



# International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science

e-ISSN: 2544-9435

Scholarly Publisher  
RS Global Sp. z O.O.  
ISNI: 0000 0004 8495 2390

Dolna 17, Warsaw,  
Poland 00-773  
+48 226 0 227 03  
editorial\_office@rsglobal.pl

## ARTICLE TITLE

AN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH ON LEGAL AWARENESS AMONG THE  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AZERBAIJAN

## ARTICLE INFO

Khalilova Tayba Rauf. (2025) An Empirical Research on Legal Awareness  
Among The University Students in Azerbaijan. *International Journal of  
Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 2(46). doi:  
10.31435/ijitss.2(46).2025.3270

## DOI

[https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.2\(46\).2025.3270](https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.2(46).2025.3270)

## RECEIVED

02 April 2025

## ACCEPTED

14 June 2025

## PUBLISHED

30 June 2025

## LICENSE



The article is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0  
International License**.

© The author(s) 2025.

This article is published as open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

# AN EMPIRICAL RESEARCH ON LEGAL AWARENESS AMONG THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AZERBAIJAN

**Khalilova Tayba Rauf**

*Ph.D. Student; Department of Psychology, Baku State University, Baku, Azerbaijan*

---

## ABSTRACT

Legal concepts and legal awareness are one of the main components of social awareness. This research devoted to study the students' legal awareness mainly focuses on their attitudes to laws and components of legal awareness. Although legal awareness is a big complex, each of the component can be evaluated individually.

The present study examines the students' approach and their awareness about legal issues, and their rights. The methodology of the study was developed based on constructivist approach, and the main tool of the research - survey questions assess the cognitive component of legal awareness. The study was realized at Faculty of Social science and psychology, Baku State University in 2025. The results, and relation between dependent and independent variables were analyzed using SPSS program.

The verification of the research questions reveals statistically significant positive results. These findings enable us to assume that the more developed legal concepts are, the more correctly learners apply the knowledge of the relevant laws to recognize situations with unlawful behaviour.

The obtained results can be taken into account in developing training programs to increase the legal awareness of students at the university community.

---

## KEYWORDS

Legal Awareness, Legal Consciousness, Students' Rights, Community, High Level Of Education

---

## CITATION

Khalilova Tayba Rauf. (2025) An Empirical Research on Legal Awareness Among The University Students in Azerbaijan. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 2(46). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.2(46).2025.3270

---

## COPYRIGHT

© **The author(s) 2025**. This article is published as open access under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**, allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

---

## Introduction.

Legal consciousness is a set of legal views, theories and feelings, knowledge about legal phenomena and their assessment, determined by the interests and needs of society as a whole. Unlike political consciousness, which reflects the relations between classes, nations and states, legal consciousness reflects life from the point of view of the rights and duties of participants in social relations. A characteristic feature of legal consciousness is its indissoluble connection with law. This connection is conditioned by the common reasons associated with their emergence, functioning and development. Law and legal consciousness arose from the need to regulate social relations that arose as a result of the division of society into classes and the formation and development of the state. Law is one of the normative systems, regulating the actions and behavior of people in society, the duties and relations of associations and state organizations. These norms are expressed in the relevant legal laws. Thus, law helps to create optimal conditions necessary for the functioning of the social organism.

Legal consciousness encompasses ideas about the nature and duties of legal relations, norms and institutions, about the activities of legislative, judicial and prosecutorial bodies. Legal consciousness is inextricably linked with other forms of public consciousness, especially political, moral and philosophical consciousness, influencing them and being influenced by them. Like any form of theoretical consciousness, law expresses its provisions in a logical form, based on the previous development of this field of knowledge. All this is explained in detail in special works on the theory of state and law.

### **Literature Review.**

The students' legal awareness, their approach to different situations in various conditions were analyzed by researchers in abroad (Pizziconi, and others, 1998; Akmal and colleagues, 2018; Turkulets, 2021.). In Azerbaijan after the second half of the XX century some of the authors devoted their studies about this problem (Samandarov, 1995; Allahverdiyev, 2009; Kadirova, 2022; and others). Legal consciousness and law, although they are phenomena of the same kind, are not the same. Despite their inextricable connections and mutual dependence, both are independent elements of the superstructure. Law is, first of all, legal laws, the implementation of which is ensured by the state (Samandarov, 1995).

Unlike law, legal consciousness does not have a general, binding character and is not provided with the coercive force of the state. It arises from the position of various classes and social groups in society on law, from historical necessity, as its assessment.

In order to determine the structure and functions of legal consciousness, which is one of the main forms of social consciousness, it is necessary to consider the structure and functions of consciousness. Of course, it should not be overlooked that consciousness, as a broad scientific concept, is primarily studied in separate fields of psychology, as well as in various fields of philosophy, and its scientific essence is revealed. However, in legal psychology, attention is paid more to its psychological content, the level of development of individual consciousness and the characteristics of its manifestation than to the general philosophical aspects of the concept of consciousness. The special attention paid to this aspect in legal psychology is also related to the main functions of consciousness as a higher cognitive process.

Legal consciousness can be considered not only as an ideological expression of a specific legal type of social relations in the existing society, but also as an attempt to transform the individual's attitude towards himself into his attitude towards society. A person's attitude towards legal norms should also be assessed in the context of his needs. Often, the shortcomings that arise can be due to the failure to satisfy the needs conditioned by the individual's system of relations and social imperatives.

The legal conditioning of a person's behavior and actions depends primarily on the content and form of legal rules, the existence of certain sanctions, and the implementation of compliance with these rules by law enforcement agencies, both organizationally and through coercive means. Here, the development of legal awareness in people, both during school years and during the period of their employment in a certain field of activity, is also of great importance in providing them with accurate and clear information about the rules of legal behavior and legal norms. Because in some cases, the manifestation of illegal behavior, actions can be observed the students' ignorance of legal norms (Hilal et.al., 2024). Sometimes they try to punish such people for their illegal behavior or actions and actions. However, they are not given information about legal norms, that is, about the rules of how to behave in various situations, and most importantly, they are not explained to them what illegal consequences failure to comply with these rules can lead to.

Legal consciousness, along with general - cognitive, regulatory and communicative functions, also performs special - comprehension, evaluation and legal regulation functions.

In addition to the main functions of legal consciousness, there are also prognostic, educational, practical, modeling and other functions as additional functions. The study of the dynamics of legal consciousness is associated with the analysis of its functions (Huseynova, 2017).

Legal consciousness has general characteristics inherent in social consciousness. Legal consciousness is formed on the basis of legal knowledge, attitude to law and legal behavior. The structure and functions of legal consciousness, in addition to carrying the structure and functions of social consciousness, also have their own functions. The structure of legal consciousness is formed at an early age, under the influence of social groups, social and cultural environment to which a person belongs. The structure of legal consciousness has a social nature (Huseynova, 2017).

V.L. Vasilyev summarizes the main components of legal consciousness as follows:

- the material world (objects, things) acquires the quality of belonging (i.e., belonging to a particular, personal and state), and thanks to the development of human consciousness, this aspect is clearly understood;
- other people are perceived in unity with their own existence, completeness and moral dignity in accordance with legal norms;
- the personality perceives its actions and moral qualities in accordance with the legal norms and laws of society. That is, it complies with the requirements of the law in its actions and actions (Vasilyev, 2014)

According to the studies it notes that legal consciousness has the following features:

- legal consciousness not only reflects social reality, but also affects it in a different way and has a high level of reflection of people's socio-economic relations, which is expressed in the laws of the society in which these people live;

- legal consciousness is always expressed through the second signal system, that is, the intellectual activity of people expressed through speech constitutes the mechanism of legal consciousness, thus it reflects the system of legal knowledge and concepts that regulate social relations;

- legal consciousness cannot exist without its specific carriers, a specific human personality, group and society. Due to the general aspects of the perception of legal norms, certain groups of people are formed in society, and on this basis, a group of certain social knowledge, a category of group legal consciousness characteristic of historical periods, is formed (Bayramov, 2012).

To sum up, it is clear that legal consciousness has a very complex structure not only in terms of its mechanism, but also in terms of its social content.

### **Problem statement:**

This article presents one of the parts of the study devoted to search legal awareness of the young population in Azerbaijan society. We hypothesize that there are significant links between the features of learners' concepts about legal issues and the developmental level of specific cognitive skills.

### **Research questions:**

During the study, the following questions were addressed:

- How do the demographic factors influence the legal awareness of modern youth?
- What legal values are most significant for today's University students?
- How do the students understand legal issues?

### **Research methods:**

#### **5.1. Sample group**

The sample consisted of 120 respondents. All of them were students of Baku State University.

#### **5.2. Methods**

To diagnose the developmental level of legal awareness, it was used the questionnaire, which included the main tasks according to constructivist approach:

- 1) how do the students know their rights;
- 2) can they protect their rights;
- 3) how do they know about other people's rights?
- 4) can they help others when their need legal support?
- 5) do they know where apply during violation of rights?
- 6) does the protection of human rights condition satisfy me?
- 7) is the legal aid same and available for everyone?

#### **5.3. Procedure**

The respondents were informed about instruction, and consent form. After this stage, they answered the survey questions. Further, it was identified the nature of the legal awareness of students about their rights and the protecting human rights.

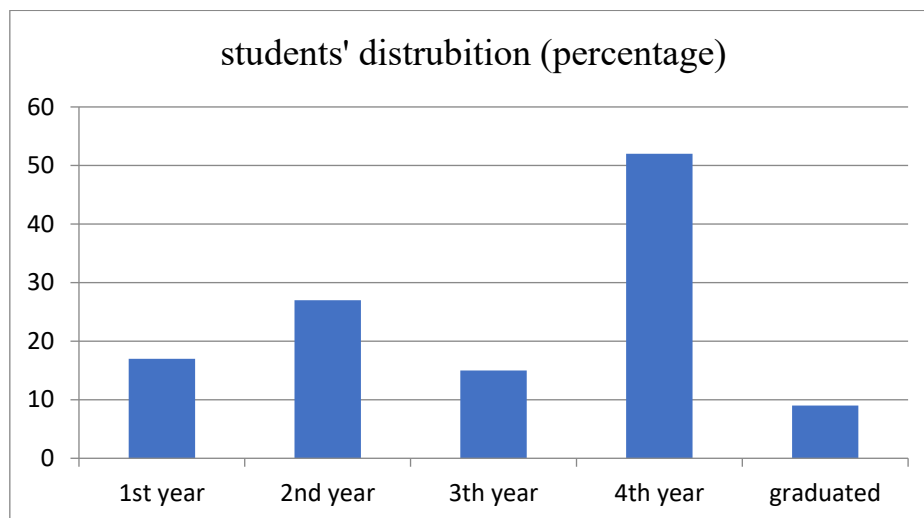
### **Results and Findings:**

The purpose of the study was to clarify the attitude of modern University student youth to law and features of the legal awareness. The main research method was a questionnaire survey. In January-February 2025, it was conducted a study on the state of legal awareness of student youth (aged 17 to 25) at Baku State University. The sample consisted of 120 respondents. It was obtained the empirical material, the analysis of which made it possible to draw a number of conclusions.

The survey involved young people aged 17-25 years, Mean $\pm$ SD 19,9 $\pm$ 1,3; min.17, max.22.

15,8% (19) of the participants were boys, when 84,2% (101) of them were girls. The participants were different courses, 14,2% of them were the 1<sup>st</sup> year students, 22,5% of them 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 12,5% of them 3<sup>rd</sup> year,

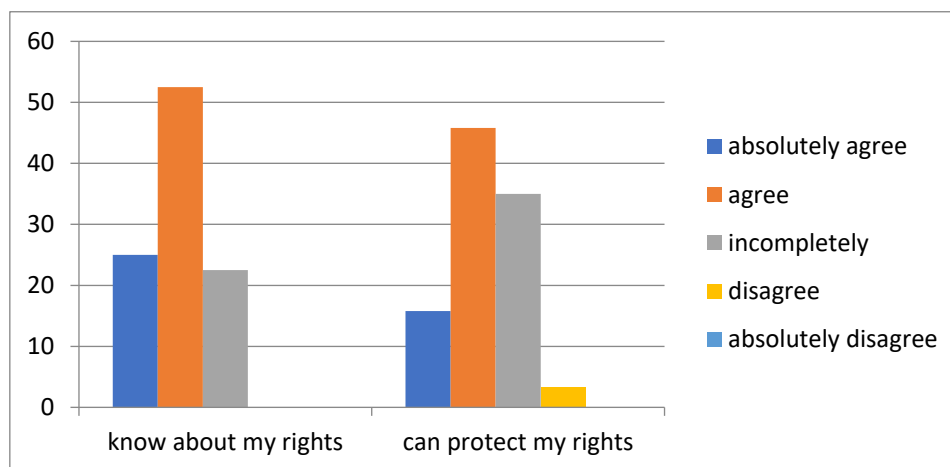
and majority of them were last year students (43,3%). Only 7,5% of the participants -9students were graduated. Their distrubition were presented in the following picture:



*Fig. 1. Students education level*

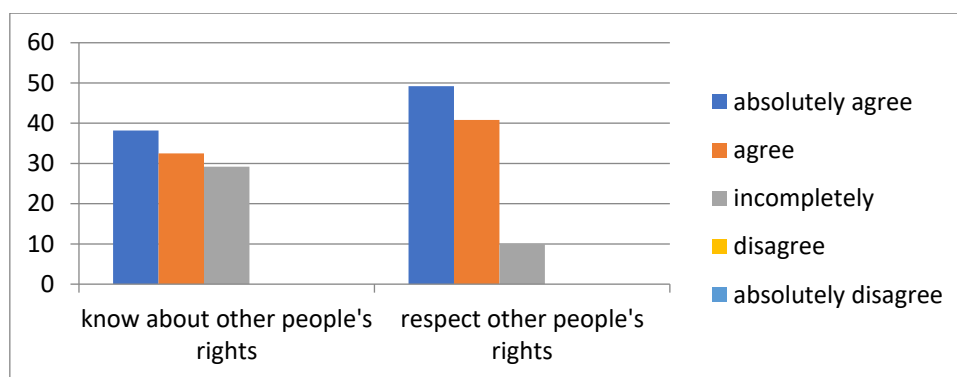
They were from different branches: psychology (8,3%), law (2,5%), philology (10%), socio-psychological service in education (39,2%), education (15,8%), engineering (17,5%) and other (6,7%) specialties.

The first questions were about students' attitude their rights, and how they can protect these rights. When the results are compared 77.5% of them mentioned that they know their rights, only 22.5% of them didn't comprehend completely. However 61,6% of them mentioned that they can protect their rights, 38,3% sometimes can defend their rights, and can't do. These percentages were described in the following diagrams:



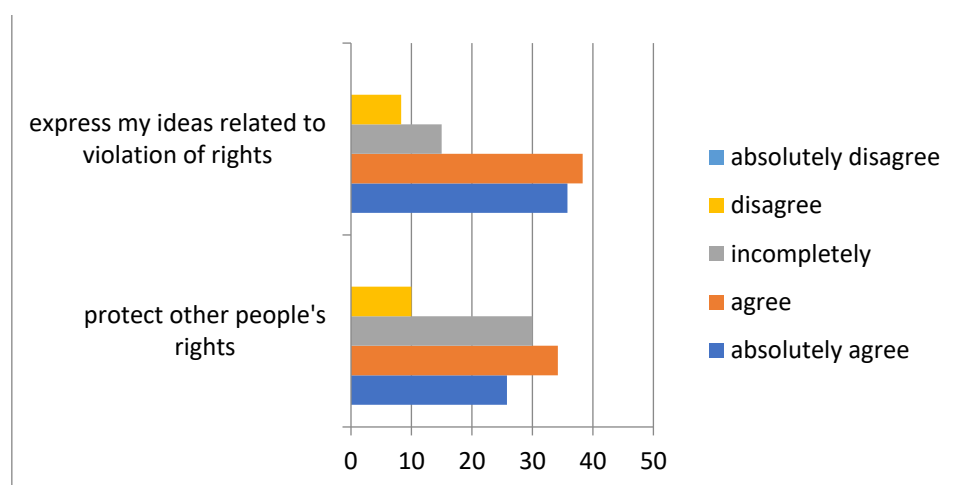
*Fig. 2. Legal awareness about own rights*

The legal awareness of people can be presented in people's attitude to others rights, and dignity. These items were described in the questions – I know other people's rights; I respect other people's rights and dignity.



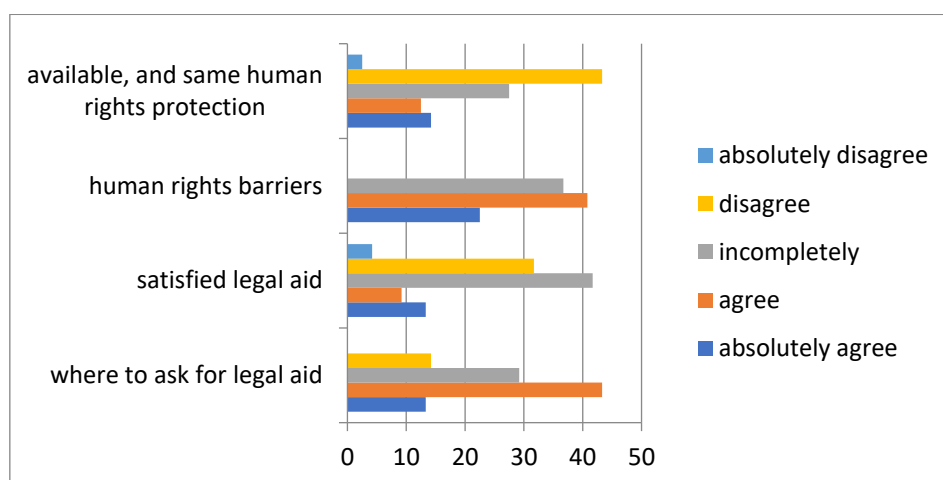
**Fig. 3.** Attitude to others' rights

The next questions are related if they are aware to protecting other people's right, and support the others. 74,1% of the participants mentioned that they try to defend and support others in difficult situations. The results were described in the following pictures:



**Fig. 4.** Attitude to the violation of rights

The legal awareness and knowledge can be observed in community approach. It was asked as whether the participants know where to ask legal aid, is the legal aid available and same for every, and are the participants satisfied the legal aid in the community.



**Fig. 5.** Legal aid in community

The students aware when and how to apply to legal aid, while 56,6% (68 of the participants) know these sources, 43,6% of them don't know. Majority of them (63,3%) think that there are barriers, obstacles in human rights protection, 36,7% agree this point in some cases, while none of them is disagree with this point. The next problematic issue related to the participants' satisfaction related to legal aid in the community. Only 22,5% mentioned their satisfaction about legal aid, while 41,7% were incompletely, 35,9% expressed their dissatisfaction in this case.

26,7% of the students thought that the legal aid was available and same for everyone, 45,8% (55 participants) didn't agree that idea, and 27,5% (33 members) of them sometimes supported that idea. Based on those figures it can be highlighted that the legal aid, and legal support service isn't available and same for everyone in this community.

#### *Results of correlational analyzes*

There was a positive correlation between their awareness about own rights and others ( $r=0.606^{**}$ ,  $p=0.000$ ,  $n=120$ ). Based on this positive correlation it can be mentioned that the students who knows their own right, and dignity, they can respect others independence, too.

Students who think they are satisfied about human rights protection, they think the sources are same and available for everyone in society ( $r=0.271^{**}$ ,  $p=0.003$ ,  $n=120$ ). So it can be summarized that the students who aren't satisfied today's legal support, their attitude to the state of the accessibility of sources is also different.

#### **Conclusions.**

According to research questions the survey questions mentioned the main ideas about legal awareness of the students. The survey questions were presented as Likert scale measuring their attitude to the situation.

RQ1 - How do the demographic factors influence the legal awareness of modern youth? In this research the students age, faculty, courses, and gender identity weren't noticed as the impact factors. During the statistical analyze using T-student test, p value wasn't satisfied. The results were similar and there wasn't any statistical significant figure. So for this case demographic factors effect couldn't be improved.

RQ2 - what legal values are most significant for today's University students? According to survey results, the idea can be highlighted that the young population at the Baku State University have knowledge about their rights, and others rights and independence. They mentioned their respects to other people dignity, too. They can present their ideas, and don't show any tolerance related violation of rights. Another hand, they think that legal aid isn't same and there are barriers (63,3%). They mentioned their dissatisfaction about today's legal aid in community (35,9% of participants).

RQ3 - How do the students understand legal issues? A positive correlation between the items how they can understand their rights, and others; also they can respect to people independence show their awareness about the law, and legal statements ( $r=0.606^{**}$ ,  $p=0.000$ ,  $n=120$ ).

#### **Recommendation.**

The study can be helpful for students, researchers, and faculty staff. Related to limitation of the study there were some lack of the statistics. The first limitation is related to students' gender percentage, majority of the participants were female. So for the next studies it can be developed involving more number of the students. The other socio-demographic factors can be added to the survey, to do more detailed explanatory analyzing.

For the future the study can be continued other universities to compare the results, and statistics. The developed technique for diagnosing the legal awareness can be used to form legal awareness in children at school age, because some of the main ideas improve to this age. In addition, more improved version of the survey questionnaire can be used to study the influence of cultural and socio economic factors on the formation of legal awareness.

#### **Acknowledgement.**

The author express her sincere gratitude to the faculty staff of Social science and psychology (Baku State University), for their invaluable guidance and support throughout the completion of this study. She is also thankful to her academic advisors for the encouragement and support.

#### **Institutional Review Board Statement.**

*The study was conducted and approved by the Institutional Review Board, Department of Psychology, Baku State University, 2024.*



**Conflicts of Interest.**

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this manuscript. In addition, the ethical issues, including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, and redundancies have been completely observed by the author.

**Source of Funding:** none

**REFERENCES**

1. Alhadidi, I., Nweiran, A., & Hilal, G. (2024). The influence of Cybercrime and legal awareness on the behavior of university of Jordan students. *Heliyon*, 10(12).
2. Akmal, A. (2018, November). Strengthening Students' Characters Education through Legal Awareness Policies Analysis. In *Annual Civic Education Conference (ACEC 2018)* (pp. 355-358). Atlantis Press.
3. Allahverdiyev Q. Hüquqla əxlaqın qarşılıqlı tamamlanması və onun azadlığa təsiri // *Dövlət idarəçiliyi*. Bakı, 2009, №1.
4. Bayramov Ə.S., Əliyev B.H. *Hüquq psixologiyası*. Bakı: Təhsil, 2012.
5. Belkanov, E. A. (2020, July). Specificity of Legal Regulation Discreteness in Federal States. In *International Scientific Conference on Philosophy of Education, Law and Science in the Era of Globalization (PELSEG 2020)* (pp. 56-59). Atlantis Press.
6. Guilbeau, E. J., & Pizziconi, V. B. (1998). Increasing student awareness of ethical, social, legal, and economic implications of technology. *Journal of Engineering Education*, 87(1), 35-45.
7. Huseynova S.(2017) Structure and functions of legal awareness, *Scientific works*, 2017, N2(29) p.181-188 [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/372419789\\_Huquqi\\_surun\\_struktur\\_v\\_funksiyalari](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/372419789_Huquqi_surun_struktur_v_funksiyalari)
8. Kadirova, K. (2022). Raising The Legal Awareness And Legal Culture of Citizens in Society. *Science and innovation*, 1(B4), 415-419.
9. Ma, K. (2018). College Students' Legal Awareness Cultivation and Education Based on the Characteristics of the New Era. *Educational Sciences: Theory & Practice*, 18(6).
10. Məmmədşadə V. Hüquq düşüncəsi və cəmiyyətin hüquqi savadı. *Palitra qəz.*, Bakı, 2011.
11. Pogozhina, I., Sergeeva, M., & Pshenichnyuk, D. (2018). Cognitive component of legal awareness in learners. *European Proceedings of Social and Behavioural Sciences*, 43.
12. Turkulets, S. E., Turkuletc, A. V., Kalashnikova, I. V., Listopadova, E. V., & Meretskaya, N. A. (2021). Legal Awareness Of Student Youth (Regional Research). *European Proceedings of Social and Behavioural Sciences*.
13. Səməndərov F.İ. Hüquqi şüur və cinayət hüquq yaradıcılığı. Bakı: Qanun, 1996.
14. Səməndərov F.İ. Cinayət hüquqi şüur və onun funksiyaları haqqında // *Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri*, Bakı, 1995, № 1.
15. Vasilyev, V. V. (2014). The Stability of Private Law Regulation as a Generally Accepted Principle of International Law and the Principle of Civil Law Russian Federation. *Perm U. Herald Jurid. Sci.*, 25, 92.