

**SOME SOLUTIONS TO KEEP AND PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM FOR  
VIETNAMESE STUDENTS TODAY**

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**ABSTRACT**

The spirit of patriotism is the highest standard of morality and leading in the cultural and spiritual value system of the Vietnamese nation. Patriotism acts as a great endogenous motivation of the Vietnamese ethnic community, creating the unrivaled power in the resistance wars against foreign aggression and in the cause of building the country. Vietnamese youth in general and students in particular are the future generation of the country. Within the scope of the article, on the basis of the formation and development of Vietnam's national patriotic values, the authors raised the reality of patriotic education for students in order to give solutions to preserve and promote the spirit of patriotism for the Vietnamese students nowadays.

**Key Words:** Value, The Spirit Of Patriotism, Vietnam, Students.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In the current trend of opening up for integration, in the face of complicated developments in the domestic and international ideological and political situation, the requirement to raise theoretical awareness and train political bravery among young people in general and students in particular are more important. The process of globalization makes students more active and responsive to new things. Along with that, the strong development of information technology revolution has brought a huge amount of information that is multidimensional and extremely complex (Duong, 2017). However, students also have to face many negative impacts from the internet and from the society. Students are very active, ambitious and easily receptive to new information and ideas. However, their ability to analyze, identify and select information is still limited, easily faltered, manipulated and agitated, leading to incorrect or even wrong decisions. Therefore, preserving and promoting the value of patriotism through patriotic education for students is an urgent need today, in order to build a socialist person, "both virtuous and talented".

**2. RESEARCH CONTENT**

***2.1. The current situation of preserving and promoting the patriotic value of the Vietnamese nation in patriotism education for students today***

During the past time, the activities to implement the guidelines of the Party, State and the Ministry of Education and Training on ethics, personality and lifestyle education for students have always been thoroughly and seriously implemented, such as: the Politburo's Directive No. 05 on promoting the studying and following of President Ho Chi Minh's thought, morality and style, the Directive No. 42 of the Party Central Committee's Secretariat on strengthening the Party's leadership over the education of revolutionary ideal, morality, lifestyle for youth in the 2015 -

2030 period, Prime Minister's Decision No. 1501 on “*Enhancing the revolutionary ideal education, ethics and lifestyles for youth, adolescents and children in 2015-2020*”... The development of an action plan to bring the resolution to life is very important, directed regularly and getting specific attention.

Most schools have taken many measures to enhance patriotic education for students through innovating teaching contents and methods, and methods of assessment and testing students' learning outcomes. The effectiveness of innovating teaching methods and teaching objectives in the direction of positively activating activities and forming students' capacity is increasingly evident.

However, the activities aimed at educating students about patriotism have not been organized regularly and distributed equally among schools. The content and form of organizing activities are still limited; therefore, the effect on patriotic awareness, attitudes and behavior has not yet achieved as expectations and desires.

*On the teacher's side*, due to the pressure of the teaching program and examination, they only provide knowledge and skills for the students to take the exam, do not pay due attention to teaching humanities, moral training, social significance, and the requirements of morality, political ideology. In addition, the content of patriotic education focuses on subjects that are not related to the major and the teaching duration is not enough for teachers to introduce and educate regularly.

*From the student's side*, due to the influence of distorted perceptions and pressure from the family and the outside society under the impact of the market economy and the social networks, they tend to study for attaining literacy, getting points and getting a graduation degree. The subjects related to patriotism education are almost not specialized subjects; therefore, the students think that this knowledge is not very relevant and helpful for work, accordingly they are neglectful and uninterested in these subjects, and only study for the purpose of passing the exam.

*From the school's side*, most schools only care about improving the academic quality of students, but almost no one notices and also lacks criteria to evaluate the degree and patriotic behavior of students. Subjects related to patriotic education have received little attention, especially vocational training schools. Measures and methods are still monotonous, unable to attract the participation of teachers and educational forces that leads to low effect.

*From the parent's side*, although the family plays an important role in educating patriotism for students, many families are not aware of their role in patriotic education for the next generation in their family. To them, it is the responsibility of the school, society, and mass organizations, so they do not care about this issue. That significantly affects the general educational results of the whole society, affects the preservation and development of beautiful cultural values in the patriotic tradition in the current Vietnamese young generation.

*From the educational force's side outside the school*, especially the activities organized by the Union, the educational coordination is still weak, formal, unfocused and not going into depth, so the effect of teaching patriotic education for high school students is not high. The coordination between the Party organization, the government, and other socio-political organizations in the locality with the school is not close; therefore, the effect achieved is still limited and not sustainable.

***There are many reasons for this situation:***

***Objective reasons:***

The development of the market economy and the trend of globalization on the one hand create favorable conditions for preserving and promoting patriotic traditions, but with the aim of

opposing the Vietnamese revolution, the hostile forces have been using very malicious and sinister tricks in many fields. Stemming from the characteristics of Vietnamese students, the target object of hostile forces is none other than students. They take advantage of the trend of expanding international cooperation to bring depraved and reactionary cultural products into the spiritual life of students. Many subjects have crept into student dorms and lecture halls, attended the scientific conferences, and used the internet for the purpose of manipulating and inciting to create instability in politics and ideology that causes the incidents of disturbing order and security in the student life and in the society.

***Subjective reasons:***

*Regarding the education in school:* In today's trend of globalization of the knowledge economy, colleges and universities are paying more attention to science and technology education, economics, informatics, foreign languages... than humanities education.

*Regarding the education in family:* Due to the pressure of the economy, the parents are forgetting the duty of educating children's character. They are not really a good role model for their children to follow. In addition, many families are not properly aware of the role of subjects related to the content of ideological and lifestyle education in general and patriotic education in particular.

*Regarding the students:* Most students do not properly realize the importance of fostering and practicing patriotism for themselves. In their studies, the students underestimated political theory, national defense and security education... They did not see the role of this subject in moral education, character education, and patriotism education. Thus, their wrong perceptions lead to the limitations in patriotic education.

*Regarding the content of patriotic education:* In fact, up to now, our country has not had any documents that specifically identify the criteria for patriotic awareness and behavior that need to be educated for students. (The Central Committee for Ideology and Culture, 2005). Therefore, it is difficult for the schools to aim at patriotic education for students. Moreover, today's patriotism includes both consciousness and actions to bring the country out of poverty and backwardness, to believe in the cause of renewal, to preserve and promote cultural traditions of the nation, conscious of environmental protection... However, these contents have not been brought much into the curriculum.

Thus, all the above reasons lead to the limitation of the activities of preserving the value of patriotic spirit through educating students on patriotism.

***2.2. Solutions to keep and promote patriotism for Vietnamese students today***

*Firstly, continue to innovate the content and methods of patriotism education in schools in the direction of promoting the initiative and positivity of students in learning as well as in practising.*

It is necessary to renovate the teaching content and methods, first of all, subjects related to the traditional moral education of the nation such as: Political theory, Security - defense. The purpose of this innovation is not only to improve the effectiveness of teaching "literacy" but also to increase the quality of teaching "humanities". Taking students as the center, promoting positivity in cognitive activities and training students' patriotic behavior.

The Youth Union and Student Affairs are close organizations that stick closely with students during their study at the school. Therefore, the activities of the Union and the Association should not be too heavy and dry, but are not too superficial or lack of profoundness... The diversity of

form, the richness of content, and the profound meaning of organized movements and activities must be considered as the top goals. The school needs to organize the meetings and contact with the military units, the heroes, the historical witnesses, and the leaders... to understand the patriotic tradition, from that arousing aspirations for the students to strive and grow up.

*Secondly, implement the synchronous combination of home, family and society*

With its own functional position, each force, each environment has its own important role and position. If we slacken or disregard any factor, it will greatly negatively impact on the patriotic education process for the students.

*The family* needs to preserve morality, family etiquette; has a sense of educating the nation's tradition that make those values shine more and more and contribute to fostering noble sentiments for the next generation. It is necessary to attach importance to building a warm, harmonious and happy family in which the children's personality is respected. Each family should organize a daily living space for their children to express their patriotic feelings and behavior, thereby training their personality. This will help them fight against distorted foreign views and social evils. The family also needs to monitor their children's behaviors and gestures to promptly correct the attitudes and the behaviors that are inconsistent with the patriotism.

*The school* needs to innovate teaching methods of humanities and social sciences subjects to suit the actual physical facilities; combine lectures with extracurricular activities; give prominence to the role and responsibility of the teachers in educating the students about the patriotism through the lectures. Attracting the students to participate in socio-political activities that helps students apply their knowledge of patriotism in practice.

*The socio-political organizations* in the area need to rely on their great potential to help the school build facilities; provide financial support for extracurricular activities to improve teaching effectiveness of the patriotic education for the students.

*Thirdly, focus on taking the example of "good people, good deeds" to teach patriotism for students*

Setting an example has long been known in history as a requirement, a highly effective method of education. Throughout his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh once pointed out that: "a living example is worth more than a hundred propaganda speeches" (Ho, 2002, p.263).

Educating students by using the example of good people and good deeds in students, teachers, and families is a practical job. In order to improve the effectiveness of education, we need to focus on setting an example through the typical models to encourage the spirit of learning emulation, and regularly educate the youth on the traditions of the Party, the Union and the locality. In order to improve the effectiveness of education, we need to focus on setting an example through the typical models to encourage the spirit of learning emulation, and regularly educate the youth on the traditions of the Party, the Union and the locality. The young generation "educates each other" not only by shining examples of the heroes through the ages, but also by paying attention to the example of "good people, good deeds" around us (Nguyen & Nguyen, 2002). That example is always present everywhere, at all times, and very close to daily life that anyone can learn and follow.

*Fourthly, need to promote the role of the mass media, culture and arts*

It is also necessary to pay attention to the participation of the mass media in further improving the patriotic education of students today. Radios, televisions, and newspapers need to develop many programs suitable for students' ages, with content aimed at educating the young generation in patriotic traditions. Adjust the broadcast schedule so that the students can follow.

Increase the number of the articles and the radio broadcasts on examples of good people, good deeds in working, studying, constructing and defending the Fatherland. Reduce the duration of programs that are heavily commercial and educational.

*Fifthly, closely combine the educational process and self-education*

Improving the patriotism education for students today requires not only improving the quality of the teachers, but also closely combining the educational and self-educated process, turning the patriotic education process of students into the process of self-education, under the guidance of the teachers and the educational forces. Particularly as below:

For the students: they need to be aware of themselves, know how to absorb and consciously accept the standards and values of patriotism. At the same time, starting from the affection and the personal efforts, each individual can turn patriotic standards and values into the basis and the direction for their cognitive activities and behavior. Self-test and self-correct to improve knowledge and know how to apply it to specific situations and draw experience for self (Nguyen, 2014).

*For the teachers:* they not only transmit the knowledge, but also adjust the cognitive process and personality formation of students, adjust the orientation to help students filter the most accurate information. Without the guidance and orientation from the teacher, the student is like standing at a fork in the road and is very easily seduced, agitated, and manipulated by bad elements that lead them to a fall.

*Other educational forces:* It is also necessary to create conditions for the students to study well on their own by equipping them with adequate materials, effectively organizing extracurricular activities with patriotic education content for students to apply in reality.

Thus, the school, the family and society no matter how well they do, cannot replace the self-education and training spirit of the students. In order for today's students to raise their awareness of self-cultivation and self-patriotic training, they must create a living environment where patriotic values are present from family to school and to society.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The process of globalization makes students more active and sensitive to the new things. Besides, the strong development of information technology revolution has brought a huge amount of information that is multidimensional and extremely complex. That fact requires the Education - Training sector to promptly adapt to the new conditions; constantly innovating the content and the program to meet the high requirements from the learners.

Preserving and promoting the patriotic value of the Vietnamese nation in patriotic education for the students is the responsibility of the whole society. The implementation in the current period must go through a long and complicated process that requires the elaboration, the perseverance and continuity, and the consistent implementation. The success of the work of preserving and promoting the patriotic value of the Vietnamese nation in patriotic education for students today not only relies on the educational participation of the educational forces, but also must rely on the students themselves to turn the educational process into the self-education process.

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