Educating Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism to Vietnamese youth in the current times

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ABSTRACT: As a great leader, Ho Chi Minh understood the role and importance of the younger generation in the revolutionary career. He always cared about youth education, in which patriotism was put on top. According to Ho Chi Minh, patriotic youth are the young people having the ideal of living rightly, have great morality, knowing how to fight, dedicate and sacrifice for the sake of the Fatherland and the people. It is necessary to educate the patriotism of the youth through schools, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, through the examples of heroic martyrs, veteran revolutionary soldiers, resounding feats of building and defending country in historical eras. These ideas are very valuable and they will forever shine along the journey of national history.

Keywords: Youth, patriotic, patriotism, education, ideal

I. HO CHI MINH’S PATRIOTISM

Patriotism is one of the universal spiritual values in every nation. No nation in the world does not love its Fatherland. However, among nations, due to many different reasons, the processes of forming and developing patriotism are not exactly the same in its nature as well as characteristics.

In Vietnam, patriotism is the highest traditional spiritual value of our nation, the crystallization of the ideology and bravery of our people in the struggle to conquer the harsh nature to build the country and in the wars against foreign aggression to keep the country. It is the earnest love of a village, homeland, country, the reverence for ancestors, grandparents, and the respect for parents. It is the appreciation of the nation’s beautiful voice, culture and customs, the awareness of community solidarity, friendship, and attachment in a nation. It is the awareness of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Traditional patriotism of Vietnam has stretched along the historical line from the time when Hung Kings built the country, passing through the spirit of Hai Ba Trung, to the time of Ly Thuong Kiet’s affirmation of the independent will, national sovereignty and the national territorial integrity. Nurtured through the Le Loi and Nguyen Trai dynasties, it became an ideal of aspiring to extinguish the flame of the war of aggression, building harmonious and equal relations among nations. Vietnam’s patriotism was also held high in the Tay Son farmer movement, with the talented leader Quang Trung, showing a strong will of our people in building and defending an independent, united and rich Fatherland. Compatriotism, respect for independence and freedom has become the reason for living, the traditional moral quality of our people and the whole nation.

For more than half a century of revolutionary activities, Ho Chi Minh was deeply aware of the spiritual value of Vietnam and the power of Vietnamese patriotism. The independent Vietnamese newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Viet Minh Front, on December 1, 1942, published the article entitled "It’s better to learn our history" by Nguyen Ai Quoc: “Our people must know our history/ In order to understand thoroughly the origin of home country of Vietnam” [2, p.221]. Summarizing the history of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh emphasized: “Our people have a passionate patriotism. It’s one of our precious traditions. From ancient times to the present, whenever the Fatherland was invaded, that spirit was excited, it combined into an extremely powerful, huge wave, it passed through all the dangers and difficulties, it engulfed all the traitors and bandits” [3, p.171]. Clearly, the traditional Vietnamese spiritual value system, headed by patriotism, has played a huge role in the

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career of national construction and defense. In the twentieth century, Ho Chi Minh came to Marxism-Leninism as a miraculous encounter between true patriotism and the revolutionary and scientific doctrine of the era, found in Marxist-Leninism the light of the road to save the country and people. From that formed Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism.

Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism is the Vietnamese patriotism that emerged in the process of liberating the Vietnamese nation by the proletariat revolution and building a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Vietnam in the socialist way.

Ho Chi Minh patriotism is revolutionary patriotism. Ho Chi Minh was the first person to lay the foundations for revolutionary patriotism as a leader of the Party and of the nation, who has enlightened it throughout the history from the August Revolution to the present. That revolutionary patriotism became the patriotism of the entire Vietnamese people.

Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism is the patriotism of the nation in modern times. It is the patriotism of the nation named after Him. National traditional patriotism, under the light of Marxism - Leninism, has made a great leap forward in terms of quality and rose to the level of the times. In that great leap forward, Ho Chi Minh was the first person to lay the foundation for a new type of patriotism at a new stage in the nation's history, the most prominent of which was unity between nation and classes, national independence and socialism, patriotism and proletarian internationalism.

II. WHY MUST EDUCATE HO CHI MINH'S PATRIOTISM FOR VIETNAMESE YOUTH IN THE CURRENT TIMES?

Patriotism is a valuable tradition of Vietnamese people. Patriotism has been handed down from generation to generation, it has permeated into the minds of Vietnamese people. Patriotism, ideal enlightenment, self-reliance, self-help, the will of not suffering poverty, backwardness are the factors that create strong political courage for young people, helping them overcome difficulties and challenges, repelling the trivial material temptation and the acts of sabotaging the youth of the hostile forces.

Educating patriotism for young people requires regularity, continuation and close link to the development process and practical situation of the country. The Political Report at the 12th National Representatives’ Congress of the Party stated clearly the tasks to promote the youth force are: Renewing the content, methods of education of politics, ideology, ideals, traditions; fostering revolutionary ideals and patriotism; building ethics, healthy lifestyles, awareness of respect and strict observance of the constitution and laws for the younger generation; adopting appropriate mechanisms and policies to create an environment and favorable conditions for the younger generations to study, research, work, entertain, develop intellect, skills and physical strength; encouraging and inspiring young people to nurture dreams, ambition, strike, creativity and mastery of modern science and technology; upholding the role of the younger generation in the career of national construction and defense ...

Patriotism is a natural affection of people towards their homeland, the language, culture, history and fine traditions of the nation. It can be known that patriotism is the love to the homeland, the country and the spirit of readiness to give their best to serve the interests of the Fatherland. Along with the formation of the nation and the national state, patriotism from a sentimental, a psychosocial factor has gradually evolved into a social consciousness. That consciousness, when developed into a system, compatriotism has the ability to become patriotism – valued as an ideology.

It can be said that patriotism is the mainstream running through the history of our country's ideology, from the founding of the country to the present. In Vietnam, patriotism is both emotional and ideological and philosophical at the same time, “is a guideline for action, a standard for judging right - wrong, good - bad, should – should not” [1, p.10] of the Vietnamese, as Professor Tran Van Giau said.

So, patriotism is "Ethical and political principle, a social sentiment with content of love and loyalty to the Fatherland, the pride of the past and present of the Fatherland, the will to protect the interests of the Fatherland". Thus, patriotism is a category within the field of social consciousness, including the ideology and sentiments of a nation. The main content of patriotism is love and loyalty to the Fatherland.

The formation of patriotism has many causes but focuses on two basic causes: the first one is in the fight against harsh natural disasters and the second one is in the struggle against foreign aggressors. The basic content of the patriotism of the Vietnamese nation is expressed in the attachment to the homeland and the country; love for the people, race and nation; legitimate national pride; solidarity, unyieldingness and resistance against foreign invaders, protection of national sovereignty and independence and freedom of the Fatherland; being hard-working and creative in labor to build and develop the national culture and build an increasingly rich and beautiful country.

The patriotism education for the younger generation must start from educating the children to realize the love for their homeland, the country, and the socialist consciousness that is closely linked together to create the strength of Vietnamese people in the new era. So patriotism education is a process of consciously,
purposeful and planning impact on the educational objects to help the personality develop properly, helping them love their homeland more, be more loyal to Fatherland, have aspirations, take positive actions to serve and benefit the Fatherland and the People.

Today, globalization is an inevitable trend, the country has been facing new challenges and new threats. "Soft borders", "soft power" is no longer a concept mentioned in politics, economics, culture, science and technology ... but has become a strategy of many countries with specific deployment steps. Not to mention, along with the extensive integration with the world, Vietnam will have to accept harsh "games’ rules" in the context that the potential is not strong enough to control and eliminate the consequences when the door of the domestic market opens more and more widely. Facing the existing risks, compatriotism should have new implications and ways of expression.

Patriotism education for the younger generation has always been concerned by the Party, the State, families, schools and the whole society. In recent years, many resolutions and instructions of the Party on youth work and patriotism education for the young generation have been implemented, and achieved results. Activities entitled "Youth towards the sea and islands of the country"; "Writing letters to the soldiers on Truong Sa island "; "For our beloved sea and islands"; "Heart towards the homeland’s islands"; "I love the sea of Vietnam" ... have attracted a large number of young people from all over the country to participate. Thereby it can educate patriotism, arouse the emotions and awareness of responsibility of young people in preserving the sovereignty of the sea, islands, cheer, encourage our army and people who are ready to carry out the task of economic development, protecting the sovereignty, territory, sacred sea of the Fatherland...

Beside the young people who try their best for the future of themselves and contribute to the Fatherland, there is still a part of the young people with a very misconception of following a pragmatic and depraved, wasteful, selfish, emotionless, and disorganized lifestyle. However, it is only a very small part, because of standing in front of the call of the country and the era, sooner or later young people will be aware of their roles and obligations, then find out the right path.

III. MEASURES OF EDUCATING HO CHI MINH’S PATRIOTISM TO VIETNAMESE YOUTH IN CURRENT TIMES

In order to promote the achieved results to enhance the effectiveness of Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism education to Vietnamese youth today, it is necessary to perform some basic issues as follows:

Firstly, raising awareness about the role of Ho Chi Minh's patriotism education to Vietnamese youth in the current times.

Raising awareness of the whole society, including cadres, party members and people of all classes, about the role and content of Ho Chi Minh's patriotism education is very necessary. When the social awareness is raised, it is also time that we have created a favorable social environment and a great motivation to promote the work of educating Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism to young people to be more effective.

The renewal process in our country in recent years has shown that, before the strong impact of the market economy, the opening of integration, there have been many idea of disregarding, underestimating the traditional values of nation. On a social scale, the issue of traditional education, especially Ho Chi Minh's patriotism education for the youth, is sometimes not fully understood. Therefore, raising the awareness and responsibility of the whole society about the work of educating Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism for the youth is very necessary, because this is an important content of the ideological revolution and struggles to build a dynamic, creative young generation of Vietnam with a strong political bravery, and absolute confidence in the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

One of the most important things that have a significant impact on the effectiveness of Ho Chi Minh's patriotism education to the youth is that we need to create stability, socio-economic development, and to overcome the negatives, and make the social environment become healthy. We cannot educate patriotism, build trust and ideal for the youth when the political situation is unstable, economic life is not gradually improved, social problems are not solved, and negative phenomena are arising and developing more and more. Therefore, raising the awareness of the whole society about the role of Ho Chi Minh's patriotism education to the youth and creating a healthy socio-economic-cultural environment is one of the basic solutions to bring effectiveness in educating Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism to the youth.

Secondly, building a healthy cultural society, positively impacting the emotions and perceptions of the youth.

The healthy cultural environment plays an extremely important role in human life, making culture really a positive factors that motivates each person to improve his/ her personality, especially to the youth, who are at the first steps of socially self-identifying, actively participating in social life to shape the qualities of citizens, inheriting and promoting the traditional cultural values of the nation. Facing the strong impacts of the market economy and the process of international integration into the fields of socio-economic life, young people are always the force most affected. The 12th Party Congress affirmed that in the coming time, it is necessary: To
build a healthy cultural environment, contribute to educating and training people about personality, morality and lifestyle; to build culture in politics and economy; to do well the leadership, press and publishing management; to develop cultural industries associated with building and perfecting the market of cultural products and services; to integrate proactively in culture, acquire the quintessence of human culture ...

Thirdly, combining the school with the family and society in the work of patriotism education for the youth. With its own function and position, each force and each environment has its own important role and position. If you loosen or underestimate any of these factors, the result will greatly affect the process of patriotism education to the youth.

The family is the place that gives people the first and frequent, continuous lessons from birth to adulthood. Family education holds a special place to the formation and development of character, especially human education from childhood. Education and fostering activities of families have been contributing to consolidating educational and retraining contents of schools, especially for contents of educating, fostering revolutionary ideals and love for homeland, morality.

Schools play an important, professional and proactive role in educating people but schools must be associated with the reality of the home country and the lives of the people. This is a practical way to bring individuals into society, to socialize personal education to help each person better understand the real life, social practices, and revolutionary ideals. Schools should cooperate with agencies and social organizations to launch movements of eliminating and preventing social evils.

Fourthly, continuously renovating the content of the propaganda and educational work to convey the patriotism through historical knowledge

Without seeing that true source, it is difficult to have direction for the present and the future. Historical knowledge is extremely extensive and makes an important contribution to patriotism education to Vietnamese youth. Today's young generation needs to understand better than anyone else that every inch of land, every river, from the borders to remote islands in homeland of Vietnam, generations of his forefathers have fallen to protect the independence. Therefore, it is necessary to further strengthen various propaganda methods of compatriotism tradition of Vietnamese nation.

Fifthly, focusing on setting the example of "good people, good deeds" to educate the youth to help them educate themselves.

In life, patriotism is expressed by daily actions and jobs at home, schools, agencies, units, on the street... In order to help enhance the effectiveness of education, we need to focus on setting examples through advanced examples to encourage the spirit of emulation and regular education of the Party, Youth Union and local traditions to the youth. The younger generation "educates each other" not only through the shining examples of heroes throughout the ages but also through paying attention to the examples of "good people, good deeds" around us. President Ho Chi Minh taught: "In general, Eastern peoples are sentimental and to them a vital example is worthier than a hundred of propaganda speeches" [4, p.283]. Promoting the role of the youth in self-learning and self-cultivating the patriotism is also an important measure to help young people quickly progress and mature. It is also a condition that determines the training results of each individual.

IV. CONCLUSION

Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism is a smooth combination of Vietnamese traditional patriotism and Marxism – Leninism, in which Marxism – Leninism shined scientific and revolutionary light to that patriotism.

Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism is the patriotism that emerged in the process of liberating the Vietnamese nation through the proletariat revolution and building a peaceful, unified, independent, prosperous and democratic Vietnam in the socialist way.

The renewal process, initiated and led by our Party, has been bringing about great results in all areas of social life. Currently, the Vietnamese revolution is in the period of stepping up industrialization and modernization of the country. Besides great favorable opportunities, the amounts of difficulties and challenges are not small. Ho Chi Minh's patriotism played an increasingly important role in the new era.

Promoting Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism to educate the whole Party and the whole people, especially the youth throughout the country is an extremely important and urgent task, because the youth is a special social force whose role was very important role in history, in the revolutionary stages as well as the present and the future. When evaluating the youth, Ho Chi Minh affirmed, “The youth is the owner of the country in the future, the country is prosperous or impaired, weak or strong, mostly due to the young people.

The education of Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism to the youth in the period of accelerating industrialization and modernization is very important and necessary. In order to improve the effectiveness of education, it is required that all levels, unions and departments need to implement synchronously, systematically and comprehensively solutions to educate in general and educate Ho Chi Minh’s patriotism in Ho Chi Minh to achieve best results, create a “red” and “specialized” young generation meeting the increasing demands of the
society, striving for the goals of a strong country with prosperous people, and a fair, democratic and civilized society.

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