

CIVIC EDUCATION AS ONE OF THE MEANS OF DEVELOPING A CITIZEN OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

Civic education in a democratic society teaches to make use of personal freedom without infringing on the freedom of others. It gives a citizen the knowledge about his or her society and the state.

Particular attention in the context of civic education should be given to the concept of «citizen». There is a discussion about what influences the formation of the citizen. There are three main types of citizens: the citizen as a patriot, the citizen as voter, the citizen as a well-educated participant in public life.

It is essential for a citizen as a patriot to learn about the customs, traditions, rituals, folklore, and heroes that are part of nation's political culture.

Underlying the citizen as voter construct is the assumption that voting is the single most important political act in democracy. Civic education needs to engage students in meaningful exercises that provide them with direct experience in the electoral and voting realm. A drawback of the citizen as voter construct is the implicit assumption that by voting citizens fully meet their political responsibilities.

The main functions of the citizen as a well-educated participant in public life are to get knowledge about the principle of political system's work, to develop skills that are necessary to understand political events in the state, to get skills that are needed to solve social problems.

Civic education includes the development of citizens so that they could value and defend their state and the democratic processes in it.

Key words: civic education, democratic society, citizen, democracy, citizenship, political socialization.

