

ELIMINATING THE NORMATIVE PROBLEMS POSED TO THE MEDIA IN PROVIDING THE POPULATION WITH LEGAL INFORMATION IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. In the context of the New Uzbekistan, mass media play an essential role in ensuring public access to legal information and increasing legal awareness. However, the effectiveness of this process is limited by a number of normative problems, including inconsistencies in media legislation, insufficient legal guarantees for journalists, and regulatory gaps related to digital media. This article examines existing normative challenges, analyzes their impact on the dissemination of legal information, and proposes legal and institutional measures aimed at improving media regulation in line with democratic principles and international standards.

Key words: mass media; legal information; normative regulation; freedom of information; media law; legal awareness; New Uzbekistan.

Introduction. In the conditions of the New Uzbekistan, large-scale political, legal, and institutional reforms aimed at building a democratic state governed by the rule of law have significantly increased the importance of transparency, openness, and public participation in governance processes. One of the key prerequisites for achieving these goals is ensuring the population's access to reliable, timely, and comprehensive legal information. In this regard, mass media act as a fundamental social institution that mediates between the state and society, contributing to the formation of legal awareness, legal culture, and active civic engagement.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right of citizens to seek, receive, and disseminate information. These constitutional provisions create a legal foundation for media activity, particularly in the field of legal information dissemination. At the same time, modern legal realities demonstrate that the effectiveness of media in fulfilling this function largely depends on the quality and coherence of normative regulation. Despite ongoing reforms, the media sector continues to face a number of normative problems that limit its capacity to provide accurate and accessible legal information to the public.

One of the most pressing issues is the inconsistency and fragmentation of legislation regulating media activities, access to information, and journalistic practice. Existing legal norms are often dispersed across multiple legislative acts and lack clear definitions regarding the concept, scope, and standards of legal information. This creates legal uncertainty for media organizations and journalists, increases the risk of misinterpretation of legal norms, and may lead to self-censorship or avoidance of sensitive legal topics.

Moreover, the rapid development of digital technologies and online media platforms has significantly transformed the information environment. Social networks, online news portals, and digital broadcasting have become primary sources of legal information for a large segment of the population. However, normative regulation has not fully adapted to these changes. Outdated legal mechanisms, ambiguous liability standards, and insufficient differentiation between



traditional and digital media create regulatory gaps that complicate the dissemination of legal information in the digital space.

Another important aspect is the limited institutional and legal guarantees ensuring journalists' access to official legal sources, including draft laws, judicial decisions, and regulatory acts. Bureaucratic barriers, lack of transparency in certain public authorities, and insufficient implementation of open data principles negatively affect the quality, completeness, and timeliness of legal information provided by the media. As a result, citizens may receive fragmented or superficial legal content, which undermines trust in legal institutions and weakens the overall level of legal awareness.

In this context, the study of normative problems faced by the media in providing legal information becomes particularly relevant. A comprehensive analysis of existing legal barriers, their causes, and their socio-legal consequences is essential for developing effective mechanisms to eliminate these problems. The relevance of this research is further reinforced by the need to align national media legislation with international legal standards, including the principles of freedom of expression, access to information, and the protection of journalists' rights.

The purpose of this article is to identify and analyze the normative problems hindering the effective role of mass media in disseminating legal information to the population and to develop scientifically grounded proposals for improving legal regulation in the context of the New Uzbekistan. The objectives of the study include examining the current legal framework, assessing its impact on media practice, and formulating recommendations aimed at enhancing the role of the media in increasing legal awareness and strengthening the rule of law.

Literature Review. The role of mass media in providing legal information and shaping public legal awareness has long been a subject of scholarly interest in legal theory, communication studies, and political science. Existing research may be broadly classified into several thematic directions, including theoretical approaches to media and law, normative regulation of media activities, access to information, and the impact of media on legal culture and civic participation.

Classical theories of mass communication emphasize the social responsibility of the media in disseminating socially significant information, including legal norms and rights. D. McQuail's theory of media responsibility highlights that media institutions are not only channels of information but also active participants in the formation of public consciousness and legal values. Similarly, J. Habermas's concept of the public sphere underlines the importance of free and independent media in facilitating rational legal discourse and ensuring public control over state power. According to Habermas, access to legal information through media is a prerequisite for meaningful civic participation and democratic legitimacy.

Modern researchers such as M. Castells focus on the transformation of media systems under the influence of digitalization and network communication. Castells argues that digital media have expanded opportunities for legal awareness while simultaneously creating new regulatory challenges related to information reliability, accountability, and normative control. These findings are particularly relevant for countries undergoing legal and institutional transformation, where digital platforms often become primary sources of legal information for citizens.

A significant body of international literature is devoted to the normative and legal regulation of media activities. Scholars analyze issues of freedom of expression, access to information, and the balance between state regulation and media independence. UNESCO and the Council of Europe have developed normative frameworks and indicators aimed at assessing media



development and legal guarantees for journalists. These documents emphasize that effective dissemination of legal information requires clear legal norms, transparency of public authorities, and protection of journalistic activities.

In the context of post-Soviet and transitional societies, researchers note persistent normative problems related to media regulation. Studies indicate that despite formal guarantees of freedom of information, legal uncertainty, fragmented legislation, and excessive administrative control often limit the practical ability of media to provide legal information. Comparative studies demonstrate that the lack of unified legal standards for legal information dissemination leads to inconsistent media practices and uneven levels of legal awareness among the population.

Uzbek scholars have actively studied issues of media law, information policy, and legal awareness in recent years. Research focuses on constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, the development of information legislation, and the role of media in democratic reforms. However, most national studies analyze media regulation in a general context, without paying sufficient attention to the specific normative challenges associated with the dissemination of legal information. Issues such as the legal definition of “legal information,” journalists’ access to official legal sources, and regulation of digital legal content remain insufficiently explored.

Furthermore, existing literature reveals a gap between normative regulation and media practice. While legal acts establish general principles of access to information, their implementation mechanisms are often weak or unclear. Scholars emphasize the need for institutional reforms, legal harmonization, and the adoption of international standards to overcome these shortcomings. At the same time, there is limited research offering practical solutions tailored to the conditions of the New Uzbekistan.

In summary, the analysis of scientific literature demonstrates that while the role of media in legal information dissemination is widely recognized, normative problems remain a significant obstacle to its effective realization. The lack of comprehensive studies addressing these issues in the context of Uzbekistan highlights the scientific novelty and relevance of the present research, which seeks to fill this gap by providing an in-depth analysis and proposing normative and legal improvements.

Research Methodology. This study is based on a comprehensive methodological framework that integrates general scientific and special legal research methods to examine normative problems faced by mass media in providing legal information to the population in the conditions of the New Uzbekistan. The methodological approach ensures objectivity, consistency, and scientific validity of the research findings.

First, the formal-legal method is used to analyze the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan regulating media activities, access to information, and the dissemination of legal content. This method allows for the identification of legal gaps, contradictions, and ambiguities within normative acts, as well as an assessment of their compliance with constitutional principles and democratic standards.

Second, the systemic and structural analysis method is applied to examine the interrelation between legal norms, media institutions, and state authorities. Through this approach, the study evaluates how different elements of the legal regulation system interact in practice and how normative shortcomings affect the overall effectiveness of legal information dissemination.

Third, the comparative legal method is employed to compare national media regulation with international legal standards and best practices. This includes an analysis of international legal



instruments and recommendations developed by organizations such as the United Nations, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe. Comparative analysis helps to identify progressive regulatory models and adapt them to national conditions.

Fourth, the analytical and descriptive methods are used to generalize theoretical concepts and empirical data presented in scientific literature, official reports, and policy documents. These methods contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of media in shaping legal awareness and the impact of normative regulation on media practice.

Additionally, the logical and normative interpretation method is applied to clarify the content and scope of legal norms governing access to legal information. This method enables the assessment of how legal provisions are interpreted and implemented by media organizations and public authorities. The empirical basis of the research includes national legislation, official statistical data, analytical reports, and scholarly publications. The combination of these methods ensures a holistic analysis of normative problems and provides a solid foundation for developing scientifically grounded proposals aimed at improving legal regulation and enhancing the role of mass media in increasing public legal awareness.

Table 1. Analysis of Normative Problems Faced by the Media in Providing Legal Information in the Conditions of the New Uzbekistan

Normative problem	Manifestation in media practice	Negative impact on legal awareness	Proposed solutions
Fragmentation of media legislation	Legal norms regulating media, access to information, and journalism are dispersed across multiple legal acts	Legal uncertainty for journalists; inconsistent dissemination of legal information	Harmonization and systematization of media and information legislation
Lack of a clear legal definition of "legal information"	Ambiguity in determining the scope and standards of legal content	Risk of misinformation and superficial legal explanations	Introduction of a legal definition and dissemination standards
Outdated regulatory mechanisms	Legal norms do not fully reflect digital and online media realities	Regulatory gaps in online legal content	Adaptation of legislation to digital media environment
Limited access to official legal sources	Bureaucratic barriers in obtaining laws, draft acts, and court decisions	Incomplete and delayed legal information	Strengthening guarantees of access to official legal data
Insufficient protection of journalists' rights	Weak legal safeguards against pressure and liability risks	Self-censorship and avoidance of legal topics	Enhancement of legal protection mechanisms for journalists



Normative problem	Manifestation in media practice	Negative impact on legal awareness	Proposed solutions
Weak implementation of international standards	Partial incorporation of freedom of information principles	Reduced transparency and public trust	Alignment with international media law standards

This table presents a systematic analysis of the main normative problems encountered by mass media in the process of providing legal information to the population in the context of the New Uzbekistan. It identifies key legislative shortcomings, demonstrates their practical manifestation in media activities, and evaluates their negative impact on the level of public legal awareness. Furthermore, the table proposes scientifically grounded solutions aimed at improving normative regulation, strengthening media independence, and enhancing the effectiveness of legal information dissemination.

Results and Discussion. The conducted analysis reveals that the effectiveness of mass media in providing the population with legal information in the conditions of the New Uzbekistan is significantly influenced by the quality and coherence of normative regulation. The study results demonstrate that despite the existence of constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and access to information, a number of systemic legal barriers continue to limit the practical implementation of these rights in media activities.

First, the research confirms that the fragmentation of media-related legislation remains one of the most serious normative problems. Legal norms governing mass media, access to information, and journalistic activity are dispersed across multiple legal acts and lack internal consistency. As a result, media organizations often face difficulties in interpreting legal requirements, particularly when disseminating legal information on sensitive public and political issues. This legal uncertainty increases the risk of liability and encourages self-censorship, which negatively affects the completeness and objectivity of legal content.

Second, the absence of a clearly defined legal concept of “legal information” has been identified as a critical shortcoming. The findings indicate that without unified standards, media outlets apply different approaches to explaining legal norms, judicial decisions, and regulatory acts. This inconsistency reduces the quality of legal information and may lead to misinterpretation by the audience. The lack of methodological and normative guidance also limits the development of specialized legal journalism.

Third, the results highlight that existing regulatory mechanisms have not fully adapted to the realities of digital media. Online platforms and social networks have become dominant channels for disseminating legal information; however, normative regulation remains largely oriented toward traditional media. This mismatch creates regulatory gaps related to accountability, reliability, and the legal status of digital content. At the same time, excessive regulatory uncertainty may restrict innovation and the use of modern communication tools in legal information dissemination.

The study also reveals that limited access to official legal sources significantly affects the quality of media content. Journalists often encounter bureaucratic obstacles when seeking information from public authorities, including draft laws, court decisions, and official interpretations of legal norms. Such limitations reduce the timeliness and depth of legal reporting and weaken public trust in both media and state institutions.



From a broader perspective, the findings demonstrate a direct correlation between normative shortcomings in media regulation and the level of legal awareness among the population. Inaccurate, incomplete, or delayed legal information undermines citizens' understanding of their rights and obligations and reduces their willingness to engage in legal and civic processes. This, in turn, affects the effectiveness of ongoing democratic reforms.

The discussion of the results shows that eliminating normative problems requires a комплексный (comprehensive) approach combining legislative, institutional, and practical measures. Harmonization of media and information legislation, the introduction of clear legal definitions and standards, and the strengthening of guarantees for journalists' rights are essential steps toward improving the dissemination of legal information. In addition, aligning national legislation with international standards on freedom of expression and access to information would enhance transparency and accountability. Overall, the research results confirm that improving normative regulation of media activities is not only a legal task but also a strategic component of building a democratic society in the New Uzbekistan. Effective media participation in legal information dissemination contributes to increasing legal culture, strengthening the rule of law, and fostering active civic engagement.

Conclusion. The study has demonstrated that in the conditions of the New Uzbekistan, mass media play a decisive role in ensuring public access to legal information and in shaping citizens' legal awareness. However, the effectiveness of this role is significantly constrained by a number of normative problems within the existing legal framework regulating media activities. Despite constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and access to information, inconsistencies, fragmentation, and outdated provisions in media legislation limit the practical implementation of these principles. The research findings confirm that the absence of a unified legal definition of "legal information," insufficient adaptation of legislation to digital media realities, and weak guarantees for journalists' access to official legal sources negatively affect the quality, reliability, and timeliness of legal information disseminated to the population. These shortcomings reduce public trust in legal institutions, hinder the development of legal culture, and weaken civic engagement. The analysis also shows that normative problems in media regulation are not isolated legal issues but are closely linked to broader processes of democratic reform and the strengthening of the rule of law. Therefore, eliminating these problems requires a comprehensive and systematic approach. Harmonization of media and information legislation, incorporation of international legal standards, enhancement of institutional transparency, and strengthening of legal protections for journalists are essential steps toward improving the effectiveness of legal information dissemination. In conclusion, improving the normative framework governing media activities will contribute not only to the development of independent and responsible media but also to increasing legal awareness, ensuring informed public participation, and consolidating democratic values in the New Uzbekistan. The results of this research may serve as a scientific basis for further legislative reforms and practical measures in the field of media law and information policy.

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