

Current Situation, Significance and Approaches of Integrating National Non-Traditional Security Education Into College Students' Ideological and Political Education

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Abstract: The reinforcement of non-traditional security education serves as a supplementary measure to the ideological and political education of college students. China's national security education primarily relies on classroom instruction, military training, student activities, and professional development while overlooking the significance of non-traditional security education. It is imperative for universities to take actions like clarifying the concept of non-traditional security, and effectively utilize information technology, so as to further fortify non-traditional security education for college students.

Keywords: Non-traditional Security; College Students; Ideological and Political Education

At present, the international situation has produced a series of changes, which have brought certain challenges to national security and stability. Non-traditional security issues have been increasing, and their impact on international relations and national security has become increasingly prominent and important. College students are the key force for national development, and educating college students' national security and broad international vision is conducive to further shaping college students' world views and their views on life and values, so as to cultivate young people who are able to take the great responsibility of national rejuvenation.

1. Concept and Status Quo of National Non-Traditional Security Education

1.1 Meaning of Non-Traditional Security Education

Differing from conventional security domains such as military and political security, non-traditional security primarily encompasses culture, science and technology, education, ecology, and other fields. It emphasizes the close association between people's livelihoods and security issues to bridge the gap between national security and ordinary citizens. Competition in traditional fields like military affairs and diplomacy no longer solely determines a country's overall security. Non-traditional security education for college students aims to cultivate their understanding of non-traditional security concepts by exploring current situations and existing challenges within this realm, which benefits to foster a holistic perspective that enables them to develop a more comprehensive international view. Given the growing significance of non-traditional security matters, greater attention should be devoted to their educational aspects.

1.2 The Current State of National Security Education in China

1.2.1 Theoretical education through ideological and political courses represented by the "Situation and Policy" course

The "Situation and Policy" course is an ideological and political theory course offered in colleges, aiming to facilitate students in acquiring a precise comprehension of both domestic and international situations in the new era. It encourages students to deeply comprehend the accomplishments of national development, as well as guiding them towards a proper understanding of global trends. Universities have established curriculum systems encompassing courses to teach cutting-edge changes occurring domestically and internationally, which plays a significant role in shaping students' perception regarding concepts related to national security.

1.2.2 Military training practice focused on patriotic education

The document titled "Notice of the Ministry of Education on Enhancing Students' Military Training Management" underscores the significance of students' military training and presents comprehensive teaching requirements for military training. Universities have established systematic courses encompassing both theoretical knowledge and practical application to further fortify patriotic

education among college students, thereby significantly broadening the approach of national security education in higher education institutions.

1.2.3 Student activities centered around the theme of “National Security”

Since July 2015, China has decided April 15th as “National Security Education Day” annually. On this day, Chinese universities organize a diverse range of student activities, including lectures on national security and thematic class meetings, with the aim of enhancing the efficacy of national security education and fostering increased student engagement.

1.2.4 Emphasizing national security as a core subject in professional education

With the increasing attention and advancement of research on national security in China, specialized disciplines such as national security science have emerged. These disciplines have rapidly established comprehensive first-level programs encompassing contemporary issues, strategies, and intersections. Additionally, experts and scholars in fields related to national security have recognized the growing significance of non-traditional security concerns and shifted their research focus accordingly.

In summary, our country’s approach to national security education is characterized by a relatively diverse and comprehensive framework. However, the current Chinese national security education tends to prioritize traditional military and political aspects while overlooking non-traditional areas such as culture, information technology, and media studies. These non-traditional areas are not adequately addressed within classroom content or curriculum structure.

2. The Importance and Benefits of Strengthening National Non-Traditional Security Education

2.1 Realign with the dynamic era and enhance the global perspective of college students

In the new era, the international landscape has witnessed significant transformations, deviating from conventional security concerns as the primary focus of global affairs. Given the urgency of challenges such as energy crises, food security, natural disasters, and economic downturns, it is imperative for college students to expand their international perspective beyond military and diplomatic realms and acknowledge non-traditional security issues on a global scale. Enhancing national education on non-traditional security for college students facilitates exploration of overlooked national security matters among them while enhancing the substance and structure of national security education. This approach broadens their global outlook, nurtures a robust worldview, and cultivates talents with an international mindset.

2.2 Enhance college students’ comprehensive awareness of national security

The realm of non-traditional security matters primarily encompasses areas closely intertwined with people’s livelihoods, including the economy, culture, network technology, and energy—areas that are often overlooked. For instance, there has been a surge in network fraud cases recently resulting in substantial financial losses and psychological harm to college students. Enhancing relevant aspects of educational programs for college students on these topics contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of national security issues by deepening comprehension regarding non-traditional dimensions.

2.3 Maintain the stability and security of the university

Given the continuous growth of internet usage and international exchanges, college students are increasingly exposed to foreign cultures, which poses certain challenges to school security and stability. Enhancing non-traditional security education for college students is instrumental in enhancing their ability to discern network-related issues, information reliability, cultural influences, among other aspects, ultimately safeguarding the learning and living environments within colleges.

3. Approaches of Making National Non-Traditional Security Education Part of Ideological and Political Education of College Students

Clarify the concept of non-traditional security theoretically, thereby raising students’ awareness towards it. Currently, national security education in our country primarily uses “national security” summarizing the whole content, neglecting the inclusion of non-traditional security content as an independent and explicit subject. Consequently, students’ attention is not effectively captured. Therefore, it is imperative to continuously enhance theoretical research on non-traditional security, enrich its content, and systematize it within the framework of college students’ ideological and political education. This approach will facilitate a deeper comprehension of non-traditional security issues among students and enable them to better appreciate its significance.

Innovate educational methods and diversify learning channels for college students. Employing a combination of diverse teaching aids can enhance students understanding and application of subject matter. Besides classroom instruction, practical activities and disciplines, student activities should be simultaneously innovative by incorporating new elements like live-action role-playing

centered around non-traditional security themes. This approach will enable college students to know about the risks associated with non-traditional security through entertainment-based methods, thereby training their abilities to deal with problems.

Enhance the efficacy of non-traditional security education through intelligent information technology. With the continuous innovation of technologies such as artificial intelligence in today's era of science and technology, along with the development of new media platforms, the platform for information dissemination has been wider. We can leverage intelligent tools to innovate teaching methods by utilizing AI systems and big data statistics to gauge students' feedback on non-traditional safety learning to know their progress so that we can update teaching approaches accordingly. Furthermore, strengthening non-traditional security education through new media platforms allows us to educate students via videos, images, and other content formats while expanding the scope of non-traditional security education.

Reformulate a rational and efficient assessment mechanism to foster learning. A reasonable and effective evaluation mechanism is conducive to assessing students' learning outcomes and quantifying their level of knowledge acquisition. Non-traditional security education should establish a rational evaluation mechanism that incorporates a combination of assessment methods, such as social practice investigation reports and classroom presentations. Additionally, competitions can be employed to encourage students learning, for instance by providing research projects related to non-traditional security issues or organizing knowledge competitions and emergency response tests focused on non-traditional security topics.

Reinforce the academic workforce of colleges and universities, and endeavor to establish a faculty reserve characterized by diversity. College educators play a pivotal role as an essential support system for school-based education. Higher education institutions should further enhance their faculty in non-traditional security education by actively attracting exceptional talent from various fields such as national security studies, optimizing their staff in non-traditional security education to nurture students with an outstanding global perspective.

The education of national non-traditional security serves as a complementary and extended component of national security education, facilitating the dissemination of comprehensive knowledge on national security and enhancing college students' comprehension in this field. Universities should take actions to fortify the provision of non-traditional security education.

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