

The Value, Realistic Challenges, and Practical Paths of Carrying out National Defense Education in Vocational College Student Apartments

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Abstract: *Under the guidance of strengthening national defense education for all, the national defense education work of ordinary vocational colleges has entered the fast lane, and has achieved remarkable results and achievements in regulations, theoretical teaching, skill training, scientific research achievements, and teacher team construction. In order to further strengthen national defense education in universities, continuously expand the carrier platform and methods of national defense education, this paper analyzes the significance, current situation and shortcomings of carrying out national defense education in vocational college student apartments, and proposes targeted ways and methods to carry out national defense education, providing ideas and references for effectively improving national defense education in vocational colleges.*

Keywords: Vocational colleges, National defense education, Student Apartment.

1. Introduction

General Secretary Xi Jinping attaches great importance to the work of national defense education for all. In the report of the 19th National Congress, he emphasized that "our military is the people's military, and our national defense is the national defense for all. We must strengthen national defense education for all, consolidate the unity between the military, government, and civilians, and gather strong forces to realize the Chinese Dream of a strong military!" The national defense education work of ordinary universities is an important foundation for national defense education for all. Over the years, it has been continuously developed under the protection of laws and regulations such as the National Defense Law of the People's Republic of China, the Military Service Law of the People's Republic of China, and the National Defense Education Law of the People's Republic of China. It has been continuously deepened, refined, and strengthened in various aspects such as content requirements, teaching staff, discipline construction, and assessment. In order to further expand the battlefield and platform of national defense education, universities, starting from the concept of "three comprehensive education", student apartments will inevitably become an important carrier for carrying out national defense education.

2. The Importance of Carrying out National Defense Education in Student Apartments of Vocational Colleges

Comprehensively promoting national defense education in ordinary vocational colleges is an important part of achieving the goal of "cultivating morality and nurturing talents, and cultivating souls through education" in higher education. Continuously expanding the methods and approaches of national defense education, creating new educational platforms, and improving educational effectiveness are important means of deepening national defense education in ordinary vocational colleges.

2.1 Carrying out National Defense Education in Ordinary Vocational Colleges is an Important Part of Ideological and Political Education and Quality Education

Ordinary higher education institutions shoulder the important mission of cultivating builders and successors with comprehensive development in morality, intelligence, physical fitness, aesthetics, and labor for socialism. To achieve the fundamental task of "cultivating virtue and nurturing talents", deepening ideological and political education is the key and lever. The National Defense Education Law of the People's Republic of China and other laws clearly stipulate that "national defense education in schools is the foundation of national defense education for all and an important part of implementing quality education. The core of national defense education in ordinary vocational colleges is patriotism education, with the main purpose of enhancing college students' national defense awareness, improving their national defense consciousness, and mastering certain military skills. It is an important part of quality education and plays a positive role in strengthening the ideal beliefs of young college students to love the Party, the country, and the people's army, and actively participating in national defense construction. Therefore, carrying out national defense education in ordinary vocational colleges is an important component of ideological and political education and quality education, and also promotes the continuous development of ideological and political education and quality education.

2.2 Vocational College Student Apartments are an Important Carrier and Platform for Carrying Out National Defense Education

At present, the scope of national defense education in vocational colleges is usually focused on classroom teaching of military theory courses and military skills training, supplemented by extracurricular learning meetings, lectures, propaganda, military civilian joint construction, club activities, etc. The main battlefield is based on classrooms, military training grounds, and lecture halls, while student

apartments serve as important learning and living places for college students during their school years, providing useful supplements to education platforms such as moral education, ideological and political education, and professional skills outside the classroom. Vocational colleges can organize students to engage in individual or small group learning in apartments during their spare time, enhance students' interest in learning and master learning methods through appropriate recreational activities, and achieve the improvement of students' all-round quality. Nowadays, various vocational colleges are vigorously promoting the integration of ideological and political education into apartments, The activities of building party groups in apartments, ensuring safety and stability in apartments, and promoting mental health in apartments have all achieved significant results. Carrying out national defense education in apartments is a necessary and beneficial supplement to comprehensively improving students' quality.

2.3 Carrying Out National Defense Education in Student Dormitories of Vocational Colleges is an Important Measure to Implement the Ideological and Political Education of "Three Comprehensive Education"

General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed at the National Conference on Ideological and Political Work in Higher Vocational Colleges that "to do a good job in ideological and political work in higher vocational colleges, we must adapt to the situation, advance with the times, and innovate with the trend." In response to the complex and changing international and domestic situation, ideological and political education in higher vocational colleges has gradually developed from classroom ideological and political education to a new model of all-round and full process education for all staff. As an important component of ideological and political education, national defense education needs to expand new educational methods, models, and means. Carrying out national defense education in student dormitories, promoting socialist core values, and instilling in college students a firm belief in loving the Party, the country, and the people's army can enhance their level of socialist spiritual civilization; Carrying out national defense education in student dormitories, promoting the excellent political discipline and strict military rules of the People's Army, can enhance the cultivation of collectivism and disciplinary norms among college students; Carrying out patriotic education and practicing necessary military actions and skills in student dormitories can enhance college students' ability to respond to emergencies.

2.4 Carrying Out National Defense Education in Vocational College Student Apartments is a Beneficial Supplement to Promoting National Defense Construction

Guided by Xi Jinping's Thought on Building a Strong Military and the Military Strategic Guidelines for the New Era, the modernization of China's national defense and military construction has been continuously strengthened and accelerated. Building a strong military through science and technology and talent is an important guarantee for achieving the centenary goal of building the military. In recent years, the government has increased its efforts to recruit college students from ordinary vocational colleges to join the military, further optimizing the quality and knowledge structure of the military,

and laying a solid foundation for the acceleration of our military's modernization process. In the conscription work, if the apartments where college students live are used as key places for national defense education, key places for conscription propaganda, and reference places for examining the ideological dynamics of recruited students, more qualified college student soldiers will be selected.

The National Defense Education Law of the People's Republic of China clearly defines the purpose of national defense education for all: "The state enhances citizens' awareness of national defense, masters basic national defense knowledge, learns necessary military skills, inspires patriotism, and consciously fulfills national defense obligations through national defense education." [2] In ordinary vocational college apartments, practical exercises based on military skills and combat readiness such as "civil air defense," "battlefield medical rescue," "nuclear and biological protection," "emergency assembly," and "evacuation drills" can be appropriately carried out, which can not only timely and effectively deal with emergencies caused by human or natural disasters in peacetime, but also acquire certain military knowledge and contingency capabilities for wartime preparation.

3. The Current Situation of National Defense Education in Student Apartments of Vocational Colleges

According to the author's research, most ordinary vocational colleges have carried out national defense education with distinctive features, but there are relatively few that can fully explore and utilize the platform and carrier of student apartments to carry out national defense education work.

3.1 Student Apartments are a Weak Area for National Defense Education in Ordinary Vocational Colleges

According to the requirements of the National Defense Education Law of the People's Republic of China, "schools should include national defense education in their work and teaching plans, take effective measures to ensure the quality and effectiveness of national defense education." The Ministry of Education and the National Defense Mobilization Department of the Central Military Commission also revised the "Military Course Teaching Syllabus for Ordinary Higher Education Institutions" in 2019, which made policy requirements and regulations for conducting military theory teaching and military skills training in ordinary vocational colleges. In recent years, the military curriculum construction of various ordinary vocational colleges has been continuously strengthened and improved, and the methods, means, and content of national defense education have been continuously expanded, achieving remarkable results. However, in terms of exploring apartments as a carrier and platform, apart from some schools conducting simple passive propaganda through propaganda galleries, bulletin boards, banners, and other means during national defense education events such as National Defense Education Day and National Security Day, other times they often overlook the use of apartments as an important learning and living place for students during their school years to carry out comprehensive national defense education work.

3.2 The Lack of a National Defense Education Assessment and Evaluation System in Student Dormitories

At present, the construction of regulations and systems to ensure national defense education in vocational colleges is very complete, and various aspects such as organizational leadership and implementation, educational content and methods, rewards and guarantees for national defense education in vocational colleges have been standardized. At the same time, military theory courses in ordinary vocational colleges have been included in the national education supervision system and the evaluation system for talent cultivation in vocational colleges. The evaluation system for military courses is constantly improving, and the evaluation of national defense education demonstration schools and national defense education characteristic schools also has a scientifically sound system. In the specific evaluation system, there are often requirements to actively carry out various forms of national defense education activities in schools, but the main focus is on conducting classroom teaching and extracurricular national defense activities, and there is no clear requirement for conducting national defense education in student dormitories.

3.3 Lack of National Defense Education Teaching Staff in Apartments

Ordinary vocational colleges require a certain number of full-time and part-time teaching staff to carry out national defense education, mainly to ensure the smooth progress of military courses and the organization and guidance of extracurricular national defense activities. However, student apartments often do not have full-time and part-time teaching staff to carry out national defense education propaganda activities. Vocational college counselors entering apartments mainly focus on ideological and political education, cultivating students' daily behavior norms, and providing assistance in daily life. However, there is often a lack of content in promoting patriotic education and advocating the concept and awareness of national defense for all. The management personnel of student apartments are mostly composed of laborers with lower education levels, mainly engaged in the management of living order, and it is difficult to play a significant role in improving students' overall quality education. Therefore, one of the reasons why national defense education has not been widely carried out in student apartments of ordinary vocational colleges for a long time is the lack of a full-time and part-time national defense education team to engage in this work.

3.4 Students Lack Motivation to Receive National Defense Education in Apartments

At the same time, the human society has entered the Internet information age. The contemporary college students in higher vocational colleges are the most affected group who have the most access to the Internet. Many students spend a lot of time after school indulging in online games and entertainment, and lack the vitality and motivation to fight for the country and the nation for the future. Therefore, higher vocational colleges urgently need to use the students' spare time to carry out more ideological and political, patriotism and other publicity and education work in their dormitories.

4. Methods and Approaches for Conducting National Defense Education in Vocational College Student Dormitories

4.1 Apartment Hardware and National Defense Culture Construction

To carry out national defense education, it is necessary to fully utilize the existing hardware conditions of vocational college apartments. Firstly, it is about creating an atmosphere, such as incorporating socialist core values and red genes into the naming of apartment buildings. Secondly, the widespread use of facilities and equipment, such as making full use of the propaganda columns, corridors, cultural walls, and electronic screens inside the apartment, and regularly or based on national defense and military commemorative days to carry out propaganda and education activities. Finally, national defense cultural activities can also be promoted and displayed through apartment activities such as interior decoration of student dormitories, construction of characteristic dormitories, and internal evaluations.

4.2 Full Time and Part-time National Defense Education Teams Go Deep into Dormitories

As the main force of ideological and political education in student dormitories, counselors and homeroom teachers need to continuously improve their knowledge of national defense and military theory. They should actively promote socialist core values and the idea of loving the Party, the country, and the military. They should carry out national defense education and ideological and political education in student dormitories through inter dormitory communication, quasi military work and rest management, and military internal affairs. At the same time, the People's Armed Forces Department and Military Teaching Department of vocational colleges should deploy a certain number of full-time and part-time military course teachers to student dormitories, regularly carry out national defense and military seminars, collective learning meetings, reading days, conscription propaganda and other activities, and implement national defense education work solidly in every dormitory and every student.

4.3 Carry Out Military Civilian Pairing and Joint Construction Based on Student Apartments as Units

Carrying out national defense education in ordinary vocational colleges is not only the responsibility of schools, teachers, and students, but also fully utilizes the role of the People's Army propaganda team's sowing machine. A series of laws, regulations, and policy documents related to national defense education also explicitly require the military to provide convenient conditions for conducting national defense education in the stationed areas. Universities can actively contact the stationed military or armed police forces to carry out dual support and joint construction activities. As for student dormitories, active military personnel can be hired as military instructors (administrators) on a building by building basis to improve their internal norms and military literacy through studying military barracks culture and internal regulations. Students can also be organized to visit the barracks during open days to learn about the fine traditions and excellent style of the People's Army and enhance their

comprehensive quality.

4.4 Give Full Play to the Positive Role of Retired Student Backbones and Clubs

With more and more college students joining the military, discharged students can enjoy national policies to return to school to continue their studies or be promoted to higher vocational colleges for further education. As retired soldiers, they will undoubtedly be deeply imprinted with the excellent style and glorious traditions of the People's Army. Vocational colleges should fully tap into the shining points of retired soldier students, set an example and benchmark, especially in student dormitories. The words, deeds, and behavioral norms of these students can serve as a banner and guide for other students. With the guidance and practice of retired soldier students, more students will aspire to or devote themselves to national defense construction. The Youth League Committee and People's Armed Forces Department of ordinary vocational colleges should fully leverage the active role of student organizations such as student unions, social federations, and national defense (military) clubs in carrying out national defense activities in apartments, using club cultural activities as a starting point to attract more students to care about national defense and military affairs.

4.5 New Development of Apartment Defense Education in the Internet Era

The national defense educators in ordinary higher vocational colleges should not ignore the huge impact of the Internet and new media on students. They should resolutely change the passive spoon feeding national defense education in the past, actively rely on and use the Internet to build a new platform and new front for national defense education, constantly tap materials, find hot issues that students care about, and form network interactions with students. "Driven by big data analysis technology, they can timely push relevant information. This popular way has greatly improved the interest and acceptance of college students, stimulated their interest in learning, and thus improved their autonomy and enthusiasm in learning." [6] Higher vocational colleges should correctly guide students to speak out about current affairs and military issues on the Internet, and establish a correct world outlook, war outlook and life values. View, Guide students who are addicted to online entertainment games in their dormitories towards the right direction of life development.

5. Suggestions for Conducting National Defense Education in Vocational College Student Dormitories

5.1 Top Level Design by the National Education Regulatory Authorities

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the State Council, and the Central Military Commission have always attached great importance to the in-depth development of national defense education in ordinary vocational colleges. The education authorities should, under the macro guidance

of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, continuously deepen and refine the standardized requirements and evaluation mechanisms for national defense education in ordinary vocational colleges, coordinate and regulate the goals, tasks, and implementation guarantees of national defense education in ordinary colleges and universities at different levels, categories, and regions, guide ordinary colleges and universities to actively expand and broaden the carriers, platforms, methods, and content of national defense education, and clearly require that theoretical teaching and skill training should be carried out simultaneously in vocational colleges and universities, and extend to on campus apartments and off campus national defense bases for all-round development.

5.2 Leaders, Functional Departments, and Full-time Teams of Vocational Colleges are Brave Enough to Take on Responsibilities

All ordinary vocational colleges should always adhere to the fundamental task of "cultivating virtue and nurturing talents", strengthen ideological and political education and national defense education on the premise of striving to provide satisfactory education for the people, form a joint force under the unified leadership of the Party committee, and jointly promote national defense education into apartments by departments such as the People's Armed Forces, Student Affairs, Youth League Committee, Logistics, and various secondary departments, formulate corresponding rules and regulations, and provide sufficient funds to ensure Obstacles, strengthen the construction of full-time and part-time teaching staff for national defense education, promote the entry of ideological and political (national defense education) counselors into apartments, actively organize various cultural and recreational activities related to national defense and military in apartments, and comprehensively enhance the effectiveness and influence of national defense education.

5.3 Active Participation of Students

College students in ordinary vocational colleges are the hope for the future development of the country and the main force in realizing the great Chinese dream. To make them deeply aware of their historical responsibility and mission, and move towards the correct direction of growth, it is necessary to carry out all-round and full process education on ideals and beliefs, patriotism, national defense and military education.

6. Conclusion

At present, the international situation is complex and ever-changing, and traditional and non-traditional security threats are increasingly affecting world peace and stability. Ordinary vocational colleges should make full use of classrooms, training grounds, student apartments and other places to continuously strengthen the study and discussion of ideological and political education, patriotism, national defense and military affairs among college students, actively support and participate in national defense construction, and work together to achieve the dream of building a strong country and a strong military for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation!

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