

ANALYSE DER GEWÄHRLEISTUNG DER INFORMATIONSFREIHEIT IN USBKISTAN UND RICHTUNGEN FÜR IHRE VERBESSERUNG

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Kurzfassung: Informationsfreiheit ist einer der wichtigsten Aspekte der gesellschaftlichen Entwicklung. Die Fähigkeit, in jedem Prozess objektiv und wahrheitsgemäß zu sprechen, erfordert Schnelligkeit, Umsicht und große Verantwortung. Der Artikel diskutiert die Fragen der öffentlichen Kontrolle über die Aktivitäten der staatlichen Behörden in Usbekistan, die Weiterentwicklung des Fernsehens, des Radios, der Presse und des Internetjournalismus.

Schlüsselwörter: Informationsfreiheit, Handlungsstrategie, Presse, politische Parteien, Fernsehen, Radio, öffentliche Kontrolle, Websites, Wirtschaft, Medien, Staat, soziale Gruppe, autoritäre Theorie.

ANALYSIS OF PROVIDING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN USBKISTAN AND DIRECTIONS OF ITS IMPROVEMENT

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Abstract: Freedom of information is one of the most important aspects of the development of society. The ability to speak objectively and truthfully in any process requires speed, thoughtfulness, and great responsibility. The article discusses the issues of establishing public control over the activities of state authorities in Uzbekistan, the further development of television, radio, press and Internet journalism.

Keywords: freedom of information, strategy of action, press, political parties, television, radio, public control, websites, economy, media, state, social group, authoritarian theory.

1. Introduction

At current time, ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens in society is one of the peculiar features of a democratic state. In order to implement the rule of law in a democratic state and society, the political rights and freedoms of the population must be ensured, the legal and political culture of the people, the consciousness level of citizens must be developed.

In the conception of Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognized by the world community, freedom of information is included in the list of necessary, mandatory elements of the human dignity of justice, the expression of equal and inalienable rights of all people. Any person possessing innate and natural freedom of speech can develop and promote their innovative ideas for the betterment of the society. In this sense, freedom of information is a natural and inalienable right of a person, which forms the basis of his inner world and spiritual life, and does not allow others to interfere in his private life without his consent.

Examining the freedom of information from this angle also reminds us of the need for social control. We believe that only when the sense of freedom and sense of responsibility are in harmony, a person's place, status, and respect in society will be consistently on the increase.

International non-profit and non-governmental organization named “Reporters Without Borders” has updated its Press Freedom Index. In the 2021 ranking, Uzbekistan ranked 157th place out of 180 countries. Certainly, achieving this result did not happen by itself. The release of imprisoned journalists, the putting off the bans from blocked websites for a long decades, the simplification of mass media registration, the introduction and promotion of live broadcasts of political content, and the creation of conditions for some journalists to raise sensitive issues such as corruption and forced labor served as the elevating ground for achieving this kind of noticeable results.

It is necessary to further liberalize the activities of the mass media products, to consider them as a force that shapes public opinion in society, as a herald of ongoing reforms. In our consideration, conducting public opinion polls among members of society, reporting on the implementation of laws through the mass media will radically improve the life of society. Every citizen should have a deep understanding of the role of freedom of information. In this case, the readiness and maturity of society is important. A political and legal understanding of society creates a degree of freedom of information. In order to use his freedom of information, any subject or individual has the right of disseminate his own choices and decisions without interference, independent adherence to the law, protected by law, in accordance with his own views and beliefs, provided that the freedoms of others are not violated and the rights protected by the interests and values of others are not endangered. To look from the realistic approach, this means that the person's spiritual world is inviolable. In this case, the state undertakes the responsibilities not to impede the free exchange of ideas and opinions that do not restrict the rights and freedoms of other entities, do not harm the legally protected objects.

2. Literature review

With the development of information and communications in the world, the establishment of democratic values, the issue of freedom of information is becoming increasingly important. In Uzbekistan, the issues of information and freedom, the opportunities for democratic development in the work of others, the role of socio-political and spiritual factors in the development of an informed society are revealed. Information, its connection with knowledge, features of information generating

processes, problems of space and time in it, peculiarities of information generating in the conditions of globalization [1.p. 64], the interaction of information and knowledge as the main resources for the development of an informed society has been studied [2.p.52].

3. Research methodology

Various methods were used to solve this problem: a complex approach, the dialectic method of scientific knowledge, historical, logical, systematic, analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis.

4. Discussion

Continuous accomplishments are being done in Uzbekistan to ensure freedom of speech and information, to form the institutional and legal framework for the development of the information sphere and mass media communications. Today, the mass media is playing a leading role in guaranteeing the freedom of information of citizens in the country and is working as an objective indicator of real democratic reforms among nation.

The level of public awareness of socio-political and economic reforms in Uzbekistan plays an important role in understanding the essence of the renewal process. In this process, the tasks of further development of the systematic approach to the state and society building put forward the necessary tasks as the study of socio-philosophical aspects of freedom of information, the development of appropriate conclusions and proposals for its theoretical and practical solutions.

5. Conclusion

Democracy plays an important role in ensuring the stability of the society. After all, democracy allows the government and the political system to organize their activities taking into account the objective needs of society (Popper, 1963: 67). Only in a democratic state it is given a possibility to protect and promote the individual and general views of the people within the law process. This is reflected in the formation of political parties, public associations and their activities where political pluralism, freedom of the press and other aspects are noticed dramatically [3.p. 44].

At this point, the paradigms we propose are divided into several structured levels.

First, it is necessary to be able to distinguish public and governmental authorities from the mass media services. Communication (Dialogue) between the state and society can be carried out through the means of mass media.

Second point is regarded as the educational function of the mass media which deals with the provision of consumers with information based on the observance of moral-aesthetic, legal, political norms established in the society.

Thirdly, in any state or country, freedom of information may be established in accordance with certain restrictions or sanctions, due to the need to ensure the territorial integrity of the country, national security or public order. Therefore, the mass media resources of a state, first of all, is supposed to be the official press that publishes and analyzes the country's legislation and the documents, orders, news connected with government.

At the fourth place, in the concept of “state-media-society”, the mass media services are mediators, bridges between the government and the population. People of any nation always need information about government agencies and officials, politicians delivered through the media. The public will be informed with the help of press, radio and television, and this will allow it to know how to behave in different political situations. Under this method, the media is considered as the representative of the nation’s common interest, the means of exercising the rights of the people to govern in political life of their country.

We must not oppose the functioning of the press establishments of different political parties and we must also help to implement the principle of political pluralism. Today, political parties in Uzbekistan have their own resources of print media, through which they regularly inform the public about their election programs and political events. However, the press companies of some political parties are only carrying out propaganda functions. In fact, their task also seeks for spreading their political programs, ideas and slogans among the population in a more expanded format. Solving the problem that deals with the objective influence on the views of citizens from the politically inactive layer (ie, those who are not actively involved in political processes, not members of political parties) through spreading information in mass media is a complex issue. Citizens are the main sources of electorate in any election, the source of sovereignty and sole power in any democracy. The operation and active development of private newspapers, television and radio in Uzbekistan is regulated not only by political and legal norms, but also by market demands. But we should also mention that it is difficult to get a satisfactory answer to the question of whether they disseminate objective and reliable information.

Fifth point should be mentioned is, as the press, radio, and television represent and protect different interests, a completely new model of the institutional subsystem of information must function. We are talking about non-governmental mass media and Internet publications. They must be, first of all, politically neutral, as well as economically independent from the state budget or the budget of large financial-industrial structures.

In a democratic country, the worldview and considerations of the people are not limited with the activities of the mass media. The institutional subsystem of information in the form of the mass media should not be a "fourth power" in society, because its scope should be connected with the tasks to objectively reflect social life, to inform the public about what is happening in the country and abroad. Today, social networks on the Internet, bloggers with different professions have also started to fulfill this task. Apparently, we also have elements of "citizens’ journalism". At present, most of our compatriots are increasingly turning their interests to local Internet sites. In other words, it is worthy to mention that the question "Is there a future for the newspaper?" which is widely discussed on social networks and the Internet has reached its time to answer the question. It should not be forgotten that the role of the press in society will never disappear, on the contrary, in the conditions of new competition it will become more refined, open its new facets and maintain its longevity.

As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the world, the means of mass media is also facing financial problems. The loss of compulsory subscriptions has led to the bankruptcy of newspaper editorial offices, leaving their employees unemployed and unpaid. Under these circumstances, many media outlets could be shut down if they are not supported, especially if tax breaks are not granted. If we dig deeper into the problem, it becomes clear that the majority of publications that are operating at a loss or are unable to find a place in the market remain newspapers owned by country's institutions and government agencies.

In this regard, it is worthwhile to dwell on the paid content - paywall system, which is implemented in practice by leading Western publications. This experience can justify itself. However, in order to subscribe to Internet publications, it is necessary to have a constant, "loyal" audience, the exclusivity of information and data. That is, such indicators are often only specific to specialized, business publications. In short, the pay wall system is an effective method only for the web resources of major specialized analytical publications. But for informational publications, this system cannot be a solution. While there are now websites that provide free information, paid subscriptions to electronic versions of daily publications do not justify themselves [4.p.57].

The development of the media requires the introduction of new innovations, finding large sums of money to pay journalists big salaries and wax pen fees. Currently, the revenue income sources of online publications come primarily from advertising.

As a result of the research the following theoretical and methodological conclusions were made:

1. The current trends and problems of ensuring freedom of information in a democratic society were analyzed on the basis of evidence, and new approaches to the protection of freedom of information were considered. The essence and principles of freedom of information were revealed. In this sense, the phenomenon of freedom of information can be understood as the principle of the exchange of information on the basis of the voluntary consent of all its direct participants and the absence of obligations that do not allow them to exchange information.

2. True freedom can only be achieved through dialogue between the state, the mass media means and society and the conscious choice of social development goals based on their responsibilities. There is no substitution for independent media in the system of state-media-society.

3. At the new stage of democratic reforms, while minimizing the unpredictable impact of the attitudes of some government agencies towards the media, it is expedient to analyze the key issues of freedom of information in a timely manner, depending on the situation.

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