



IMPROVE THE POLITICAL BRAVERY OF AN GIANG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THE CURRENT PERIOD

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Abstract:

Political bravery is an important quality that every student must have, helping students realize their dreams and career ambitions and fulfill their responsibilities to the Fatherland. Vietnamese students, in general, and An Giang University students, in particular, are an elite part of society. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, this force has been making significant contributions to the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland. However, a group of students still need to promote their roles and responsibilities fully and even show signs of moral degradation, separation from the nation's moral traditions, misconceptions about the situation and the country's politics, and lack of faith in the Party's leadership. To overcome those limitations, improving the political bravery of An Giang University students is an essential and urgent requirement. In this article, the author analyzes the current situation and offers several solutions to improve political bravery for An Giang University students in the current international integration conditions.

Keywords: political bravery, student, An Giang University, Vietnam

1. Introduction

Vietnamese students are the leading resource in the era of the knowledge economy, an elite group of young people who are knowledgeable, creative, and living with dreams, ambitions, and ideals; they are an essential force, inheriting and promoting the revolutionary achievements of the Party and the nation. In the context of international integration, encourage research, transfer, and application of scientific and technological advances, especially the achievements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, more than ever, in addition to equipping students with extensive scientific knowledge, it is

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necessary to pay special attention to training their political courage so that they can continue to *“actively participate in the cause of building a rich, strong, democratic, and industrialized socialist Vietnam fair and civilized”* [1, pp.22]. Throughout the revolutionary leadership process, the Communist Party of Vietnam has always appreciated the role of students and always paid attention to education and training of political bravery, enhancing revolutionary ideals to contribute to building high-quality human resources to meet the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country. Our Party always attaches great importance to educating the young generation about: *“revolutionary ideals, ethics, cultural lifestyle, enhancing patriotism, national pride, nurturing dreams, ambitions, and aspirations to rise; uphold the sense of responsibility towards the country and society; building an environment and conditions for learning, working, entertainment, and training for the healthy, comprehensive, and harmonious development of both intellectual, physical, and aesthetic values”* [2, pp.168].

Like Vietnamese students, An Giang University students are a young, dynamic, and creative intellectual force. With the school's attention and training, most An Giang University students have strong political will and are making many contributions to the cause of building and protecting the Fatherland. However, some students still lack political knowledge, have blurred revolutionary ideals, have reduced confidence in the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and have a deviant and lacking standard of living. Therefore, strengthening education to improve political bravery for An Giang University students in the current international integration conditions is an urgent requirement.

2. The concept of students' political bravery

2.1. Political bravery

According to the Vietnam Military Encyclopedia, *“political bravery is the political quality of a person who has developed to the point of being able to make independent, creative decisions and master his or her political behavior in the face of challenges, turning points and complicated political situations, do not waver or falter in the face of hardships and difficulties, resolutely achieve the set goals and ideals successfully.”* [3]. Political bravery is approached as a political quality created by political practice. If not placed in a problematic situation, political bravery expresses psychology. This concept emphasizes the subject's stance when taking action in complex situations.

Political bravery is a factor that combines political stance, political qualities, political capacity, and political courage, formed and revealed in political practice, demonstrating steadfastness and steadfastness, not affected by any external influences, determined to strive to realize the goals defined at a specific historical period.

Political bravery is expressed in a firm political, ideological stance, not being confused or wavering in the face of specific political situations and circumstances, and having maturity, independence, and creativity in solving problems practice, ensuring compliance with the laws of movement of things and phenomena, not backing down in the face of obstacles that go against objective laws.

Political bravery is a collection of progressive and positive factors, clearly demonstrating the ability to master particular tasks, facing high challenges, at historical turning points. Judging from the results achieved, political bravery is associated with human goals and ideals to fight for a better life, thanks to which each individual's actions in political activities are positively oriented, bringing certain victory to an event or political cause. Bravery in general, political bravery in particular, is not intuitive, spontaneous, not innate, or natural, but is the result of a long process of training, education, training, and challenges in practice life of work, study, and fighting, in which political and ideological education plays a leading role and is decisive in creating the political foundation and enlightenment of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology and belief in the Party's leadership, in the goals of national independence and socialism of each individual.

2.2. Political bravery of students

A student's political bravery is a part of the overall student personality, related to the student's ethics, lifestyle, and efforts. Students with political courage persistently strive to the end for their goals, overcoming all circumstances and fate to move toward a better future. Student political bravery is a collection of many virtues, but the most important are the following:

Firstly, live with clear goals and political ideals; believe in the Party's guidelines and policies and the State's legal policies.

Second, dare to think, speak, and act according to the concept you believe is right, not be discouraged by pressure, and take responsibility for your behavior.

Third, they should be highly independent and not rely on others.

Fourth, do not pray for peace, do not be afraid of difficulties, and do not falter in the face of obstacles.

Fifth, have excellent will and dare to accept risks to achieve the chosen goal.

Sixth, have a broad mind and be open to new things, not conservative, intolerant, or narrow-minded [4, pp.16].

In short, a student's political bravery is a factor that combines political stance, political qualities, political capacity, and political courage, formed and revealed in political practice, demonstrating steadfastness, steadfastness, not being shaken by any outside influence, determined to overcome all challenges to achieve the goal of studying and training for a career tomorrow [5, pp.41].

3. Current status of political bravery of An Giang University students

3.1. Some results achieved in improving the political bravery of students at An Giang University today

Students of An Giang University, due to the impact of historical and geographical factors and international integration conditions, have created unique characteristics that are easily distinguishable from students in other regions of Vietnam. In recent years, An Giang University has paid great attention to improving political knowledge, training the

will, and fostering confidence in students to train human resources to meet the development requirements of the region and the whole country. To clarify the current state of political bravery of An Giang University students, the author conducted a sociological survey at 08 Faculties under An Giang University. Survey results show that improving the political bravery of An Giang University students has achieved many positive results, specifically as follows:

First, students actively practice political knowledge.

An Giang University focuses on equipping students with basic scientific knowledge before and while accessing specialized scientific knowledge. Thanks to that, students master political perspectives and theories, a basic understanding of political ideology in history, the theory of building institutions, and the theory of building, promulgating, and implementing policy policies. In particular, most students are highly aware of the necessity of studying Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, and National Defense and Security Education (87% of surveyed students affirmed) determine the essential level of these subjects). That shows the correctness of the ideological orientation work for students at An Giang University. In addition, 73% of students affirmed that they regularly participate in Union and Association activities and are increasingly interested and involved in socio-political issues of the country, the locality, and the school. From the practical activities of the Union and the Association, many examples of "5-good students" and "January Stars" have appeared, such as students living beautifully and students achieving excellent achievements in learning, creativity, and scientific research. Many students were honored to join the Party's ranks, contributing to forming a generation of students with bravery, aspirations to rise, volunteer for community life, and be proactive and confident in international integration.

Second, students actively exercise their political will.

Most students show independence and initiative in thinking and action. Students have boldly engaged in social activities that bring positive changes to themselves, such as professional clubs, volunteer clubs, hobby clubs, and talent clubs... with large scales and different sizes, space is increasingly expanding. In addition, students from some schools also participate in large and small projects to provide career guidance that has both practical value and direct benefits to the community. In 2023, An Giang University students will be evaluated for excellent ideas when attending "National Startup Day." From 2018 to 2023, An Giang University has organized more than 50 seminars, conferences, and consulting forums for students; Deployed seven training courses on "Starting a business"; Organized dozens of soft skills training courses, "E-commerce" training and Talk Shows... Thereby, students are oriented, consulted, supported, and introduced to jobs during their studies and after graduation, creating confidence and determination to achieve the set goals.

Third, students actively practice political beliefs.

Political beliefs are the core factor that shapes students' political bravery based on the close combination of political knowledge and political will. Survey results show that the majority of An Giang University students believe in the victory of the country's renewal process. The difference is relatively clear between the "Very confident" level of

86.1% of students compared to "Not very confident" 4.4%. This shows that An Giang University students have built the correct beliefs with their emotions and reason. This is the opposite of people who have no political beliefs or are indifferent and do not care about the country's socio-political issues.

Students' political beliefs are reflected in positive political awareness. Students are aware of diligence and eagerness to learn, typical symbols of An Giang province's culture and decisive factors for personal success. Therefore, 71% of students affirmed that individual effort is the determining factor in students' adult outcomes today. Political beliefs motivate students to actively train and strive to join the ranks of the Party. In the past five years, the Party organization at An Giang University has admitted more than 80 students to the Party and with confidence and pride in the great victories of the Vietnamese revolution under the Party's leadership over the past nearly 95 years, 90.1% of surveyed students affirmed that the Party's leadership is the decisive factor that determined all the victories of the Vietnamese revolution.

3.2. Some limitations on the political bravery of An Giang University students

Although many significant results have been achieved, the training of political courage of university students still has limitations, which are:

First, a group of students are not interested in political life and even have misconceptions about the country's political situation, about the Party's leadership role, and are skeptical about its success on the path to socialism... influenced by "bad" information, "toxic" information, wrong views of hostile forces; leading to unstandardized statements and actions both in daily life and on social networks.

Second, the clarity of learning goals due to not having political opinions when choosing a career or choosing the wrong career has significantly impacted students' learning motivation.

Third, many students are indifferent to community activities and do not participate in movements organized by the Youth Union and Student Association.

Going back a few decades, joining the ranks of the Party was the wish and desire of most young people, but today, some students still need to strive to become party members earnestly. This is also one of the reasons why the admission rate of party members is not commensurate with the existing student force. Therefore, the situation of the "dry party" and "light party" in recent years is alarming regarding a group of students' ideology and political awareness.

The causes of limitations and weaknesses originate from many factors, the first of which is the trend of globalization and the negative side of the market economy that has impacted the ideology, ethics, lifestyle, and behavior of people students. In addition, the plots of hostile forces make it difficult to orientate the education of students' political bravery. As economic and social life increasingly develops, material and spiritual sufficiency, to some extent, also affects the will to strive of a part of students. The weakness and limitations of political courage also start from the students themselves. Students are characterized by the age of reaching physical and mental perfection, having a rich psychological life, and diverse personal needs. However, the disadvantages of this

age group are that they are impractical, subjective, favor formality, and are easily affected by the negative side of the market economy.

4. Some solutions to improve the political bravery of An Giang University students today

4.1. It is necessary to strengthen the Party's leadership and the State's management of students

This is an important issue that is decisive in improving the political bravery of students. If this issue is resolved well, it will contribute to the political orientation and legal basis for universities to properly implement the mission of education and training for students - the future owners of the country. Based on the Party's leadership and State management, An Giang University needs to promote political theoretical education for the young generation, in particular, focusing on raising students' awareness of Marxist-Leninist theory, Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the Party's viewpoints, guidelines, policies, and State's laws. To do so, An Giang University needs to actively innovate content, programs, and educational methods in the direction of conciseness, ease of understanding, and suitability for each subject and each field of training to gradually evaluate understanding and raise student awareness. Thereby attracting students to political, social, and national issues. This is also a solution for students to gradually get into the habit of paying attention to the goals and leadership guidelines of the Party, State, and people and form ideals, beliefs, and correct life orientations.

4.2. Strengthen the propaganda of the Party's policies and guidelines, the State's policies and laws, and the internal rules and regulations of schools and each university to create a sense of responsibility among student members for themselves, the school, and society

Regularly focus on fostering communist ideals, a revolutionary worldview, and a correct view of life, making the theory of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology penetrate deeply into each student, helping students Enthusiastically study, actively train, and be ready to undertake the significant tasks posed by the work of building and protecting the Fatherland. In the current period, An Giang University needs to improve the quality of its staff teaching political theory, and attention needs to be paid to improving the political qualities and revolutionary ethics of lecturers. Lecturers teaching political theory subjects must clearly understand their responsibility to foster students' confidence and knowledge, helping them build solid political courage. Every lecturer must implement Conclusion No. 94-KL/TW, dated March 28, 2014, of the Party Central Committee Secretariat on innovating political theory learning in the national education system to build political bravery for students right from school. Teachers must equip learners with knowledge, skills, thinking methods, and problem-detection methods during the teaching process, develop and practice political situations, and help students learn quickly and creatively apply learned political theoretical knowledge into practice. It is necessary to overcome shortcomings in teaching political theory subjects in

universities and colleges in recent times when there has been no focus on building political courage for students. When students have both knowledge, a firm stance, and political will, they will contribute significantly to the cause of building and developing socialist Vietnam in the future.

4.3. Strengthen the Party Committee and Board of Directors of An Giang University's leadership role in improving current students' political bravery.

This is an essential solution, both urgent and necessary, to improve the political bravery of each university's students in particular and university students in general. Because organizations and people have a unified dialectical relationship with each other. An organization is created by people, a collusion of members working for a common purpose. However, when the organization becomes an objective factor, existing according to rules and firmly embedded in life, the organization has a massive role in human development. Therefore, it is necessary to orient the content and measures of political and ideological education for students such as performing well the work of propaganda, education, and fostering Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's ideology and ethics; disseminating and fully and promptly grasp the Party's guidelines and guidelines, and the State's policies and laws; Education to improve political bravery, ethics, lifestyle, and sense of responsibility; Fostering and enhancing the level of political theory, knowledge, practical operational capacity and understanding of discipline for students contributes to improving the quality of education and training of schools. Therefore, to form the political bravery of today's students, the Party Committee and Board of Directors of An Giang University need to promote propaganda and disseminate the guidelines, opinions, policies, and laws of An Giang University. Our Party and State for all university officials, lecturers, and students raise awareness, understanding, and a sense of responsibility for the country's socio-politics and political orientation, making students not feel forced to study or participate in activities. Besides, it orients revolutionary ideology and evokes students' love for homeland, nation, and family. Experience shows that wherever the Party Committees and School Board of Directors at all levels are fully and deeply aware of and interested in the work of political education, ideology, and political courage for students, where they will work on political and ideological education and the formation of political bravery are favorable and have consensus in the school system. The quality and effectiveness achieved by the work of political, ideological, and political bravery education is very high and opposite.

4.4. Regularly educate students about the nation's revolutionary ideals and patriotic traditions

An Giang University needs to adopt theoretical subjects in general, Revolutionary Paths and National Defense and Security Education in particular; the lecturers are determined to build a class of students in the new era with revolutionary ideals, intense political bravery, rich in patriotism, and desire to rise; proactively study, create, conduct scientific research and apply new technology; have ethics, cultural lifestyle, and civilized behavior; have knowledge, health, and social practice skills; actively participate in activities

demonstrating responsibility to the Fatherland, the socialist regime, the community, and society.

4.5. Raise awareness among students about the importance of building political courage for themselves

It is necessary to make students understand that bravery is required for each person in daily life; political bravery of students is essential; it determines the future development path of the whole country because students are the driving force that holds the nation's future destiny. Lacking political courage, students will quickly be drawn into political plots of hostile forces. At that time, the student did not fulfill his responsibility to the Fatherland, failed to promote the nation's heroic patriotic tradition, and, on the other hand, caused the country to fall into a state of political instability, even into a dangerous situation.

4.6. Promoting the responsible role of the Youth Union and Student Association in enhancing the political bravery of students

The Student Union and Association of An Giang University need to strengthen political education for students in many rich and diverse forms in association with the implementation of Directive No. 05-CT/TW dated May 15, 2016, of the Politburo on promoting learning and following Ho Chi Minh's ideology, ethics, and style, orienting students to practice and strive according to the criteria of "5 good students". Promote the implementation of the campaign "Vietnamese Youth Study and Follow Uncle Ho's Words" launched by the Central Youth Union creatively and effectively to become consistent content in the Union's educational work, creating positive changes in the awareness and actions of most students.

In the coming time, the Youth Union and Student Association must promote their role in organizing and attracting students to political and social movements and proactively propose activities and emulation movements for union members and students. Unions and associations need to develop content and plans for each specific activity. To do well on the above contents, the Youth Union and Student Association staff at An Giang University must practice certain qualities and abilities to accurately grasp union members' and students' ideological and emotional developments. At the same time, universities must send Union and Association officials to participate in professional training classes, training, and seminars related to union work and political and ideological education for students. From there, Union and Association officials can propose or find feasible solutions to improve educational effectiveness and enhance the political bravery of students.

The Youth Union and Student Association need to focus on bringing political and ideological education activities to students, associated with the tasks of learning and scientific research, which is the top task of each student. It is necessary to organize many emulation movements for learning and scientific research and participate in building a civilized and friendly learning environment. Besides volunteer clubs, Youth Unions and Associations need to establish more study and scientific research clubs as places for

students to learn, help, and solve difficulties; regularly organize movements such as "Study for tomorrow's career," "Creativity for entrepreneurship"... These movements will direct students' learning and scientific research goals to real problems farewell of life. In addition, the Union and Association must organize talks, career orientation, job introduction, and link with businesses to create student job opportunities. Continue to promote cultural, artistic, and sports activities for students to celebrate the country's major holidays... These activities significantly impact students' awareness and actions, making Them see the value of national traditions and the responsibility to train themselves to contribute to building the country. The Youth Union and Student Association continue to innovate and develop volunteer movements for the community: Innovate methods and improve the quality of the programs "Exam season support," "Youth volunteers," Blood donation," "Red Sunday," "Green Summer" ... and making these activities a requirement for students to review their conduct and practice. Volunteer activities for the community need to be organized regularly and spread evenly throughout the year, taking place in many places and localities. At the same time, it is necessary to perform the work of inspection, supervision, and summary well, exchange and learn from experiences in implementing volunteer activities, and promptly praise and reward individual students and collectives who have high achievements in volunteer activities. Regularly organize seminars on volunteer activities, with members of the Union and Association Executive Committee working together to solve complex problems.

4.7. Promote the development of party members among students

Developing party members among students contributes to adding vitality and intellectual resources to the Party and strengthens and enhances students' political bravery. The Party Committee and Board of Directors at An Giang University need to pay special attention to the work of creating resources, fostering, and considering admission of excellent students to the Communist Party of Vietnam. In addition, it is necessary to enhance the core role of the Youth Union and Student Association in the work of discovering and fostering excellent students for the Party.

4.8. Building a healthy school environment, motivating students to study and practice political courage

The characteristics and rules of educating and improving students' political bravery are to create public opinion; through public opinion and healthy social opinion, it is possible to adjust the awareness, attitude, and behavior of students and every human being. Therefore, building a healthy school environment and motivating students to study and practice political courage are critical solutions today. If the school environment is "polluted," universities cannot fulfill their function of transmitting knowledge, values, and cultural standards to the younger generation. In today's university environment, most subjects participating in the educational process still retain the values and beauty of traditional education, especially the moral standards of loving students and respecting teachers, which are still the core values of mainstream ideas. Besides, due to the impacts

of the negative side of the market economy, the explosion of information technology, especially the introduction of Western culture, the university environment has changed, and the morality of the teaching staff is being degraded, creating many negative phenomena in university lecture halls. The university environment is a miniature society. Whatever evils there are in society are harmful to the university environment. The violation of ethical and cultural standards in the university environment is complicated, negatively affecting the development of society; assessment of this issue, Political report of the Student Association Executive Committee Vietnamese members of An Giang University, term VIII, at the 9th Congress of the Vietnamese Student Association of An Giang University, term 2023 - 2025, evaluated: "The dark side of the integration process and the influence of the market economy, the difficult situation of the country along with the extremely complicated "peaceful evolution" situation in the region have hurt students. A small number of students still lack awareness of striving to study and practice morality, and many students lack understanding of history, culture, social knowledge, and skills in the integration process" [6, p.1]. To build a healthy school environment today, there needs to be a multi-dimensional impact from many different subjects, including the role of the school, the role of lecturers throughout the school, and, in particular, the teaching lecturers political theory subjects play the most crucial role, Political Theory lecturers must be exemplary in terms of expertise, political qualities, personality, ethics, and lifestyle to fulfill the function of transmitting knowledge, culture, contributing to the development of student personality. During the teaching process, teachers not only stop at equipping, orienting, and suggesting knowledge to learners but also transmit love and enthusiasm so that knowledge and culture become beliefs that motivate students to adjust their awareness, attitudes, and behavior, arousing in them the will to overcome difficulties, gain scientific knowledge, and make intellectual contributions to the work of building the country.

4.9. An Giang University needs to orient vocational training to be appropriate and meet social needs

Vietnam is making solid changes in the trend of integration and development. Hence, students need to boldly change their perception from "job seekers" and "available jobs" to "finding people," "flexible work," and "available work." Before entering university, each student must determine what significant their passion and ability are suitable for and how that major will be used where they plan to work. In addition, An Giang University, along with localities, needs to have synchronous orientations and solutions in creating jobs for students after graduation, such as providing loans to create jobs, employment service activities, labor export activities, activities to promote investment in socio-economic development associated with vocational training activities, vocational transmission, and dissemination of production and business experiences... Besides, it is necessary to strengthen the connection between schools and businesses to improve the quality of training, meet the needs of customers' output standards, and coordinate between sectors and organizations to create jobs for students after graduation.

5. Conclusion

An Giang University students are a young, dynamic, and creative intellectual force, playing a significant role in the construction and development of the country. With the University's attention to training, especially the teaching of political theory modules, the majority of An Giang University students have strong political will, constantly overcoming difficulties and making efforts to strive to become useful citizens for society and make many contributions to the country's development, bringing pride to An Giang University. However, there is still a group of students who need more political knowledge, need to recognize their roles and responsibilities and have a deviant and lack standards of living, which erodes the nation's traditions and endangers the country's development. Therefore, in the current period, in addition to educating professional knowledge to meet the increasing demands of industrialization and modernization, we must strengthen the political bravery of students with many practical solutions so that the training of students at An Giang University continues to contribute to the development and integration of Vietnam.

Acknowledgements

This research is funded by An Giang University (AGU), Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM) under grant number 24.01.QP. The authors thank An Giang University, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City for providing financial support to complete this research.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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