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THE FACTORS AFFECTING THE POLITICAL BRAVERY OF AN GIANG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract

The political bravery of An Giang University students is essential in the political and ideological education of the Communist Party of Vietnam. It is an integral part of the educational program in universities to improve High political bravery, forming and developing political qualities, ethics, and lifestyle for students. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the education of political bravery for students, create a team of future intellectuals with correct political awareness and intense bravery, and contribute to forming a worldview and a view of life revolution and scientific methodology. Within the scope of the article, the author only explores the factors affecting the political bravery of An Giang University students today.

Keywords: *Political bravery, An Giang University students; factors affecting political bravery*

Introduction

Students' political bravery is an essential content in the political and ideological education of the Communist Party of Vietnam and is an integral part of the educational program in universities in Vietnam to shape the development of political qualities, ethics, and lifestyle for students. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the education of political courage for students, to form the correct political awareness and strong courage in future intellectuals, and to contribute to the formation of worldview and lifestyle networks and scientific methodology.

An Giang University is a public higher education institution that organizes training and fosters human resources with under-

graduate, postgraduate, and lower degrees in many fields; international cooperation; Scientific research and implementation of scientific and technological advances to serve socio-economic development. Therefore, training political courage for An Giang University students is essential in the university's overall educational program. In recent years, school leaders have always paid attention to this issue. Most of the school's students constantly strive to take advantage of opportunities brought by globalization, proactively study, improve political bravery, participate in many community-based social activities, and have a volunteer spirit. Student volunteerism and revolutionary movements continue to be aroused and strongly promoted,

contributing practically to the country's overall development. However, there is still a group of students affected by the negative side of globalization, living pragmatic lives, being self-indulgent, fading ideals, and being indifferent to socio-political issues. The concept of life of some students is still skewed; There is even a phenomenon of students being taken advantage of, manipulated, and seduced by hostile forces. Therefore, enhancing the political bravery of An Giang University students is a long-term cause that needs to be carried out persistently and firmly, requiring the attention and proper awareness of the entire community society. Many objective and subjective factors also influence this process.

Overview of the political bravery of students at An Giang University

Vietnamese students, in general, and An Giang University students, in particular, are the source of the intellectuals and the future owners of the country. They need to be given attention to training, education, and fostering in all aspects, significantly improving their political bravery to become representative of the new generation of Vietnamese people. The Party's 13th National Congress emphasized: "Strengthen the education of the young generation about revolutionary ideals, ethics, cultural lifestyle, enhance patriotism, national pride, and nurture dreams, ambitions, aspirations to rise; uphold the sense of responsibility towards the country and society" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021). The political bravery of today's Vietnamese students is steadfast in the path to socialism chosen by the Communist Party of Vietnam. First of all, there is a clear expression of steadfast belief in the Party's goals and ideals and the people's revolutionary cause; there is awareness and responsibility in studying and working to create enough intelligence, education, talent, and will to contribute to building a solid and prosperous country, with a prosperous life for the people freedom, happiness.

The political bravery of An Giang University students is the steadfast ideal of striving, living with enthusiasm in action, consistently mastering themselves with their understanding based on natural scientific knowledge

and social sciences and humanities, not being drawn into trivial temptations, not being delusional but also not to be pragmatic, to know what to do to contribute to the country, to society. The political bravery of today's students is also the tireless striving to perfect their personality, whose core is morality, the reaching for truth, goodness, and beauty, and being "both rosy and professional."

Thus, it can be understood that the political bravery of Vietnamese students is the steadfastness in communist ideals, belief in the revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation, constant training and cultivation, and the intention to be aware of responsibility in study and work, not afraid of difficulties and hardships to contribute their talent and youth to the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland. Student political bravery is a collection of many virtues, but the most important are the following:

Firstly, live with clear goals and political ideals; believe in the Party's guidelines and policies and the State's legal policies.

Second, dare to think, speak, and act according to the concept you believe is right, not be discouraged by any pressure, and take responsibility for your behavior.

Third, they should be highly independent and not rely on others.

Fourth, do not pray for peace, do not be afraid of difficulties, and do not falter in the face of obstacles.

Fifth, have excellent will and dare to accept risks to achieve the chosen goal.

Sixth, have a broad mind, be open to new things, not conservative, intolerant, or narrow-minded (Ho Ba Tham, 2006).

The political bravery of An Giang University students is a part of the overall student personality, related to the student's lifestyle, ethics, and efforts. Students with political courage persistently strive to the end for their goals, overcoming all circumstances and fate to move towards a better future. Currently, the political bravery of An Giang University students not only follows inherent internal laws but is also influenced by subjective and objective factors such as economic environment, culture, society; the trend of globalization and international integration; training and fostering subjects, family environment; age psychology and self-training of students.

Factors affecting the political bravery of An Giang University students today
Objective factors impact the political bravery of An Giang University students

Firstly, the impact of the economic, cultural and social environment:

– Cultural factors.

Culture plays a vital role in personal and social life; it dramatically impacts the formation and training of students' political courage. Our Party has determined that culture is the spiritual foundation of society, that is, social standards built and summarized in the history of building and protecting the fatherland of each country and people, at the same time exchanging and absorbing the cultural quintessence of humanity to create the nation's own cultural identity, helping to eliminate backward and extreme elements in spiritual life gradually.

Today's generation of young people and students have the conditions to study and absorb the cultural quintessence of humanity to perfect their personality, enhance cultural behavior, build a healthy cultural lifestyle, and progress set. However, the increasingly deep integration process appears and promotes the process of impact, intrusion, supplementation, and even conflict between traditional and modern value systems and cultural standards, national and international. The introduction of foreign culture includes a lifestyle contrary to the sound traditional values of the nation, even anti-values and anti-culture. These negatives are revealed more and more clearly in the decline in youth's political stance, capacity, quality, and courage, which tends to stray away from cultural standards. Therefore, there needs to be proper attention from leaders and schools to educate students, train students to be political, and become good citizens in society.

– Ethnic and religious factors.

Vietnam is a multi-faith, multi-religious country. Vietnamese people have a long tradition of living and religious activities. The ethnic groups in the Vietnamese ethnic community all have their own beliefs associated with their economic and spiritual lives. While leading the revolution, our Party constantly affirmed that ethnic issues, religious issues and ethnic work, and religious work are stra-

tegic issues of particular importance. We implement national and religious policies and promote the traditions of the revolutionary cause of the entire Party, people, and army. Throughout the development process, our Party and State's views on ethnic policies are consistent with the principle of equality, solidarity, mutual support, and development of all ethnic groups.

The Vietnamese ethnic community has an uneven level of economic, cultural, and social development as well as customs and practices due to differences in historical circumstances and geographical conditions. Hostile forces have taken advantage of that problem to illegally propagate religion, restore outdated customs, negatively affect people's lives, and make it difficult for local party committees and authorities to implement their policies, leadership, and management activities at the grassroots level. In addition, taking advantage of some signs of degeneration, bureaucracy, and corruption of a part of officials and party members, they propagate and distort the Party's guidelines, policies, and laws of the State, denying the achievements of the reform and the prosperity of ethnic minority areas, mountainous areas, and areas where religious people live, to make people lose faith in the Party, government, and regime socialist. Ethnic and spiritual challenges are even more complicated when they are directed at young people, revealing their ambition to destroy the nation's future.

– Social media elements.

Among the methods of communication, social networks or social media (social media) are increasingly developing and having a strong influence around the world, becoming an indispensable online platform for many young people, especially university students. In the context of integration, social network users are mainly young people with more and more opportunities to participate in the vast world of information and connection. The positive effects of social networks on young people are undeniable if they know how to use them properly. Therefore, it is necessary to "focus on exploiting and effectively using modern media, scientific and technological achievements, especially the Internet in the education of children" (Party Central Committee, 2015). Besides the positive aspects that need to be

exploited effectively, social media can become a destructive tool for hostile forces targeting young people and students. “Students are constantly being lured and seduced by hostile and reactionary forces. Some students were incited by bad forces and committed actions that violated the law and went against the revolutionary goals and ideals of the Party and the nation” (Vietnamese Student Association, 2019). Youth and students have always been the leading force in any historical period, mainly in building and protecting the Fatherland. In the context of socio-economic development and increasingly deep international integration, youth have many conditions and opportunities to promote the tradition of revolutionary heroes and rise to assert themselves in all areas of life and social living. Therefore, hostile forces always view young people and students as particular subjects who take advantage of social media technology to carry out “peaceful evolution” plots.

– Economical factors.

The market economy profoundly and comprehensively impacts all aspects of social life. The development of the market economy improves people’s material and spiritual lives, and the quality of life is increasingly enhanced, creating the best conditions for people to develop comprehensively. Under the impact of the laws of the market economy, several new values are formed and strongly developed in students, such as political independence, political decisiveness, and political courage. Improving economic efficiency through measuring profits in a market economy creates an objective basis for increasing the qualities of flexibility, accuracy, and intelligence, thereby positively eliminating the habit of reliance and dependence inherent in a group of students.

The market economy has changed students’ perspectives on social life, cultural values, ethics, lifestyle, and employment. Although students’ integration capacity and social skills have improved, they still need to meet the requirements of the international integration process; they have limited ability to think independently and knowledge of national history and culture.

Second, the trend of globalization and international integration

In the 21st century, the trend of globalization is increasingly vital. Vietnam is integrat-

ing with the world and participating in globalization to build and develop the country. With the correct policy of the Party, the government continues to be stable; its position is constantly increasing, creating significant opportunities for students to study, approach human civilization, and improve knowledge, especially scientific achievements – technology.

The dynamism and affirmation of self-worth in the community and society is one of the clear manifestations of the change in the thinking and lifestyle of students during the period of the country’s integration with the world. They are proactive in finding favorable environments for studying and working while contributing to highly community-based activities. Students can express themselves with set goals through organizations or voluntarily establishing social groups. However, when promoting self-worth, students need the correct orientation to avoid quickly disregarding ethics and laws to pursue personal interests, ignoring the harmony of social interests, giving rise to this path. Live selfishly and indifferently, eroding the moral tradition of the nation. International integration and increasingly expanded cultural exchange are good conditions for students to broaden their horizons and access and enjoy more diverse cultural products and achievements. However, if they do not have the bravery and ability to select the correct cultural elements, they are easily “submerged” in value systems that are “inappropriate” for Vietnamese society and people, forming a mentality of foreign principles, “imitate,” “learn” new things that do not conform to good customs and traditions.

Subjective factors affecting the political bravery of An Giang University students

Firstly, training and fostering subjects

– Party Committee, Board of Directors of An Giang University

The Party Committee and Board of Directors of An Giang University directly lead and direct the implementation of the school’s political tasks, from implementing training and expertise to organizing political training for students pellets. The leadership role of the Party Committee and Board of Directors of An Giang University determines the results of training students’ political courage.

The Party Committee and Board of Directors have a decisive role in that entire process, with the role of leadership, direction, and inspection of educational activities and training of students' political bravery. The Party Committee orients educational tasks to form a scientific worldview and improve political qualities for students. The Board of Directors is responsible for implementing the resolutions of the school Party Committee and the regulations of superiors on education and training. In addition, the Party Committee and Board of Directors directly impact the training of political theory lecturers in terms of professional qualifications, political qualities, and professional ethics to take on their roles well game for training students' political bravery.

– Faculty of expertise and a team of teachers at An Giang University.

In universities, specialized faculties are responsible for the content, quality, and teaching progress of assigned subjects in the training program and for testing and evaluating students' learning processes and results. The faculty is also the unit that participates in training and fostering lecturers who directly teach specialized knowledge to students. Therefore, specialized faculties and a team of pedagogues who are formally trained, have excellent professional expertise, and have scientific educational methods suitable for each type of student have the most substantial impact on education and the process of training students' political courage.

In the university curriculum, political theory subjects contribute to forming worldview and scientific methodology, Communism's outlook on life, revolutionary ethics, The Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws. Therefore, political theory lecturers have the most direct and effective impact on training students' political courage. The expression of political knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of political theory lecturers will substantially change students' stance, capacity, quality, and political courage.

– Youth Union, Student Association of An Giang University.

In addition to the leadership of Party Committees at universities, the Youth Union and the Student Association are also important subjects that directly impact the process

of training students' political courage. The coordination between professional faculties with the Youth Union and the Student Association diversifies, enriches, enlivens, and brings high efficiency to training students' political bravery.

With the role of a "Socialist School" for young people, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, through different contents and methods of operation, with many kinds of activities to unite and gather, educating young people and students to focus on the tasks of learning, training, and completing the school's determined training goals and requirements. Documents of the 10th Congress of the Vietnam Student Association clearly stated: "The important task of the Union in the new period is to build a class of young people who are patriotic, have a beautiful lifestyle, and have a sense of citizenship.", knowing how to harmoniously handle one's interests in the common interests of the collective and community; have revolutionary ideals and solid political will; have knowledge, expertise, skills and good labor skills; be cultured and live a meaningful life; have healthy physical and mental health; rich in creative enthusiasm and volunteer spirit" (Vietnamese Student Association, 2023).

– Student Affairs Department of An Giang University.

According to the Student Affairs Regulations for full-time university training programs, student affairs is one of the critical tasks of higher education institutions, including overall educational and propaganda activities transmission, management, Support, and services to students to ensure the goals of higher education. Student affairs must comply with the party's policies and guidelines, the state's policies and laws, and the regulations of the Ministry of Education and Training. Student affairs must ensure democracy, objectivity, fairness, openness, and transparency in issues related to students.

The Student Affairs Department takes on an essential step in training students' political courage. It is a support unit that advises the principal on work activities, learner strategies, and the provision of student services in community service. It supports academic advising, alums' work, and student academic clubs. With the function of managing the

implementation of students' academic tasks according to the prescribed program and plan and complying with current rules and regulations, the Student Affairs Department directly impacts the student affairs process program to train students' political courage.

In addition, friendship relationships also significantly influence the process of cultivating students' political courage. This relationship can lead to positive or negative trends. When friends share the same ideals and aspirations, they will motivate and direct them to strengthen their political courage. If your friends have a lifestyle of enjoyment, selfishness, and worshiping hybrid, foreign cultures... they will easily be swept away by negative trends, inhibiting their will to strive.

Second, students' age psychology and self-training

– Psychophysiological factors of age.

Firstly, students need to express their personality

Students increasingly have a high need for self-affirmation, a high need for self-esteem, and a desire to be recognized and respected by others. A student's "ego" is pride, but sometimes complacency and aggressiveness. Faced with unfair phenomena or manifestations that go against reason or morality, students can react directly and spontaneously and be easily hurt and disappointed. Students' beliefs are pure, sincere, good-oriented, and rich in emotions; sometimes, those emotions overwhelm reason. When there are positive agents and exceptionally bright moral examples, students' political courage will develop in a favorable direction; on the contrary, they are easily attracted to damaging moral agents and return to the good traditional moral values of the nation.

Second, students like to interact and consider it a valuable and necessary learning activity.

The student age group has abundant potential to develop physically and intellectually to meet the increasing demands of practice. Whether the exchange activity is individual or organized, it opens up a fun, accessible environment, attracting many individuals to participate. It is an open environment where individuals can meet, penetrate, exchange experiences, or share topics that students themselves need to learn about. With the

mentality of being light-hearted, gullible, and liking to exchange and explore, "sweet" enticements and evil cults easily penetrate student life and have caused significant societal consequences.

Third, the practicality, dynamism, and creativity of students

The significant differences between the student age groups are the abundance of potential for development, from physical to intellectual, sensitivity and adaptability to new things, and rich needs for spiritual culture. Compared to previous generations of students before the reform period, today's students are more practical, dynamic, and creative. Practicality is expressed right in the careful selection of the major to study so that when graduating, you can quickly get a job and get a job that brings high income. Dynamism is reflected in an agile and active lifestyle, quick access to network and socio-economic information, grasping and approaching the market, learning while taking advantage of part-time jobs, and experiencing while learning to have income. Creativity is reflected in the application of information technology, innovation in learning methods, and scientific research.

– Self-training factor

Self-study or self-education is the process of students systematically learning, absorbing, filtering, and accumulating knowledge and living capital from outside to have a steadfast stance, apparent qualities, capacity steadfastness, and cheerful courage. Talking about self-education is about students' proactiveness and creativity, overcoming challenging obstacles in learning, training, and life to capture the knowledge and experience of generations ahead. This is the process of students self-advocating and resolving conflicts to become more mature. Talking about self-study, President Ho Chi Minh once affirmed: "If you don't have a teacher, you can study. If you don't have a teacher, you can joke. Must know how to learn automatically" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011); "We must improve and guide self-study, we must learn at school, learn from books, learn from each other and learn from the people" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011).

Self-education is carried out based on inherent human qualities: positivity and initiative. They promote positivity and initiative so students act independently with their

strengths and abilities without being influenced by others or external circumstances. When students clearly define their goals and the path to achieve them, they will have a higher awareness of self-cultivation, from which self-improvement becomes a personal need. If the process of “self-education” equips you with scientific knowledge, the “self-training” process is applying that knowledge into practice. In essence, there are two sides to the issue of self-cultivation: the theoretical side and the practical side. This shows a need for a dialectical methodology in promoting positivity, initiative, self-education, and self-training to enhance students’ political bravery.

Conclusion

Vietnamese students, in general, and An Giang University students, in particular, are the pillars of the country, with the mission to continue the glorious revolutionary cause of the Party and the nation, shouldering the task of building and preserving the country’s

Defense of the Socialist Fatherland of Vietnam. That task can only be completed when the generation of Vietnamese youth and students are cared for and trained to have qualifications, ethics, and political courage. That is a vital issue of the Vietnamese revolution. In building and enhancing students’ political bravery, they are influenced by many objective and subjective factors on both positive and negative sides. Therefore, the requirement is to exploit and promote negative impacts and overcome positive impacts to strengthen the political education of Vietnamese students today.

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