



Comparative Analysis of the Interpretation of the Phenomenon of Transformational Freedom in Antiquity with Its Modern Approach

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Abstract

The article presents a cooperative analysis of the views of ancient philosophers on freedom and presents the results of sociological research to compare their views with modern ones. In particular, in the process of comparison, the relevance and differences of their views were considered. Within the framework of the study, hypotheses were developed that the opinions of ancient philosophers help in the correct interpretation of the concept of freedom, that the existing freedom in modern society is similar to freedom in antiquity; the concept of freedom is not singular, but transformational. An attempt was made to find answers to these questions using a sociological survey. The results of the study are summarized and based on the fact that freedom is still a pressing issue today.

Keywords: *Freedom; State; Law; Moral Freedom; Unlimited Freedom; Arbitrariness; Responsibility; Absolute Freedom; Transformation; Comparative Analysis; Sociological Survey*

Introduction

The problem of freedom makes it necessary to substantiate the freedom that is emerging in various spheres of information society in terms of its global relevance. In particular, it has not lost its relevance in the legal, moral, social and political spheres. The desire to find a solution to this problem has never stopped in the developed countries such as the United States, Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, as well as in the eastern countries such as Russia, China, India and Japan. Philosophical aspects of problem of freedom have been studied by ancient thinkers, modern-day philosophers, existentialists, irrationalists. Modern scholars study Plato's dialogues, The Republic, Laws, Aristotle's Ethics, and Plotinus's Enneads. When the results of the research work were studied, it can be seen that modern researchers gave heterogeneous, sometimes contradictory, so to speak, different answers to questions related to freedom at all stages of the philosophical system of antiquity. There was also a reason for the existence of contradictions in the thoughts of that time and for each researcher to give an explanation based on his ideal.

And in this research work, one can find a recommendation about the possibility of correctly formulating the idea of freedom through the experience of antiquity, setting its norm to eliminate problems caused by freedom, revealing the transformational nature of freedom, an attempt to show that modern thoughts are similar to thoughts in ancient philosophy. Consequently, it is important to study the views on freedom ancient time by comparing the society of our time with its attitude to freedom.

Review of Literature on the Topic

There are many philosophical historians who have dealt with and are engaged in the philosophy of antiquity. Most of the modern research work is devoted to various aspects of ancient philosophy and its study. Also, I. Berlin (Берлин, 2001), V. S. Solov'ev (Соловьев, 1990), A. N. Kharlamov (Харламов, 2007), G. Watson (Watson, 1987) were among the researchers who studied the concept of freedom, which played an important role in the teachings of the ancient Greek classical philosophers.

But unlike others, within the framework of this study, views in the philosophy of antiquity were compared on the basis of a sociological survey with the individual opinions of individuals in modern society, and their similarities and contradictions were determined. At this point, it was recommended to use the point of view of ancient philosophers to correct people's erroneous views on freedom.

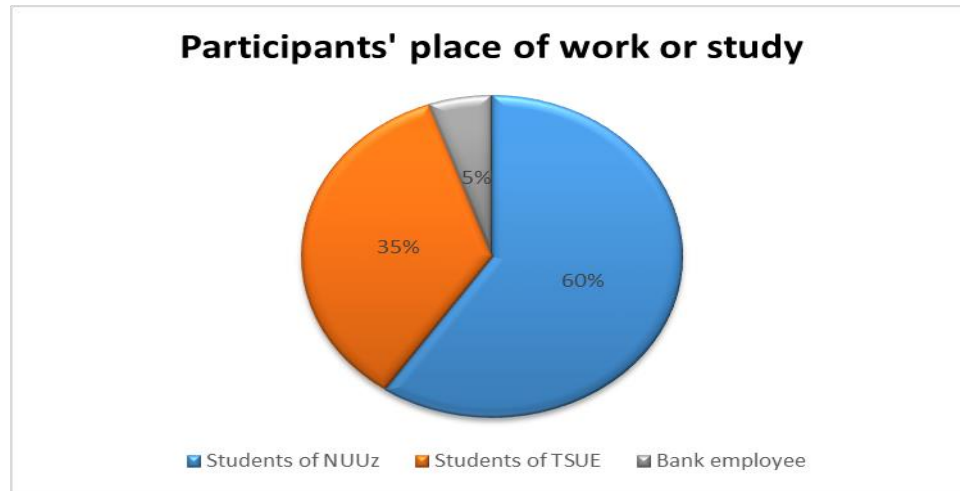
Research Methodology

The research used scientific and philosophical principles such as systematization, theoretical-deductive reasoning, analysis and synthesis, historical and logical, comparative analysis, as well as methods such as sociological survey, sociological dialogue.

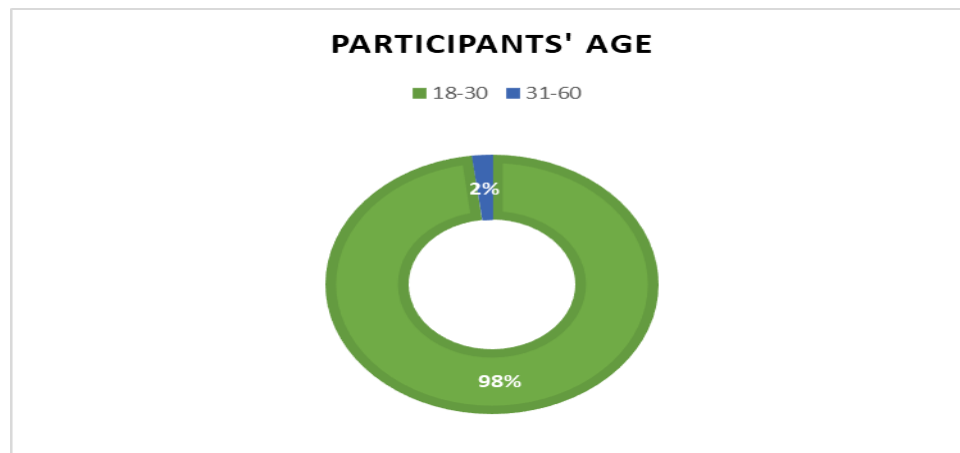
168 young people took part in the sociological survey. Of these, 84 are women and 84 are men.



The process, which was conducted in a narrow group, was attended mainly by students of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies and the National University of Uzbekistan, as well as a small number of bank employees.



Most of the participants were young, including 155 respondents aged 18 to 30 years and 3 people aged 31 to 60 years.



In the course of the study, the following research problems were identified:

- R.Q.1. The influence of the opinions of ancient philosophers on the correct interpretation of the concept of freedom;
- R.Q.2. The existing freedom in modern society has a similar aspect to freedom in antiquity;
- R.Q.3. The concept of freedom is not one-sided, but has a transformational feature.

It was noted above that a sociological study was used to uncover these problems. And its results are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Analysis and Results

Freedom has never deviated from the center of attention at the level of the most controversial concepts in any era. It is especially important now as a subject of humanities research. Freedom manifests itself as a phenomenon that takes many forms, adapts to the psyche of the period, and has a wide range of semantic features. "The word is so obscure," wrote I. Berlin, a twentieth-century English liberal thinker, "that it can be interpreted in any way." (Берлин, 2001) Up to this time, it has been interpreted and expanded in meaning along with activity, will, attitude, choice, thought, and so on. Among the researches on the history of philosophy, the view of the issue of freedom from different angles, using certain

methods in the philosophical-historical process, to give a solution to this problem has not always lost its relevance.

By analyzing the transformation of the phenomenon of freedom in the course of historical and philosophical process, the understanding of freedom in accordance with modern requirements is not difficult to observe. In our time, too, it has a special place in our society. Its reflection and protection are often found in the legal documents of each state. In particular, the word "freedom" is used 18 times in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This term is inextricably linked with every citizen of the state, every person in society. Their protection is defined in normative documents. "Democracy in the Republic of Uzbekistan is based on universal principles, according to which a person, his life, freedom, honor, dignity and other inalienable rights are of the highest value. Democratic rights and freedoms are protected by the Constitution and laws" (Article 13) (Konstitutsiya, 2019, p. 29).

It is not difficult to prove that the passages on freedom quoted in the Constitution are consistent with the views of ancient thinkers. The concept of "freedom" reflected in the scientific literature has a long history. The category of freedom has been filled with a new essence in the course of the development of society. In the context of the secular historical pedagogical process, freedom acquires both a general philosophical and a narrow pedagogical meaning. In ancient times, the first images of freedom were formed in the minds of people. The first concept of freedom is associated with the concepts of "law", "police", "citizen". But then the term became more widespread, and attitudes toward it changed and interest grew. Freedom went beyond the confines of the police and became a purely philosophical concept in the hands of the Sophists. Citing his relationship with a human being, the view is expressed that freedom can be acquired in a situation other than police law. If we compare the views of Socrates, a representative of Greek classical philosophy, with the views of philosophers who lived before him, we can see his unique approach. For the first time, he uses moral choice as freedom. That is, as before, a person is said to be free only because he is a polis citizen or by acting without any pressure, without being considered to be free, without going beyond the bounds of moral norms. Freedom is not the activity of satisfying one's own lusts, but the pursuit of goodness by renouncing that lust (Raximdjanova, 2021).

Another comparative analysis can be seen by comparing the views of Socrates and Plato. By joining Socrates' ideas at the beginning of his philosophical views, Plato freely chooses his own destiny, no obstacles are placed on him, no interventions can change his free choice. The heart forgets all memories after the choice and lives with that chosen destiny. In Socrates' ideas of achieving freedom, Plato argues that only philosophers can emerge from the world of shadows if they reach it. But in the last years of his career, Plato began to view freedom as something harmful and unnecessary to man. In this regard, V. S. Solovev considered that "Plato in his work fell below the level of Socrates, who glorified free thought, to the level of "Laws", which justified the total control over man" (Соловьев, 1990). In his State, Plato argues that freedom leads to destruction in the hands of man. Freedom is unique to the state and must serve the entire state (Raximdjanova, 2021).

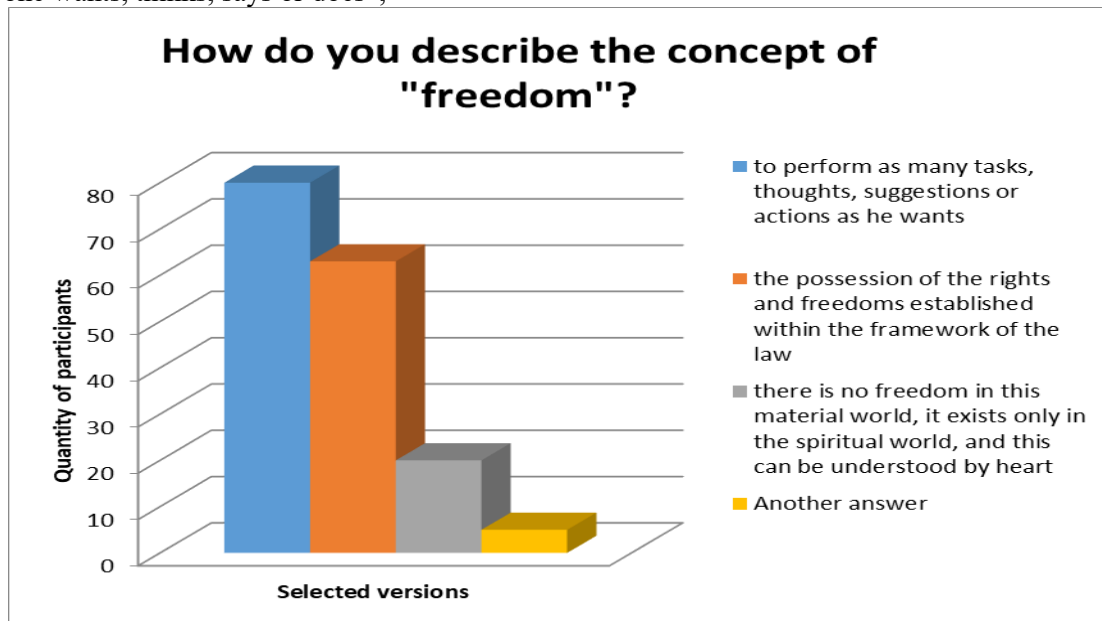
When Aristotle and Plato's views are analyzed, it is not difficult to understand their differences. Aristotle supported Plato's ideas in his youth, was inspired and amazed by them. But over time, he realizes his teacher's shortcomings and changes his mind. He does not see freedom in a negative light, nor does he associate it with abstraction. Freedom is the freedom to act freely in every human being. The issue of arbitrariness encountered in Aristotle's philosophy embodies the interdependence of choice, will, aspiration and purpose in human nature (Харламов, 2007). Man often acts not with the mind, but with emotions, passions. Then his free choice emerges. As long as it acts independently, it is also responsible for the consequences of each action. It also depends on factors such as responsibility and accountability for their actions. Everyone has the opportunity to choose a particular action, and in that choice he is independent. No one but himself is responsible for the outcome of his choice. As can be seen, freedom comes in line with determinism in Aristotle's approach.

Freedom has a special appearance in the works of Neoplatonists. When it comes to human freedom, it is both free and not free at the same time. If we compare the views of the Neoplatonists with the works of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, on the one hand, we see a synthesis of all of them, on the other hand, a completely different approach to them. In this case, the comparative analysis shows the result of their work. They believe that only human beings, not their hearts, can be free, that absolute complete freedom finds its place in the Oneness. It should be noted that philosophers before them did not talk about achieving absolute freedom. Plotinus and his followers claim that absolute freedom is reflected in the Oneness, which passes from Unity to man through the stages of Mind, Heart. However, the human body cannot be free because it is forced to obey the laws of nature and society. It is in this sense that man is not free. But a person can feel a sense of freedom only if he listens to his heart and leaves behind the pleasures of the material world. The appearance of these views is reflected in Socrates' views on spiritual freedom (Raximdjanova, 2021).

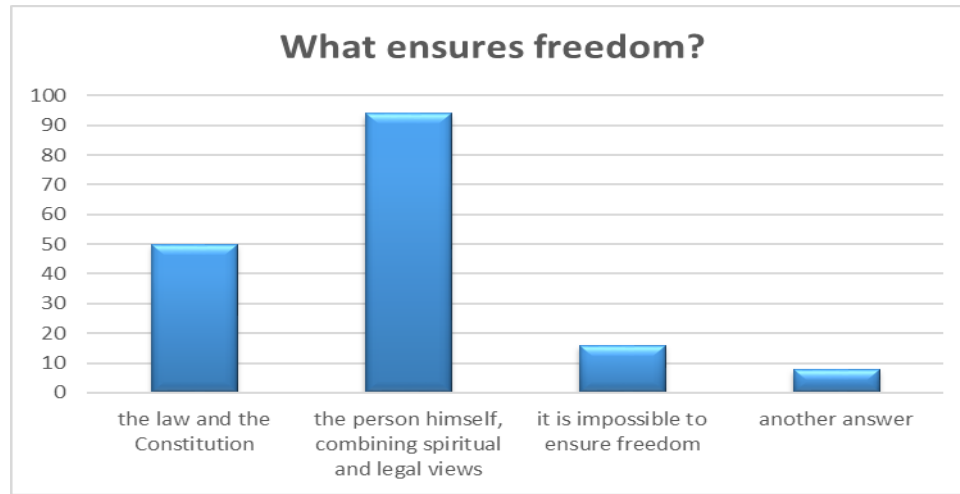
Hence, by studying the question of freedom in the context of the ancient period in the historical-philosophical process, we found that the ideas of the thinkers of that period were transformed, using a comparative method. In order to enrich our research work scientifically and practically, we have also used sociological methods to help. We used research methods based on a sociological approach, such as a sociological survey. In compiling them, we relied on the views of ancient philosophers. Using these research methods, we have come to the conclusion that there is a general understanding of freedom in society, especially in the field of philosophy, and that there are similarities between the views of antiquity and modern freedom, and in some respects the need to study it from historical experience.

The following results were obtained from this sociological survey:

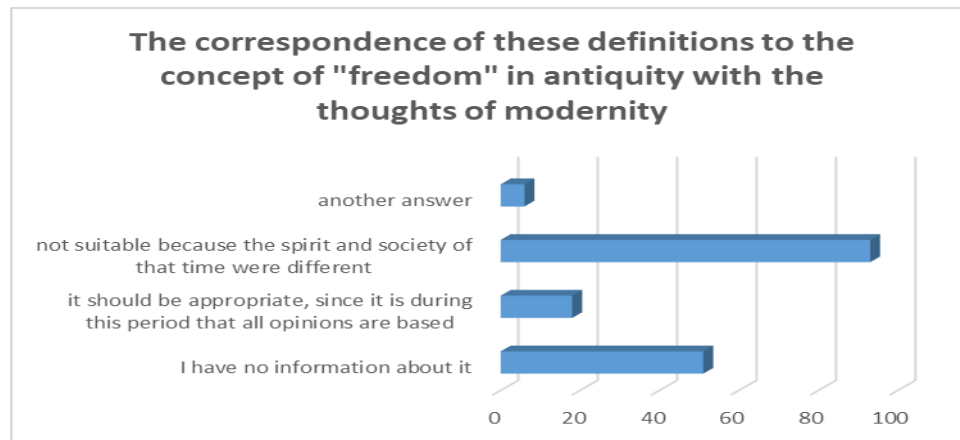
- Thoughts on how to understand freedom were mainly expressed in the form of “doing whatever one wants, thinks, says or does”;



- When asked how freedom is guaranteed, many answered that it is "man himself, combining spiritual and legal views";



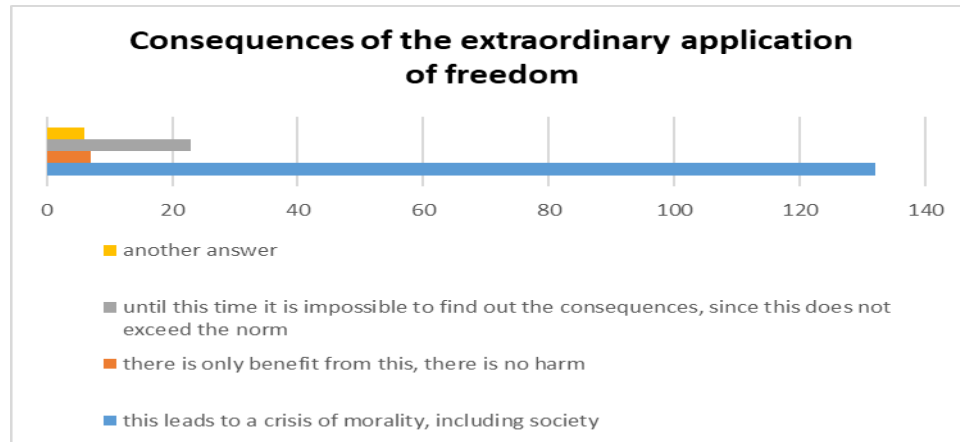
- In the third part of the survey, when asked whether their views on freedom in ancient times were consistent with ours, the majority of respondents said that they were not, and that more young people were uneducated;



- It has been determined that freedom should take precedence over the activities of the state, and this means that, whether they know it or not, they agree with Plato's views on the subject;



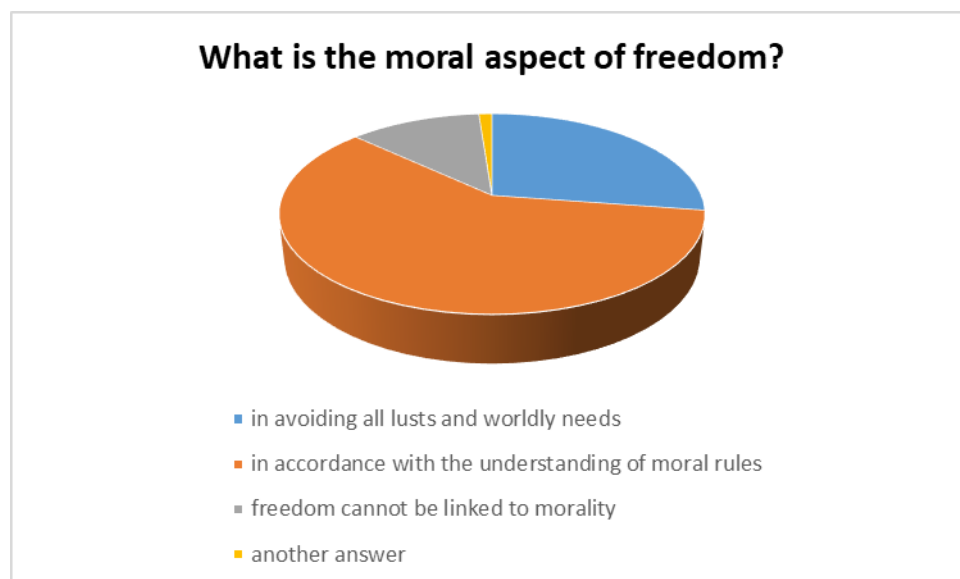
- More than a hundred young people have argued that the negative effects of freedom will be a crisis of society and morality if the actions of its excessive use by human beings lead to it;



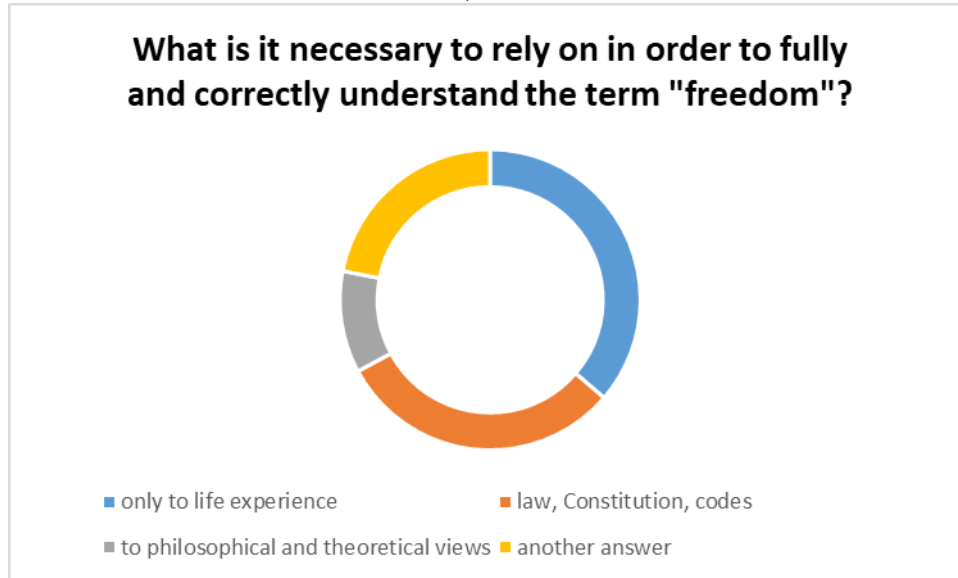
- It has been established that the regulation and restriction of freedom can be achieved through accountability for its consequences;



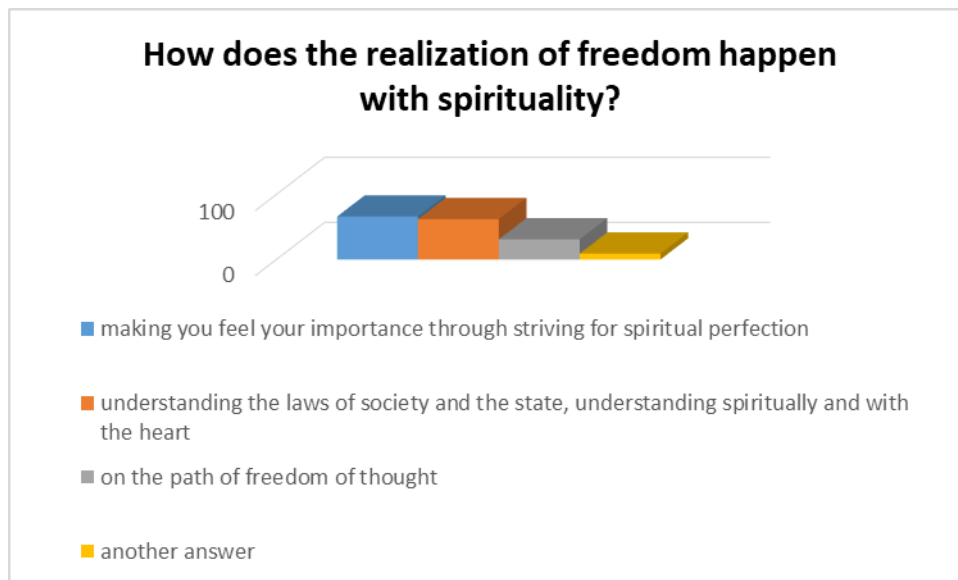
- The opinion in the form of a conscious adherence to the rules of ethics consistent with the views of Socrates that linked freedom to ethics was adopted by a majority of respondents;



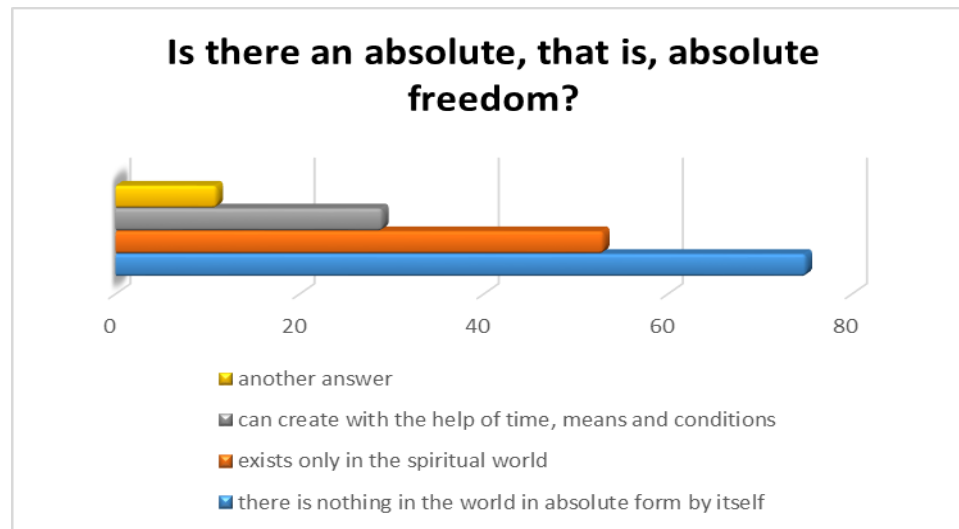
- Those who emphasized that the constitution and laws would help to understand the term freedom correctly and fully, along with life experience, formed the majority, and those who said that philosophical and theoretical views should be relied on;



- The relationship of freedom with the psyche was defined as the pursuit of spiritual perfection and understanding the laws of the state and society and understanding them in the heart;



- There were many participants who refused to answer the question about the existence of absolute freedom, and the number of young people, who contradicted it, saying that it existed only in the spiritual world, was about fifty.



If we analyze the results obtained and compare them with the ideas of the ancient period, we will see that there are many similarities. Therefore, the study of the content of freedom in ancient times serves as a necessary source for modern experience. In addition, we have witnessed in this paragraph that the phenomenon of freedom has been transformed several times in the same period. This means that the concept of freedom cannot acquire a holistic meaning. Antiquity has proved from its own experience that today's understanding of freedom as doing what we want leads to chaos and anarchy. Therefore, their connection with duty and obligation should be studied by the youth of our current society.

Conclusions and Suggestions

Given the modern psyche, the concept of "freedom" can be applied to all areas of law, politics, society, law, ethics and science. Therefore, it is not difficult to relate all the above ideas to our time. That is, with the psyche of that period, and from the psyche of the present, it is also possible to understand that it has undergone a transformation. In short, although the concept of "freedom" has undergone an intergenerational transformation, its content has not lost its original meaning in the human heart and soul.

These views help to reveal its true nature, while preventing the misunderstanding of freedom in the wrong direction. Inculcating such views in the spirit of the younger generation emerging in our society will expand the ranks of young people who contribute to the development of society and the state. Such approaches to freedom ensure that its place is unique, both now and in the future. After all, as long as humanity exists, the concept of "freedom" coexists with it.

In order to find practical confirmation of our ideas, we not only got acquainted with the ideas of ancient thinkers, but also tried to study the views of the younger generation on freedom. We addressed this issue through a sociological survey. We have focused on the results of this study in our discussion. In conclusion, it is clear from the above data that the views on freedom are not so complete and accurate, and that there is a lack of some knowledge about them.

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