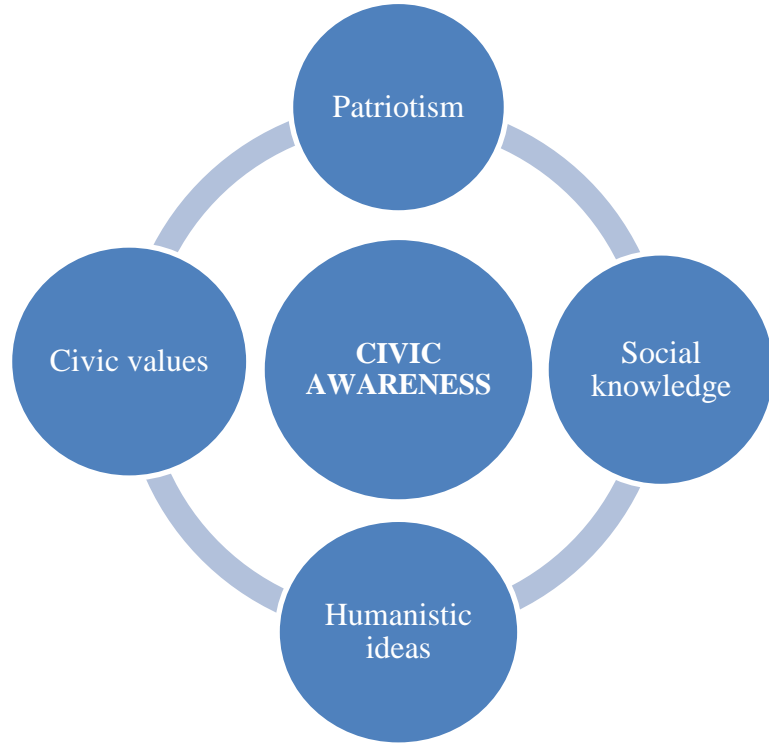
A study of the sources that analyzed the problem allows us to draw the following conclusions about the theoretical model of individual civic culture: (Figure 1)

**Figure 1. Theoretical model of civic culture**



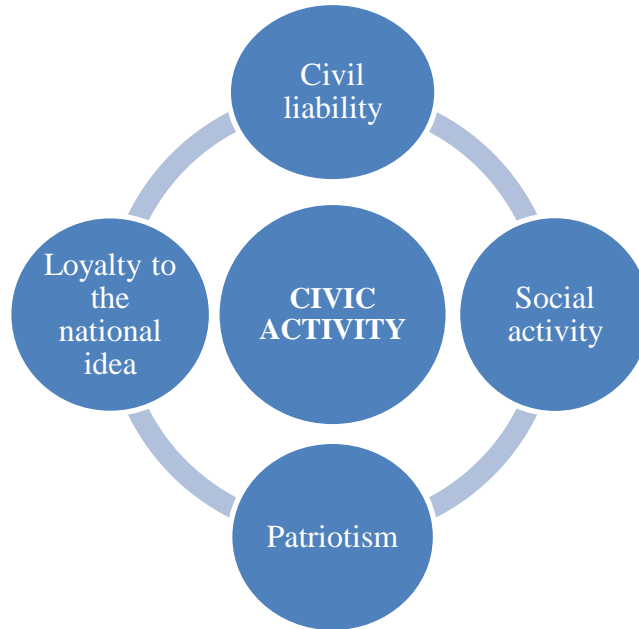
In this way, the mutual synthesis of civic consciousness and civic activity reveals the model of individual civic culture. Ultimately, these components themselves include various elements. In particular, individual civic consciousness embodies the following elements: (Figure 2)

Figure 2. Components of civic consciousness



The essence of a person's civic culture is civic consciousness, but one important aspect should not be overlooked: this is only one part of the theoretical model of civic culture. Its second part, its integral continuation, is civic activity: (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Components of civic activity



Civic activity is a conscious participation of a person as a citizen in the process of solving socially significant problems. During such participation, a citizen seeks to purposefully influence events and processes, to change them in proportion to his worldview, needs and interests. Experts who have separately studied this aspect of the problem note that civic activity takes the form of participation in social processes, participation in electoral processes, and participation in political processes. In particular, civic activity can be carried out through participation in solving various problems, volunteering, membership in a group, participation in social events, raising funds for charity, and participation in similar social processes. Civic activity in the electoral process includes voting for a particular candidate, urging others to vote, holding election events, and other similar actions. Participation in political processes occurs in the form of entering into dialogue with officials, cooperating with the media, and participating in political propaganda and agitation [5].

Of course, such participation does not happen by itself. In order for a person to participate as a citizen in social and political events, in electoral processes, first of all, he must have a high level of civic responsibility. Civic responsibility is an important quality of a person, which means that he firmly understands his duties to society and sincerely strives to fulfill them. It is carried out on a voluntary basis in accordance with moral, legal, and political norms. It is precisely the voluntary fulfillment of duties that indicates an active civic position of a person. "A responsible citizen is critical of social reality, understands the urgent problems of our time and the needs of social development" [6,180]. On the contrary, an irresponsible person cannot grasp the essence of events taking place in reality, does not understand the tasks facing society, and for this reason is in no hurry to contribute to the fulfillment of these tasks.

The increase in civic responsibility creates the basis for the social activity of the individual. A person who has realized his personal responsibility for ensuring stability in society and eliminating existing problems begins to actively participate in the events and processes taking place. It is clear from this that the mere regular participation of a person in various processes cannot be translated into activity. Social activity is manifested, first of all, in the conscious approach of a person to social events and processes. Only a person who has thoroughly mastered the essence of the process and understood it can participate in it in a purposeful way and bring his efforts to the end. Also, a person who consciously participates in social processes is able to harmonize personal and social interests during it. Social activity is also clearly expressed in the initiative of the individual. The level of a person's activity can be determined by his initiatives to solve various problems.

Any activity arises on the basis of a certain interest. For example, a person can be actively active in the interests of his own needs and interests or the interests of the social group to which he belongs. Of course, such activity can also be of some importance and serve to eliminate a social problem. However, socially significant activity in the literal sense is always imbued with patriotism. Only a person who appreciates his Motherland, who deeply knows its nature, culture, history, religion, language, customs and traditions can direct his activities as a citizen to the interests of the Motherland. Only a patriotic person is able to put the interests of the country above personal interests. Therefore, it is necessary to seek a high civic culture precisely in a person whose civic activity is imbued with patriotism.

Another element of civic activity is connected with loyalty to the national idea. As is known, "a national idea is a set of ideas that gives meaning to the life of a particular nation, leads it towards a noble goal. It embodies the past, present and future of the nation, expresses its fundamental interests and goals." [7]. Only a person who has thoroughly mastered the noblest ideals of his nation can mobilize his activities as a citizen towards the realization of its dreams and aspirations. With this in mind, I. Karimov said: "If there is a national idea, the goal becomes clear. And a noble goal calls on everyone to mobilize, further unites society. A state that has its own national idea, national ideology, will be strong, powerful and prosperous" [8]. Consequently, only a person who has thoroughly mastered the national idea and is able to work selflessly towards its realization can be recognized as a person with a high civic culture.

At the current stage of social development, the social significance of individual civic culture and the need to improve it are increasingly increasing in all countries of the world. However, this need is due to different reasons in different countries. For example, by the 1990s in developed countries, the establishment of postmodern values in society radically changed people's worldview and attitude to social processes. The ideas of members of society about the Motherland, the nature of their social knowledge, their attitude to humanistic ideas, and the system of civic values took on a new look. As a result, a mood of criticism and a sharp critical perception of reality took root in their minds. The reasons for the frequent recurrence of social discontent in developed countries are also related to this.

Citizens' perceptions of their rights, duties and obligations have also changed. Therefore, they are accustomed to being active only in limited areas (for example, in issues of protecting the natural environment, ensuring gender equality). In this situation, in developed countries, increased attention is being paid to the issues of adapting the civic culture of society members to new realities. For example, in Germany, for these purposes, on the one hand, civic education is being carried out at the expense of funds established by political parties [9]. On the other hand, attempts are being made to more actively involve members of society in social

work. Today, more than 23 million Germans serve the interests of society in their free time. Their civic activity amounts to 4.6 billion hours per year [10]. Measures to adapt civic culture to new realities can also be seen in the lives of other developed countries.

The need to improve the culture of individual citizenship is growing not only in developed countries, but also in countries that are implementing reforms of one scale or another in various spheres of social life. In these countries, heads of state and governments are focusing on reducing the gap between the social and economic opportunities of their countries and developed countries as much as possible. Such a noble goal requires mobilizing the potential of society in certain areas in a single direction. For this purpose, for example, in the countries of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, a number of significant reform programs and strategies have been adopted and are being implemented. At one time, statesman I. Karimov discussed this issue in detail in his book "Uzbekistan - a unique path of transition to market relations". The goals pursued in these programs require strengthening social cohesion and wider involvement of citizens in reforms. However, without raising the civic consciousness and activity of members of society, it is impossible to unite them around the goals envisaged in reform programs and mobilize them towards them. That is why in all countries implementing fundamental reforms, special attention is paid to forming a sense of involvement in social changes among citizens and increasing their level of activity.

Interestingly, the issues of forming civic consciousness of members of society remain relevant even in countries with low rates of socio-economic development. In particular, many countries located on the African continent are characterized by low economic growth rates. In Seychelles, this indicator in 2021 was 1.85 percent, in Sao Tome and Principe - 1.8 percent, in Burundi - 1.8 percent, in Gabon - 1.51 percent, in Niger - 1.35 percent, in Lesotho - 1.02 percent, in the Central African Republic - 0.9 percent, in Angola - 0.7 percent, in Sudan - 0.11 percent. At the same time, a decline in economic indicators was observed in countries such as Congo, Chad, Guinea [11]. Taking into account the situation, international financial organizations and developed countries are increasing financial assistance to these countries from year to year. For example, today, developed European countries allocate 0.2 percent of their gross domestic product as aid to countries on the African continent [12][13]. However, due to the low level of civic culture among members of society, a large part of the allocated funds is spent inefficiently. Taking this into account, the leadership of these countries has been paying attention to the issues of developing members of society as citizens in recent years [14].

The analysis shows that the processes and trends taking place in different regions and countries give strategic meaning to the tasks related to the development of individual civic culture. To achieve this, it is necessary, first of all, to expand the scientific ideas about its theoretical model. Without fulfilling this strategic task, it is impossible to achieve the noble goals related to the development of members of society as citizens and, ultimately, to mobilize them towards social goals. The importance of this thesis is especially valuable for a country like Uzbekistan, which is rapidly implementing reforms and aims to become one of the most developed countries in the world [15].

### **Conclusion and suggestions**

To summarize, the civic culture of the individual is one of the important concepts of social philosophy, which expresses the level of formation of political, legal, moral, religious, aesthetic, labor, ecological and other knowledge and ideas, values and norms that are consistent with the interests of the Motherland. Its theoretical model arises from a complex synthesis of elements related to consciousness and activity. In turn, civic consciousness includes elements such as a sense of homeland, social knowledge, humanistic ideas, civic values, and civic activity includes elements such as civic responsibility, social activism, patriotism, and loyalty to the national idea. The theoretical model allows not only to bring philosophical ideas into a holistic system and generalize scientific ideas, but also to unite members of society around strategic goals and objectives related to the development of citizens, the reform of society, and their inclusion in the category of developed countries.

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