SOCIAL ESSENCE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF EMPLOYEES OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF UZBEKISTAN(PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS)

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Abstract: The article analyzes the social essence of the employees of the internal affairs of Uzbekistan from a philosophical point of view. The purpose of the study is to determine the place of persons serving in the internal affairs bodies in society, the philosophical foundations of their legal-protective and social stability functions. The article uses dialectical - materialistic and phenomenological methods, integrating the commentator and theoretical approaches of Law, Ethics and political science. In the process of analysis, the interaction of internal affairs personnel with society, the boundaries of social contract, powers and responsibility formed on their basis, and the princip.

Keywords: social essence, philosophical analysis, internal affairs personnel, legal-protective function, professional ethics, society-state relations, civil control.

СОЦИАЛЬНАЯ СУЩНОСТЬ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ СОТРУДНИКОВ ОРГАНОВ ВНУТРЕННИХ ДЕЛ УЗБЕКИСТАНА (ФИЛОСОФСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ)

Аннотация: В статье анализируется социальная сущность сотрудников органов внутренних дел Узбекистана с философской точки зрения. Целью исследования является определение места лиц, проходящих службу в органах внутренних дел, в обществе, философских основ их правоохранительной и социально-устойчивой функций. В статье использованы диалектико-материалистический и феноменологический методы, интегрирующие комментаторские и теоретические подходы права, этики и политологии. В процессе анализа исследовано взаимодействие сотрудников органов внутренних дел с обществом, границы общественного договора, полномочия и ответственность, сформированные на их основе, а также принцип.

Ключевые слова: социальная сущность, философский анализ, сотрудники органов внутренних дел, правоохранительная функция, профессиональная этика, отношения общества и государства, гражданский контроль.

INTRODUCTION

Ensuring the Legal Stability of Society. Law-enforcement officers uphold public order, prevent crime, and safeguard citizens' security, thereby reinforcing social stability. An analysis of their activities - particularly in the modern Uzbek context - illuminates the effectiveness of legal institutions and the maintenance of social order under market-economy conditions [1.52-57]. Consequently, this research plays a crucial role in clarifying citizens' trust in state bodies and their security-related expectations.

Studying the Dynamics of State - Society Relations. In the course of democratic reforms, the mechanisms for dialogue, oversight, and accountability between law-enforcement agencies and society are being re-evaluated [2.121-126]. The social role of law-enforcement personnel and their service delivery methods directly affect the quality of engagement with the public. This topic therefore provides a solid basis for analysing the relationships among social oversight, civil-society institutions, and the bodies responsible for upholding the law.

Professional Ethics and Moral-Educational Factors. The professional standards, ethical obligations, and moral-educational training of law-enforcement officers are inextricably linked to the social environment. As one authoritative source notes, "forming at the staff of law-enforcement bodies of feeling of high responsibility, the relation to service duties with honor, conscience, sincere understanding of debt to the Homeland and the people, implicit observance commonly accepted in society morally-ethical standards" [3]. Their commitment to humanitarian principles, legal consciousness, and moral values cultivates respect for state authority within society. This study of such experiences and practices identifies measures aimed at reducing corruption, abuse of power, and deficiencies in legal literacy among personnel.

 Social Security and Preventive Measures. Activities such as crime prevention, citizen protection, and preparedness for emergencies serve as the foundation of social stability [4]. It is therefore essential to develop law-enforcement officers' proposed preventive programs and to use sociological research to identify the root causes of crime and to design methods for creating a healthy social environment.

Context of Political - Legal Reforms and Modernization. In Uzbekistan today, the ongoing modernization and democratic reforms within the internal affairs agencies - including the establishment of civil-oversight institutions, the introduction of digital services, and the enhancement of legal information-dissemination systems - must be subjected to rigorous scholarly analysis of their social impacts [5]. "Most importantly, it has been firmly established that internal affairs bodies must conduct their operations under the oversight of Parliament and the public. Specifically, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis is to hear reports twice a year, and quarterly hearings are to be held in regional and district (city) Councils" [6]. This framework, in turn, helps elevate the nation's legal culture to a level aligned with its global mission.

Based on these findings, concrete socio-psychological, sociological, and legal recommendations can be formulated to improve the performance of the internal affairs agencies. For example, practical measures might include enhancing officers' ethical and moral education, strengthening community engagement, and streamlining the system for handling complaints and appeals.

Therefore, studying this topic from a socio-philosophical perspective has: Theoretical significance - it synthesizes concepts of state - society relations, social inclusion, and sociological and philosophical frameworks. Practical significance - it yields concrete solutions for effectively managing internal-affairs agencies, ensuring citizens' security, and fostering a culture of lawfulness. Strategic significance - it contributes to reinforcing social stability within the scope of democratic reforms and aligning the law-enforcement system with international best practices.

MAIN PART

The Social Role of Law-Enforcement Officers. This role is interpreted within the framework of the "social contract" concept in sociology and jurisprudence. As Hobbes famously defined, "The mutual transferring of right is that which men call contract" [7.800], and Rousseau asserted, "Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains. … What can make it legitimate? That question I think I can answer" [8.320]. According to this theory, the exchange of rights and obligations between citizen and state underpins societal trust in the law-enforcement functions of internal-affairs agencies. Habermas's theory of communicative action further views the mechanisms of dialogue and oversight between law-enforcement institutions and citizens as an integral component of democratic reforms in a market-economy context: "Between Facts and

Norms is a legal and political theory focused on the ways in which constitutional democracies produce and institutionalize democratically legitimate law" [9].

Social Stability and Protective Functions. The primary task of law-enforcement officers is to maintain legal order in society. Sociological research shows that strengthening public safety contributes to reduced crime rates and increased investor confidence: "Furthermore, IMF analyses indicate that a decline in crime rates stimulates capital accumulation and reinforces a secure and confident environment for investors, since high crime levels deter investment" [10]. Beyond combating crime, officers also organize preventive measures for emergencies and activate alternative social-support mechanisms. Thus, law-enforcement agencies become a vital social institution for preserving societal order.

Professional-Ethical Dimensions. According to the phenomenological approach, officers' personal experiences, ethical decisions, and moral values directly shape their law-enforcement activities. "Based on the phenomenological approach, the subjective experience of actors is intentional and directly affects their social actions" [11.79]. The professional-ethical principles of law-enforcement personnel - honesty, responsibility, and humanity - enhance public respect for state authority and reduce instances of abuse. In turn, this bolsters citizens' trust in the institutions and raises social-reputation indicators in sociological barometers.

Dialogue and Oversight Mechanisms. Amid democratic reforms, the processes of open dialogue, civic supervision, and accountability between law-enforcement agencies and the public are being revised. Parliamentary hearings, community councils, and online platforms on social media enable monitoring, critique, and improvement of officers' performance. In Habermas's conception of the public sphere, these mechanisms establish a continuous communicative flow between institutions and society: "By 'the public sphere' we mean first of all a realm of our social life in which something approaching public opinion can be formed. Access is guaranteed to all citizens" [12.56].

Globalization and Modernization Challenges. The integration of digital transformation and artificial-intelligence technologies is fundamentally transforming the law-enforcement system. In the Uzbek context, modernization strategies are aimed at enhancing officers' training systems, as well as the methods for sharing and analyzing information. "Moreover, measures aimed at fully digitizing the aggregation, processing, and utilization of legal statistics and real-time data have been designated among our state's priority directions" [13]. Consequently, the concept of public security now extends beyond crime prevention to encompass cybersecurity, data protection, and the safeguarding of citizens' online rights. The above section illuminates the socio-philosophical analysis of law-enforcement officers, covering a wide spectrum from theoretical foundations to practical functions.

DISCUSSION

The Social Contract and the Legitimacy of Law-Enforcement Officers. The article's findings confirm the "social contract" theory advanced by Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques Rousseau: in exchange for guaranteeing citizens' security, the state accepts the surrender of certain natural rights. Hobbes defined contract as "the mutual transferring of right" and Rousseau famously wrote, "Man is born free; and everywhere he is in chains. … What can make it legitimate? That question I think I can answer" [8.11]. Under this framework, the reciprocal exchange of rights and duties between citizen and state fosters public trust in the law-enforcement functions of internal-affairs agencies.

The Public Sphere and Civic Oversight. Habermas's concept of the public sphere - "a realm of our social life in which something approaching public opinion can be formed, and to which all citizens have access" - demonstrates that, in contemporary Uzbekistan, parliamentary hearings, media scrutiny, and NGO participation together ensure an effective flow of public dialogue. This integration positions law-enforcement bodies as an inseparable part of democratic reforms within a market-economy context.

Modernization, Digitalization, and Personnel Training. Presidential Decree RP-282 of 18 August 2023 established an "integrated system of training, retraining, and professional development" for internal-affairs officers, aiming to elevate their competencies to international standards [14]. Under Presidential Decree PD-6196 (2021) and the "Safe City/Smart Neighborhood" programs, every officer is to be equipped with body-worn cameras, tablets, and smart-camera systems, and all processes are to be fully digitized [15.160]. These initiatives align with the "New Uzbekistan 2030" development strategy's digital-reform agenda, enhancing law enforcement through greater speed, transparency, and open data exchange.

The Link Between Public Safety and Economic Stability. World Bank criminological studies indicate that crime and social unrest depress investment and economic growth while increasing resources spent on security [16]. Accordingly, effective crime-prevention measures and social programs not only protect citizens but also strengthen investors' confidence in a "secure market environment".

Professional-Ethical Dimensions and the Phenomenological Approach. A comprehensive MDPI study finds that "socio-ethical factors" in policing directly influence the complexity of decision-making; qualities such as honesty, compassion, and responsibility shape officers' law-enforcement actions [17.576-601]. This confirms Schutz's phenomenology: officers' subjective experiences directly impact the objective outcomes of their work.

Accountability and Human-Rights Issues. In June 2023 in Andijan, twelve former law-enforcement officers were convicted of prisoner murder and sentenced to three to four years' imprisonment. Such prosecutions are rare in Uzbekistan and underscore persistent human-rights challenges within the system [18]. This case highlights the need to reinforce civic-oversight mechanisms.

Scholarly and Practical Implications. *Theoretically,* the study integrates social-contract theory, the public-sphere concept, and phenomenology to offer a holistic understanding of law-enforcement officers' societal role. *Practically,* implementing digital infrastructure and alternative training models (e.g., incorporating elements of cognitive-behavioral therapy) can solidify professional ethics and bolster public trust. *Strategically,* balancing security needs with digital transformation will enhance the country's investment appeal and ensure the success of the "New Uzbekistan" reform agenda.

The study relied on normative documents and open sources; confidential operational data were not available. Likewise, micro-level empirical data linking crime rates to economic indicators in Uzbekistan remain insufficient. In the future, the following should be undertaken: Conduct anonymous surveys and experimental designs to measure law-enforcement officers' ethical decision-making. Assess how "Safe City" technologies affect public trust and the right to privacy. Perform cointegration analyses between crime rates and foreign-investment flows.

Thus, by integrating the theoretical and empirical evidence presented in the discussion, the study delineates conceptual and practical directions for organizing internal-affairs agencies' operations in a more effective, accountable, and society-oriented manner.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Lack of Public Trust and Transparency. Uzbekistan's law-enforcement agencies have yet to achieve full transparency: the installation of video-surveillance equipment in interrogation rooms remains incomplete, and the "zero-tolerance" policy on torture continues to be routinely violated. Such limited openness undermines citizens' confidence, directly damaging the legitimacy of the internal-affairs system. To address this, it is proposed to equip 100 % of interrogation rooms with video monitoring and to publish real-time statistics on complaints, investigation durations, and preventive operations via an open "Public Dashboard" on the internet. This would foster a sense of transparency and accountability among the populace.

Torture and Impunity. Prosecutions of officers accused of torture remain episodic. For example, in 2023, twelve former officers in Andijan were sentenced to prison for the death of a detainee, yet international observers note that only two officers were held to account for the 2025 Karakalpak events. To eradicate torture entirely, it is necessary to expand the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under OPCAT by involving NGOs and the Ombudsman, and to establish a "Zero-Tolerance Registry" that permanently bars any officer implicated in torture from reappointment.

Inconsistent Professional Ethics and Training. Although the Academy of Law Enforcement is transitioning to a continuous "training - retraining - professional development" model, its implementation is uneven across divisions. To stabilize a professional culture, it is recommended that officers undergo mandatory "360° Ethics" certification every three years and that junior personnel be paired with mentors who have at least five years of service. This approach will enhance integrity and accountability among officers and reduce turnover.

Fragmented Digital Infrastructure. Despite the establishment of a Digital Technologies Department within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the launch of the "AI Situation Center" in Tashkent, data repositories remain siloed, limiting real-time analysis and forecasting capabilities. The proposed "One Safety Cloud" concept - which would link the 102 emergency service, video-surveillance systems, and statistical platforms via a single API - and a "Public Safety Sandbox" grant program for startups would eliminate this fragmentation and reduce redundant budgetary spending.

Weak Civic Oversight and Feedback Channels. Although parliamentary hearings and regional Council reports exist, their impact is limited: citizen proposals are seldom reflected in policy decisions. The Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2024 rated Uzbekistan's pluralism as "restricted." Introducing quarterly "Police & Society" public sessions in each regional Council and an anonymous rating system via the "My Safety" mobile app would facilitate direct citizen feedback and strengthen public oversight.

Insufficient Analysis of Social Drivers in Prevention. Global empirical evidence shows that reducing crime enhances investment climates, but micro-level data linking crime statistics to economic indicators in Uzbekistan are scarce. It is recommended to establish a joint "Crime - Economy Lab" under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Economy to maintain community-level panels on criminogenic risks and economic metrics, and to launch a "Safe Zone - Sustainable Business" grant program with local business funds. Such measures would finance social and economic initiatives that address crime at its roots.

These challenges and solutions demand a comprehensive approach combining civic oversight, digital innovation, and ethical personnel practices. If implemented step by step, the

proposed reforms will markedly increase the transparency, efficiency, and legitimacy of law-enforcement agencies in the eyes of society.

CONCLUSION

In this article, the social essence of Uzbekistan's law-enforcement officers is examined from a philosophical standpoint. The study first established its theoretical foundation on the concepts of the "social contract," Habermas's theory of the public sphere, and the phenomenological approach. From there, the following key conclusions were drawn:

Firstly, as a strategic institution ensuring legal order and social stability. Internal-affairs bodies embody the practical expression of an informal "social contract" with society. By meeting citizens' fundamental security needs, they serve to reinforce the state's legitimacy.

Secondly, the growing role of the public sphere and civic oversight. Under democratic reforms, parliamentary hearings, media scrutiny, and digital feedback platforms create a continuous flow of information between authorities and society, strengthening accountability. This system remains crucial for boosting public trust.

Thirdly, the dual impact of modernization and digitalization. Advanced technologies - such as the "One Safety Cloud," artificial intelligence, and situational centers - increase operational speed and transparency, but also raise new ethical and legal challenges around data security and personal privacy. Therefore, digital infrastructure must be deployed alongside clear protocols for ethics and confidentiality.

Fourthly, the need to renew professional-ethical standards. Officers' personal experiences and moral choices directly influence their service. Regular certification programs that assess honesty, humanity, and responsibility, together with mentoring schemes, help stabilize professional culture and prevent abuses of power.

Fifthly, the intrinsic link between crime prevention and economic well-being. Empirical evidence shows that strengthening public security improves the investment climate, employment, and entrepreneurship. Hence, ongoing analyses integrating criminogenic factors with economic indicators - at both macro and micro levels - are essential.

Sixthly, systemic challenges and comprehensive solutions. To address identified shortcomings in transparency, risks of torture, uneven professional training, and fragmented data systems, the study proposes measures such as expanding the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), launching a "360° Ethics" program, and creating a "Public Safety Sandbox." These initiatives aim to make law enforcement more effective, accountable, and citizen-oriented.

Seventhly, limitations and future research directions. This analysis relied primarily on existing legislation, open official data, and secondary statistics; confidential operational data and detailed micro-level crime-economy panels were unavailable. Future research should employ anonymous surveys, experimental designs, and cointegration models to: Empirically measure officers' ethical decision-making; Evaluate the impact of "Safe City" technologies on citizens' privacy; Analyze the relationship between crime rates and foreign-investment flows.

In summary, the socio-philosophical essence of law-enforcement bodies lies in balancing security and freedom, legal frameworks and civic oversight, digital innovation and professional ethics. If the proposed theoretical and practical recommendations are implemented step by step, law-enforcement agencies can evolve into advanced social institutions that serve citizens' well-being and democratic stability.

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