



Using The Socratic Method In Teaching The Subject “Fundamentals Of State And Law”

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Abstract: This article examines the possibilities of using the Socratic method in teaching the subject “Fundamentals of State and Law.” The Socratic method helps develop students’ critical and logical thinking skills, enabling them to substantiate their views and deepen their knowledge through discussions. The article provides a detailed analysis of the essence of this method, its origin, stages of application, and advantages. Additionally, examples of effective use of the Socratic method in discussing legal issues are given.

Keywords: Socratic method, critical thinking, legal literacy, interactive education, legal education

Introduction

Today, one of the most important tasks in the educational process is to increase students’ activity and develop their critical and logical thinking abilities. In particular, when raising legal literacy, it is not enough to simply provide information; it is also necessary to encourage independent thinking about legal issues. For this purpose, the Socratic method can be effectively used as a teaching tool. This article examines the essence, origin, stages of application, and advantages of the Socratic method. Teaching methods in education should not only be modern but should also include effective approaches that train students in logical and critical thinking and enable them to express their views clearly. The use of innovative methods in education is important for ensuring personal development and preparing students for real-life challenges.

The Socratic method, though ancient, has not lost its relevance. It works through dialogue with students, encouraging them to think through a series of questions. This method deepens the learning process and develops skills for independent decision-making and logical reasoning.



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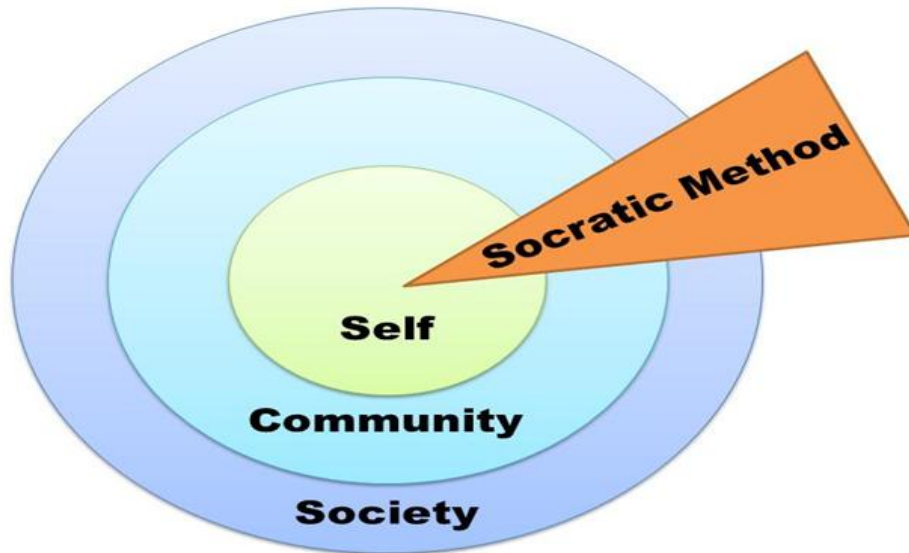
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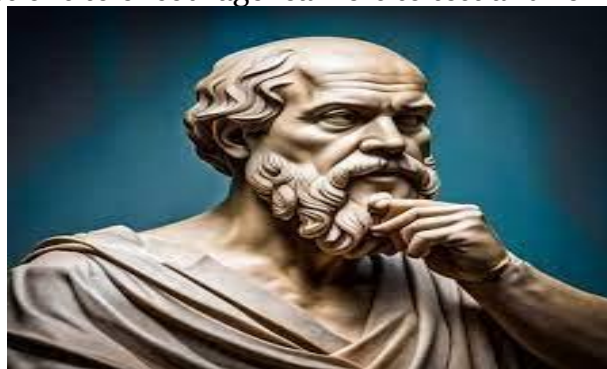


Main Part

The Socratic Method: Origin and Nature

The Socratic method is a way of teaching and thinking developed by the Greek philosopher Socrates (469–399 BC). It is aimed at clarifying and developing ideas and concepts through questioning and dialogue. Its primary purpose is not direct teaching, but fostering the learner's ability to think and critically examine their own knowledge.

Plato expressed Socrates' ideas in his "Socratic Dialogues," demonstrating the essence of this method: asking logical questions to encourage learners to test and refine their knowledge.



The Influence of the Socratic Method

The method played a key role in promoting logical thinking and moral reasoning among people. Later, it was further developed by Aristotle and other philosophers.

The Socratic Method in Modern Education

Today, the Socratic method is widely applied in the educational process. Teachers use it to engage students in critical thinking and discussions, thereby developing their abilities to acquire knowledge and express ideas.



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Benefits achieved through Socratic questioning:

1. Development of critical thinking – analyzing and sharing ideas enhances logical and analytical skills.
2. Improved mutual understanding – students better understand each other's views, fostering openness and sincerity.
3. Deepening moral and legal knowledge – exploring ethical and legal concepts more thoroughly.
4. Discovery of new ideas – encouraging fresh perspectives.
5. Enhanced problem-solving skills – analyzing and resolving issues more effectively.
6. Improved communication skills – expressing views clearly and engaging in effective dialogue.
7. Self-awareness – understanding one's own thoughts more deeply, aiding personal growth.

Stages of Applying the Socratic Method

Stage	Description	Challenges	Practical Application
1.Setting the Goal	Define the main learning objectives (SMART, measurable, achievable).	If unclear, lessons lose effectiveness.	Example: "Today we will learn how to express our views on social issues."
2.Preparing Questions	Prepare interconnected simple, complex, and open-ended questions.	Poorly prepared questions may distract students.	Example: "How can this issue be solved?"
3.Studying the Topic	Use books, articles, videos, and internet resources.	Lack of resources makes discussions difficult.	Example: "Read these articles before class."
4. Discussion	Engage students in exchanging views and dialogue.	Some may not participate actively.	Example: "Everyone must share their opinion."
5.Analyzing Results	Group responses, highlight main ideas, share results.	Risk of vague conclusions.	Example: "What are our main discussion results?"
6.Drawing Conclusions	Summarize learned material clearly.	Conclusions may be weak if analysis was poor.	Example: "What did we learn?"
7. Repetition & Practice	Apply knowledge in practice, through exercises or projects.	Students may forget or struggle to apply.	Example: "How can we use what we learned?"



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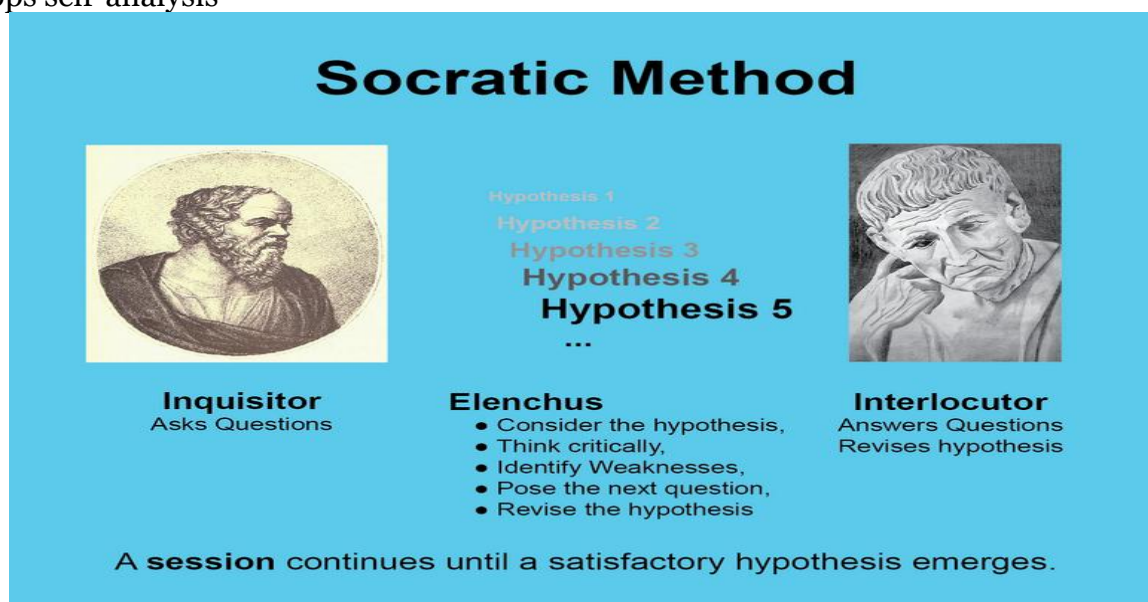
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Advantages of the Socratic Method

- Encourages deeper thinking
- Promotes active learning
- Improves communication quality
- Develops self-analysis



It can be applied not only in teaching, but also in daily communication, as it stimulates thought and discovery of new ideas. Even passive listening can be beneficial, as the constant expectation of being questioned forces students to remain attentive.

One effective practice is the “Hot Seat” method, where students are randomly chosen to answer questions. Though it may feel difficult at first, it becomes engaging and motivates better preparation. Students remember successful moments in such discussions, as they improve questioning, analyzing, and explaining skills. Teachers, in turn, develop students’ independent thinking and logical reasoning abilities, making lessons more interesting and effective.

Conclusion

The Socratic method develops students’ logical thinking and independent decision-making abilities. It not only deepens legal knowledge but also trains learners to act correctly in real-life situations. Students acquire the ability to analyze social issues and solve them fairly and legally. Thus, the method is important not only in education but also in strengthening social stability and fostering civic awareness.

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