

Practice Path of National Defense Education for University Students under the Background of New Era

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Abstract: *National defense education for university students is crucial for cultivating patriotic citizens who can contribute to China's national rejuvenation. The new era presents challenges that require innovative approaches to strengthen this education and adapt to changing requirements. Comprehensive national defense education should guide students in developing a worldview, outlook on life, and values that align with national interests. To achieve this, integrating national defense education, practical skills training, and innovative teaching methods is necessary. Collaborating with the military and relevant departments can provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills. Ultimately, China can cultivate a new generation of citizens who contribute to prosperity and security by strengthening national defense education for university students.*

Keywords: *New Era; University Students; National Defense Education; Practice path*

1. Introduction

The current mainstream educational perspective acknowledges the significant role that national defense education plays in deepening the reform of China's defense education system. Its main goal is to enhance the national defense awareness of the entire population, promote patriotism, and build a strong military force that can realize the Chinese dream. In this regard, universities play an essential role as they have the sacred mission of cultivating socialist builders and successors.

As China's comprehensive national strength continues to grow, the importance of national defense education for university students is becoming increasingly vital in cultivating high-quality talent. Universities need to incorporate national defense education into their curriculum to help students better understand China's strategic position in the international environment and contribute to the modernization construction, reform, and development of the Chinese people's army.^[1]

Moreover, national defense education should not be limited to military theory courses. It should also include other forms of teaching content, such as patriotic education, ideal and belief education, situation and policy education, and military training. By adopting a comprehensive approach to national defense education, universities can help students develop a sense of national pride and duty and prepare them for the challenges of the modern world.

In summary, national defense education is an essential component of China's education system, and universities must prioritize it in their curriculum. By doing so, they can help cultivate high-quality talent who not only have a deep understanding of national defense and military skills but also have strong moral values and a sense of social responsibility. This, in turn, will contribute to the long-term stability and prosperity of our country.

2. Basic Overview of National Defense Education for university Students in the New Era Background.

National defense education is a critical state-led initiative that aims to enhance the national defense awareness of the entire population and improve their knowledge of national defense and military skills. Chinese universities have made significant progress in this area, particularly in recent years. However, the current approach to national defense education in Chinese universities mainly focuses on military theory courses, which limits its effectiveness.

To improve the teaching effect of national defense education in Chinese universities, institutions must

adopt a more comprehensive approach that meets the requirements of the new era. It is crucial to recognize the importance of ideological and political work in universities and cultivate well-rounded individuals who uphold and practice socialist core values. Universities should develop comprehensive programs that integrate patriotic education, ideal and belief education, situation and policy education, and military training.

Moreover, talent training should prioritize practical education and emphasize innovation and reform to improve the quality of education. This approach will help create a scientific, diverse, and effective pattern of educating students on national defense and military skills. By doing so, universities can help students better understand China's position in the international environment and contribute to the modernization construction, reform, and development of the Chinese people's army.^[2]

It is noteworthy that many Chinese universities are now recognizing the importance of national defense education and taking steps to strengthen it. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of curriculum development, teaching methods, and student engagement. By enhancing national defense education in Chinese universities, we can foster a sense of national pride and duty in our students, prepare them for the challenges of the modern world, and contribute to the long-term stability and prosperity of our country.

In summary, national defense education is a vital initiative that requires the collective efforts of various stakeholders, including universities, to achieve its objectives. Chinese universities must take an active role in national defense education and develop comprehensive programs that integrate ideological and political education, practical education, and military training. By doing so, they can help cultivate high-quality talent who not only possess a deep understanding of national defense and military skills but also have strong moral values and a sense of social responsibility. Ultimately, this will contribute to the long-term development and prosperity of our country.

3. Realistic Challenges of National Defense Education for university Students in the New Era Background.

The adage, "In times of peace, forgetting about war is a recipe for disaster," underscores the criticality of national defense education as a fundamental, long-term, and strategic initiative that enhances the national defense awareness of the entire populace, ensuring the creation of a world-class military that accomplishes the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. Universities serve as a vital hub for talent cultivation and scientific research, playing an irreplaceable role in raising the national defense quality of university students. Nevertheless, national defense education in universities has long been plagued by issues such as insufficient attention, inadequate guarantee mechanisms, incomplete teaching content, and outdated teaching methods, which directly impact the quality of national defense education among university students.

Addressing these challenges requires a profound understanding of the new situation, requirements, and challenges facing national defense education in universities in the backdrop of the new era. It is crucial to explore practical approaches to national defense education in universities and enhance the national defense quality of university students.

Traditionally, universities have not accorded enough importance to national defense education and have failed to integrate it into their overall development planning. This is primarily due to three reasons. Firstly, universities lack awareness of national defense education and do not view it as a crucial tool to cultivate students' patriotism and enhance their national self-esteem and self-confidence. Consequently, there is a lack of relevant guarantee in terms of teacher resources, funding, and teaching conditions. Secondly, some universities have insufficient investment in national defense education and have not established complete teaching infrastructure. Finally, students lack a sense of identity and belonging to national defense education in universities.^[3]

With the dawn of the new era, students' ideological concepts have failed to keep pace with the times. Many still believe that national defense education is subservient to professional education, and some even believe that university students should concentrate primarily on studying professional knowledge. Universities should optimize the teaching content and methods based on actual conditions, incorporate national defense education as a compulsory course in the teaching system, and promote the comprehensive development of students to provide talent support for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

4. The practical path for national defense education for university students in universities in the context of the new era.

In the new era of building a socialist modern country, the development of China's national defense faces severe challenges. To achieve the Chinese dream of great national rejuvenation, we need to vigorously promote the spirit of patriotism, cultivate university students' sense of responsibility and mission. In this context, universities should actively explore effective paths to strengthen university students' national defense education, enabling them to form correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values, and enhance their overall quality and national defense awareness.

4.1. Giving full play to the leadership of the Communist Party and improving the national defense education system.

To effectively tackle the challenges confronting national defense education in higher education institutions, it is indispensable to harness the leadership role of the Communist Party of China and establish a robust national defense education system in higher education institutions. Firstly, to improve the teaching and management system for military courses, military theory courses must be reinforced, and teaching content should be enriched, while course offerings must be standardized based on the "General Outline of Military Courses in Regular Institutions of Higher Education" and the "Outline of Military Training."

Secondly, a supervision system for national defense education should be established, encompassing the formation of a leadership group for national defense education, the formulation and enhancement of rules and regulations for national defense education in schools, and inspections to ensure standardization and institutionalization of national defense education.

Thirdly, a sound faculty development system should be established, comprising the formation of a national defense education faculty consisting of both full-time and part-time teachers, the establishment of a management system for part-time teachers, and the establishment of an evaluation and training system for part-time teachers.

Fourthly, the evaluation system for national defense education in higher education institutions should be improved, which includes the establishment of a scientific, reasonable, and effective national defense education evaluation system that is integrated into the school's teaching work assessment system.

Moreover, higher education institutions should encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and promote research on national defense education, continuously improving the quality of national defense education, and cultivating high-quality talents with a patriotic spirit and a strong sense of social responsibility.

By implementing these measures, higher education institutions can effectively address the challenges facing national defense education and create a more robust and comprehensive national defense education system. In doing so, we can foster a sense of national pride and duty in our students, prepare them for the challenges of the modern world, and contribute to the long-term stability and prosperity of our country.

4.2. Strengthening the construction of the teaching staff and improving the quality of national defense education.

The construction of the faculty team for national defense education in universities is crucial for the smooth development of national defense education. Teachers play a critical role as the guides and implementers of national defense education in universities. Therefore, strengthening the construction of the faculty team and improving the quality of the team is a fundamental foundation for the development of national defense education in universities.

To achieve this, universities should consider strengthening the construction of the faculty team as an essential way to promote national defense education and actively create a good atmosphere. It is necessary to effectively guarantee the benefits of the teachers, improve their social status, and encourage them to participate in various training and learning activities to improve their professional quality and teaching ability. It is also essential to establish and improve incentive mechanisms that constantly stimulate the enthusiasm of teachers to participate in national defense education work, ensuring that the faculty team can actively and proactively carry out national defense education work.

Moreover, universities should establish a scientific and reasonable evaluation system and mechanism

to evaluate and assess the faculty team regularly. The evaluation system should give full play to the enthusiasm and creativity of teachers in national defense education and encourage them to achieve new results in theoretical research, practical teaching, etc. National defense education work in universities should be included in the evaluation of teacher titles and serve as an important basis for evaluating higher-level professional titles.^[4]

In conclusion, strengthening the construction of the faculty team for national defense education in universities is crucial for the smooth development of national defense education. By improving the quality of the faculty team and establishing an effective incentive and evaluation system, universities can cultivate a team of high-quality teachers who can effectively guide and implement national defense education work, ensuring that university students can receive comprehensive and high-quality national defense education.

4.3. Carry out campus cultural activities and create a good atmosphere for national defense.

National defense education in universities is not limited to military courses but is an educational form that places students at the forefront, utilizing classroom teaching as the primary channel and extracurricular activities as a significant supplement. Campus cultural activities serve both educational and entertainment purposes and can be used to subtly educate university students on national defense.

To strengthen students' patriotism and revolutionary tradition education, universities should fully utilize campus cultural activities. They can organize national defense education in various forms, such as theme meetings, special lectures, visits and exhibitions, and other activities where university students can enhance their national defense awareness through practice. Among campus cultural activities, active forms of national defense education are the most effective in strengthening it.

Moreover, universities should leverage the news media to widely publicize the party and state's policies, laws, and regulations on national defense construction and military preparation through the internet, newspapers, and other media. It is essential to encourage the promotion and reporting of outstanding role models and share inspiring stories about revolutionary history to guide university students in establishing correct life and value concepts and encouraging them to participate in national defense undertakings.

In summary, national defense education in universities should be diversified and creative, utilizing a range of forms, including campus cultural activities and news media. By doing so, universities can cultivate students' patriotism and revolutionary tradition education and enhance their national defense awareness, preparing them for the challenges of the modern world and contributing to the long-term stability and prosperity of our country.

4.4. Relying on the strategy of military-civilian integration to enhance students' practical abilities.

Incorporating military theory and skills courses in universities is a highly effective approach to strengthening national defense education for university students. By combining national defense education with military skills training, students can not only enhance their national defense awareness and comprehensive qualities but also develop practical military skills. Many universities have already introduced courses such as "National Defense Education" and "Military Skill Training," and have integrated military training into their curriculum.

Moreover, universities have developed a series of practical national defense education courses that are tailored to their unique characteristics and practical circumstances. These courses include military training activities, student visits to military facilities, and simulation exercises. Through these channels, university students gain a more profound understanding and appreciation of national defense knowledge, while also enhancing their social and practical abilities, providing a firm foundation for their future employment.

In addition to formal coursework, universities can fully leverage the role of student organizations to organize various campus cultural activities. Through student-led practice activities, patriotism and revolutionary tradition education can be instilled in students. During significant school events such as the National Day military parade, universities can arrange for students to watch patriotic films, listen to patriotic songs, and view exhibitions on heroic and exemplary figures. These activities can enhance students' sense of national pride, deepen their understanding of the country's history, and promote their patriotism.

In conclusion, incorporating military theory and skills courses in universities, together with practical national defense education courses, is a highly effective way to enhance university students' national defense awareness and comprehensive qualities. Furthermore, by fully utilizing the role of student organizations, universities can further enhance students' patriotism and revolutionary tradition education, preparing them to contribute to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

5. Conclusions

In today's era of building a socialist modern country, China's national defense development faces a multitude of challenges. In order to achieve the Chinese dream of great national rejuvenation, it is essential to promote patriotism and cultivate a sense of responsibility and mission among university students. To this end, universities must explore effective strategies to strengthen university students' national defense education, which will help them develop correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values, and improve their overall quality and national defense awareness.

In the current global landscape, marked by multipolarization, economic globalization, cultural diversity, and rapid social and technological development, it is imperative to enhance university students' sense of responsibility and awareness of national defense. Through practical exploration, universities can continuously improve the national defense education system for university students, which in turn will provide strong talent support for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

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