

PRESTIGE OF LEGAL PROFESSION THROUGH STUDENTS' EYES

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Abstract: *The article deals with the prestige of the legal profession among students of Zaporozhye Law Institute. Actuality of the affected theme and the ambiguity of interpretations of the concept of prestige necessitate further study of this important category. Prestige is a reflection in the public consciousness of the real situation in the system of social relations of the individual, social, professional groups and the like, which characterizes the influence and respect that they enjoy in society. In a more narrow sense, the prestige is a place, significant from the viewpoint of public opinion by a certain social status in the hierarchy of other statuses. To investigate the prestige of the legal profession the technique "Square of professions" has been used. Studies were conducted among students of I and IV courses of Zaporozhye Law Institute.*

Keywords: *prestige, Square of professions, type of professions, man-man, human-technology, man and nature, man-sign system, human-art image*

INTRODUCTION

Specialties of legal profile according to sociological studies are considered the most prestigious among the youth. Thus, a survey research center MSU in seven Russian cities Moscow, St. Petersburg, Voronezh, Irkutsk, Tomsk, Saratov, Ufa, showed that the most prestigious for young people is the legal profession (65%), management (43%), economist (39%), doctors (33%). [1, p. 8]. As similar studies have not been conducted in Ukraine (at least, they are not known to us), we decided to find out the prestige of the legal profession among students of Zaporozhye Law Institute. Into scientific use the concept of "prestige" was introduced by British sociologists in 1911 "in connection with the examination of those differentiated assessments that public opinion gives to different kinds of professional work, and, accordingly, different professional categories of employed population" [6, p. 34].

To date, the word "prestige" is translated from French, as a rule, charm, fascination [4, p. 656]. This concept is often identified with the status, authority, respect, attraction in scientific researches. Prestige is treated as a "reflection of the public authority in the public opinion" as "the selective attitude of a community group or an individual to certain material and spiritual goods", as "the measure of respect to those or other professions", as "the attractiveness of professional work in the context of a research of professional inclinations, the choice of specialty, the determination of life paths of different groups of young people" [5, p. 83].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Under the prestige of the profession, we understand the measure of respect for the authority of the profession in the public opinion, the degree of fame, popularity. Source of high prestige of the profession is usually generalized and idealized image of the representatives of the professional environment. Indeed, their attitude to the profession the people determine by evaluating the professional activity, first, from its social significance and merit of its representatives to the society and, secondly, by the opportunities that it provides to the employee to meet his various personal needs. Criterion of prestigious assessments by individuals is the qualitative characteristics of professional work: its nature, a measure of complexity and responsibility, the power of creative inclusiveness of this work.

RESULTS

The status of professions among students was determined using the technique "Square of professions" [3, pp. 21-25]. Students have been asked to fill in the "Square of professions", which was divided into 25 cells, each of which was recorded with 4 professions. Students had

to delete those professions that they were interested in less and leave in each cell only one profession. In each column (horizontal then vertical) should choose the most interesting for respondents" profession and to evaluate it by 5 points. All others should be evaluated from 4 to 1 (not affixing the same points in each column).

The study of the status of legal profession among students was based on the classification of professions and specialties E.A. Klimova: man-man (M); human-technology (T); man-nature (N); man-sign system (S); human-art image (A). Professions that we are interested in have been attributed to the type of "man-man" (M) [p. 2]. Professions in the square are arranged in accordance with the algorithm which is presented below.

M	T	N	S	A
T	N	S	A	M
N	S	A	M	T
S	A	M	T	N
A	M	T	N	S

This location of professions is the key, the algorithm when processing profiles.

Total score of 150 points is the sum of the horizontal (amount in each line 15, and in five lines (15 x 5 = 75)) and vertical (15 x 5 = 75).

Table 1 show that in the hierarchy of the prestige of professions of students the profession of the "man-man" takes the first place. In this group, the most prestigious professions were a manager, a lawyer, a detective of the Criminal Investigation Department, an investigator, a psychologist, a correspondent for radio and television, a doctor, a marketing specialist, a police inspector, a shop-assistant, a social educator, an athletic trainer, a hairdresser, a cook, a teacher, a waiter, a journalist, a club employee, an investigator, a museum worker.

Table 1

Distribution of students by type of professions

Type of profession	M	T	N	S	A	Sum
Amount of points	23465	12370	11875	14533	15907	78150
Place by destination	1	4	5	3	2	

The professions relating to professions such as "man-art image" (A) were in the second place. Here are the most important professions: a designer, a restorer, an actor, a director, a musician, a photographer, an architect, a designer, an artist, a composer, a tissue painter, an icon-painter, an art critic, a printmaker, an instrument tuner, a stone carver, a sculptor, a retoucher, a choir conductor.

The third place is occupied by the profession of the "man-sign system" (S), among which the most important are: an interpreter, an economist, a secretary-typist, a planner, a computer operator, a programmer, a passport worker, a telecom operator, an accountant, a librarian, a draftsman, a telegrapher, a technician planner, a radio operator, a copyist of printed forms, an operator of calculating machines, a sorter letters, a type-setter of manual dialing, a proofreader, a topographer.

At the last place, as evidenced the data in Table 1 are the professions of the "man-nature" (N): a gardener, a zoologist, a forester engineer, a poultry breeder, a veterinarian, a livestock breeder, a game warden, an agricultural chemist, a geologist, a soil scientist, a florist, a hydra reclamation expert, an agronomist, a biologist, a viticulturist, a zoo technician, a forester, a topographer, a veterinary medical assistant, a technician land manager.

Structure of the prestige of professions was almost the same for young men and women that can be seen from the chains which are presented below.

Men	M	A	S	T	N
Women	M	A	S	N	T

Figure 1: Structure of the prestige of professions of students according to the gender

It turned out, as it can be seen from Figure 1, among young men and women the most prestigious professions are such as “man-man” and “man-artistic image” (M, A).

There have been no differences in the structure of the prestige of professions of students and depending on the course of study:

The I year students	M	A	S	T	N
The IV year students	M	A	S	T	N

Figure 2: Structure of professions’ prestige according to the course of study

It turned out, as it can be seen from Figure 2, the most prestigious professions in the first and fourth years are such professions as “man-man” and “man-artistic image” (M, A), less in demand are such professions as “man-nature” and “human-technology” (N, T).

Table 1 shows that for students of Zaporozhye Law Institute leading professions and specialties were such as “man-man”, which we have assigned the legal profession. Further analyze showed that this type of profession is the priority at both young men and women.

Table 2 presents data on the status (place by significance) of the legal profession (of 100 professions) of students of different courses (100% made a total score of 100 professions, i.e. 78150 points).

Table 2

Status of the legal profession among students of Zaporozhye Law Institute

No.	Professions	Course	Rank	Course	Rank
		I		IV	
1.	Detective of the Criminal Investigation	5,32	2	4,35	2
2.	Investigator	5,08	3	3,69	3
3.	Inquirer	2,31	5	3,65	4
4.	Advocate	5,79	1	5,48	1
5.	Local inspector	2,55	4	2,25	5

To determine the closeness of the connection between the status of the legal profession among students of the I-st and IV-th year Spearman’s ratio of rank correction was used. Table 3 shows the procedure which is required for this ratio.

Table 3

Procedure which is required for this ratio

No.	Professions	Course I	Course IV	d	d ²
		Rank	Rank		
1	Detective of the Criminal Investigation	2	2	0	0
2	Investigator	3	3	0	0
3	Inquirer	5	4	1	1
4	Advocate	1	1	0	0
5	Local inspector	4	5	1	1

The ratio of rank correction is determined by the formula (1):

$$S = 1 - \frac{6 * \sum d^2}{n^2 * (n - 1)} \quad (1)$$

where \sum is sign of the sum; d is difference in ranks; n is number of compared pairs, i.e.

$$S = 1 - \frac{6 * 2^2}{5^2 * (5 - 1)} = 1 - \frac{24}{100} = 1 - 0,24 = 0,76$$

This correlation ratio indicates the presence of the stability status between the I and IV year students in relation to the professions of legal profile. Indeed, the status of such professions as an advocate, an investigator, a detective of the Criminal Investigation does not change

between the I to IV course and the status of the investigator and the local inspector undergoes a slight change.

Table 4

Professions' status, TOP-10 and LAST-10 among 100 professions

No.	Professions (TOP-10 from 100)	Professions (LAST-10 from 100)
1.	Advocate	Electrician
2.	Detective of the Criminal Investigation	Electrical technician
3.	Investigator	Assembly fitter
4.	Driver	Toolmaker
5.	Inquirer	Museum worker
6.	Engineer	Conductor of chorus
7.	Designer	Waiter
8.	Economist	Copyist of printed forms
9.	Passport worker	Type-setter of manual dialing
10.	Restorer	Miller

Table 4 presents data on professions the status of which was the highest (TOP-10) and the lowest (LAST-10) among 100 professions. The table shows that students referred the legal profession in the top ten of the most popular professions.

Summing up the results of above stated, we emphasize that our research, in our view, evidence of law students' conscious and independent choice of their future profession.

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