

Political Fortitude And Marxist–Leninist Theoretical Awareness Among Youth Union Members And Young People “Current Situation And Solutions For Enhancement In The University Environment”

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ABSTRACT:- Youth Union members and young people in Vietnamese universities constitute a young intellectual force that is dynamic and creative, and they are expected to become the core contingent in national construction and defence. In the context of globalization, a socialist-oriented market economy, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the explosive development of cyberspace, maintaining firm political fortitude and enhancing Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people has become an urgent requirement.

Based on the viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on youth work and on the education of revolutionary ideals, morality and lifestyle for the younger generation, this article clarifies the theoretical foundations of political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness for Youth Union members and young people in the university environment; analyses several manifestations of the current situation; identifies key influencing factors; and, on that basis, proposes some solutions to contribute to strengthening political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people, helping them develop sufficient “immunity” against the complex impacts of socio-political life in the new period.

Keywords: Political fortitude; Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness; Youth Union members and young people; University; Vietnam.

I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the course of the Vietnamese revolution, successive generations of young people have always played a vanguard role, serving as a principal force both in the struggle for national independence and in the cause of building and defending the socialist Fatherland. Entering the period of accelerated industrialization, modernization and deep international integration, our Party continues to affirm that young people are the “pillars of the nation”, a major social force and one of the decisive factors in the future and destiny of the country [1; 5]. In the university environment, Youth Union members and young people represent an outstanding segment of the younger generation, who have opportunities to access modern scientific knowledge, human cultural values and the achievements of science and technology. However, under the multidimensional influences of the market economy, globalization and cyberspace, a portion of Youth Union members and young people still show limitations in Marxist–Leninist theoretical knowledge, an insufficient understanding of the Party’s guidelines and viewpoints, a lack of firmness in political stance and susceptibility to hostile, distorted, toxic information; some even show signs of fading ideals, political apathy, a pragmatic lifestyle and hedonism [3; 9; 10].

In this context, research on political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people in universities – identifying the determining factors, clarifying the current situation and proposing solutions for enhancement – is extremely necessary. It contributes to the effective implementation of the Party’s line to “intensify education in revolutionary ideals, ethics, and cultural lifestyles for the younger generation; foster patriotism and national pride; nurture dreams, aspirations and the desire to

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rise; and enhance the sense of responsibility towards the country and society” as emphasized in the 13th National Party Congress Documents [5, p.168].

II. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL FORTITUDE AND MARXIST–LENINIST THEORETICAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH UNION MEMBERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2.1. The concept of political fortitude among Youth Union members and young people

Political fortitude is a specific political quality reflected in a firm ideological and political stance that does not waver or become confused in the face of complex developments; in the ability to analyse, evaluate and choose behaviours consistent with national and class interests and with the demands of the era’s development; and in the perseverance and tenacity to pursue revolutionary goals and ideals, without retreating in the face of difficulties and challenges.

For Youth Union members and young people in the university environment, political fortitude is understood as steadfastness in the goal of national independence associated with socialism; scientific faith in Marxism–Leninism and Ho Chi Minh’s thought; trust in the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and in the nation’s path to socialism. It is also manifested in the unceasing will to strive in study, training and creative labour to contribute to the country; and in the capacity to recognise and struggle against erroneous and hostile viewpoints and against manifestations of degradation in political ideology, ethics and lifestyle in today’s social life [10, p.103].

2.2. The concept of Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people

Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people refers to their level of understanding, mastery and creative application of the fundamental principles of Marxism–Leninism regarding scientific worldview and methodology; the laws of historical development; socialist revolution; the socialist state and law; the role of the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party; and the issues of human beings, class liberation, national liberation and social emancipation [7].

Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people does not stop at memorising concepts and categories or learning textbooks by rote. Rather, it must be expressed through the capacity for independent and creative thinking, the ability to employ the dialectical materialist and historical materialist worldview to analyse and explain specific socio-political phenomena, and thereby to adopt attitudes, choices and actions consistent with the interests of the Fatherland and the people [3; 5].

2.3. The role of political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness in the university environment

First, political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness constitute the foundation enabling Youth Union members and young people to maintain firm faith in the country’s development path and to avoid wavering in the face of hostile and distorted viewpoints, particularly in cyberspace. In an era of information explosion, without a solid grounding in theory, young people can easily be led astray by misleading information flows, lose faith and even be lured into activities contrary to national and people’s interests [3, pp.21–22; 4]. Second, political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness help Youth Union members and young people shape correct life ideals and goals for striving, aligning personal aspirations with collective interests and with the cause of national construction and defence. This aligns with the requirement to “intensify education in revolutionary ideals, ethics and cultural lifestyles for the younger generation; foster patriotism and national pride; nurture dreams, aspirations and the desire to rise” [5, p.168].

Third, in the university environment, political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness enable Youth Union members and young people to selectively receive cultural values and modern scientific and technological achievements, harmoniously combining “integration” with “preservation of identity”, the “global” with the “national”, thereby avoiding extremes such as blind admiration for foreign models and dependence on them, or conversely, conservatism and closed-mindedness [2; 6].

III. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF POLITICAL FORTITUDE AND MARXIST–LENINIST THEORETICAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH UNION MEMBERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Key strengths

First, the majority of Youth Union members and young people in universities possess relatively firm political positions and believe in the Party’s leadership and in the country’s development path. They actively participate in socio-political activities and Youth Union and Student Association movements such as “Volunteer Youth”, “Exam Season Assistance”, “Green Summer”, and the “Five-Good Student” movement. These activities help consolidate and develop political fortitude, civic awareness and social responsibility [1; 9].

Second, most Youth Union members and young people recognise the importance of studying political theory and the Party's guidelines and policies. They seek to link the study of Marxism–Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought with the requirement to cultivate a scientific worldview and methodology, thereby beginning to form skills in critical thinking and in analysing practical issues from a theoretical perspective [7].

Third, many Youth Union members and young people actively respond to the campaign to study and follow Ho Chi Minh's thought, morality and lifestyle; they proactively engage in online struggles against hostile and erroneous viewpoints, thereby protecting the Party's ideological foundation and demonstrating political responsibility towards the country's vital issues [4; 5].

3.2. Limitations and shortcomings

Alongside these strengths, there remain a number of limitations:

A segment of Youth Union members and young people remains indifferent or reluctant to engage with politics, seldom following official information about the Party's guidelines and viewpoints, and failing to fully appreciate the role of Marxist–Leninist theory in forming a scientific worldview and outlook on life [3; 7].

Not a few students study political theory in a perfunctory manner, focusing on mechanically memorising concepts and formulas, without applying them in practice or linking them to real-life issues; as a result, their learning is largely formalistic and fails to produce profound changes in awareness and behaviour [3, p.21–22].

Some Youth Union members and young people are influenced by a pragmatic, individualistic lifestyle, downplaying traditional values and lacking the will to strive and cultivate themselves. They are easily swayed by toxic information flows, show signs of declining faith and even make deviant statements on social networks [10].

Their skills in self-study and independent research on theory remain limited. They have not fully exploited official sources of documents, academic forums, seminars and specialised activities in political and ideological education to enhance their theoretical level [7; 8].

These limitations show that consolidating political fortitude and enhancing Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people in universities remains a demanding, long-term task, requiring the coordinated involvement of the entire political system, universities, Youth Union and Student Association organisations and the youths themselves.

IV. SOME SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE POLITICAL FORTITUDE AND MARXIST–LENINIST THEORETICAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH UNION MEMBERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT

4.1. Strengthening political theory education and renewing teaching content and methods

First and foremost, it is necessary to further disseminate and effectively implement the Party's resolutions and directives on the education of revolutionary ideals, ethics and lifestyle for youths and students, especially Resolution No. 25-NQ/TW on youth work, Resolution No. 29-NQ/TW on fundamental and comprehensive reform of education and training, and Resolution No. 35-NQ/TW on strengthening the protection of the Party's ideological foundation [1; 2; 4].

In universities, the teaching of courses on Marxism–Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought needs to be renewed towards greater practical relevance, with increased use of discussions, debates, case studies and project-based learning, in flexible combinations of face-to-face and online modalities, and with the application of information technology and artificial intelligence to support learners. This will help Youth Union members and young people perceive the topicality, scientific nature and revolutionary character of Marxism–Leninism in explaining contemporary economic, political and social issues [7].

4.2. Promoting the role of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and the Vietnamese Student Association

Youth Union and Student Association organisations in universities should take the initiative in designing and conducting programmes, movements and forums on studying and researching Marxism–Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought in connection with current national and global issues. Forms such as the forum “Young People with the Party and the Fatherland”, competitions on understanding Party resolutions, Olympiads in Marxism–Leninism, and specialised Youth Union activities themed “A good story, a good book, a shining example each week” should be organised regularly, creatively and attractively [1; 8].

At the same time, it is essential to promote the exemplary role of Youth Union and Student Association cadres and to build a contingent of young political rapporteurs and propagandists with firm political fortitude, solid theoretical knowledge and strong inspirational capacity, who can have a positive impact on Youth Union members and young people.

4.3. Building a healthy cultural and educational environment in universities

Universities should focus on building a healthy cultural and political environment that is democratic, disciplined and friendly, ensuring that all teaching, learning, research and extracurricular activities are oriented towards the formation of personality, competence and political fortitude among students.

It is necessary to increase positive information and spread examples of outstanding Youth Union members and young people in study, scientific research, entrepreneurship and community volunteering, while resolutely combating deviant behaviours and violations of ethics and law in the university environment [2; 6].

4.4. Enhancing the capacity for “self-education” and “self-immunisation” of each Youth Union member and young person

Ultimately, each Youth Union member and young person must deeply understand that studying political theory and cultivating political fortitude is first and foremost a personal need, a condition for maturity and self-realisation, not merely an externally imposed requirement.

Each Youth Union member and young person should:

Proactively study and research classical Marxist–Leninist works, Ho Chi Minh’s thought and Party documents [5; 7; 8];

Learn to select and critically assess information, especially the content encountered on social networks; Actively participate in socio-political activities and Youth Union and Student Association movements to train and test themselves;

Regularly engage in self-criticism and criticism, self-reflection and self-correction in study, training and lifestyle, implementing President Ho Chi Minh’s teachings on “self-study”, “self-cultivation” and “self-rectification” [8; 9].

V. CONCLUSION

Political fortitude and Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people in the university environment are crucial factors in forming a generation of young intellectuals who are “both virtuous and talented”, capable of shouldering the responsibility of national construction and defence in the new period. In the context of complex global and domestic developments and intensified hostile attacks in the ideological and cultural sphere, consolidating political fortitude and enhancing Marxist–Leninist theoretical awareness among Youth Union members and young people is increasingly urgent.

On the basis of clarifying several theoretical issues and practical realities, this article has proposed several groups of solutions: strengthening and renewing political theory education; promoting the role of Youth Union and Student Association organisations; building a healthy cultural and educational environment; and enhancing the capacity for self-education and self-immunisation of each Youth Union member and young person.

For these solutions to be effective, they require the close leadership of the Party, the coordinated action of the State, universities, families and society, and, especially, the active efforts of Youth Union members and young people themselves.

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