Research on Ways of Strengthening the Rule of Law Awareness for Students in Higher Vocational Colleges in the New Era

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Abstract: Strengthening the rule of law awareness for students in higher vocational colleges in the new era is of great significance for the career development of students, the education of vocational colleges, and the rule of law of the country. However, higher vocational students lack legal knowledge and the ability to solve problems according to the law. As such, higher vocational students, higher vocational colleges, and families should give full play to their respective roles and explore various ways to improve the rule of law awareness for students in higher vocational colleges.

1. Introduction

One of the basic strategies for upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era is to govern the country according to law and strengthen the rule of law awareness of the whole nation. The rule of law awareness of college students in the new era is of great importance to that of the whole nation and the process of governing the country according to law. The rule of law awareness is not only an important part of the moral ethics of contemporary college students but also the practical needs of the study, life, and social communication of college students and the core quality and basic ability for them to join the workforce in the new era. As an important part of college students, higher vocational students should not only learn professional knowledge and skills but also strengthen their moral ethics and the rule of law awareness, which is essential to the career development of higher vocational students, the cultivation of morality and the rule of law in higher vocational colleges.

2. The Significance of Improving Students’ Awareness of Law in Higher Vocational Colleges

2.1. Promote All-round Development of Students in Higher Vocational Colleges

Students in higher vocational colleges are in the booming stage of their life, during which their worldview, outlook on life, and values are forming. Most of those students, with exuberant energy and strong learning ability, will enter the workforce after completing their studies. Therefore, it is of great practical significance to train students to analyze and solve problems by the rule of law, and to strengthen their rule of law awareness in order to cultivate their worldview, outlook on life, and values when they are in school.

2.2. Educate Students and Improve Their Moral Ethics in Higher Vocational Colleges

Talent training is one of the tasks of higher vocational colleges. Strengthening their morality and cultivating them is regarded as an important standard to evaluate the work of the school. In the process of personnel training, higher vocational colleges should strengthen their ideals and beliefs, improve their ideological and moral standards, and strengthen their rule of law awareness while honing their professional skills. By doing so, the occurrence of all kinds of illegal incidents on campus will reduce, and the level of running the school according to law and the comprehensive quality of students will be improved, thereby improving the quality of personnel training and bearing great significance for higher vocational colleges.

2.3. Enhance the Implementation of the Basic Strategy of Governing the Country According to the Law

Governing the country according to law is a basic strategy of China, and the key is to improve the rule of law awareness among the general public. Students in higher vocational colleges, a group of young people who have a huge influence on society, are not only the builders of various industries and fields in the future but also the practitioners of governing the country according to the law in the new era. Strengthening the rule of law awareness, which is essential to the career development of higher vocational students, the cultivation of morality and the rule of law in higher vocational colleges.

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awareness of the group will help promote the popularization of the concept of the rule of law, the formation of the social atmosphere of the rule of law, and the effective implementation of the basic strategy of governing the country according to law.

3. The Current Situation of Students’ Rule of Law Awareness in Higher Vocational Colleges

The awareness of the rule of law refers to the willingness and ability of people to safeguard their rights and perform their obligations in accordance with the law by learning legal knowledge, understanding the nature of the law, and using the thinking of the rule of law, which is of great significance to ensure that people respect the rule of law and abide by the law. Therefore, in order to understand the current situation of higher vocational students’ awareness of the rule of law, we should start by respecting legal authority, learning legal knowledge, forming law-abiding habits, and improving the ability to use legal knowledge to solve problems. Higher vocational students have a great interest in learning legal knowledge and legal cases and are willing to respect the legal authority, abide by, obey, and maintain the law. But there still exist some problems, such as scarcity of legal knowledge, and lack of ability to use the law to solve practical problems.

3.1. Scarcity of Legal Knowledge

Relatively speaking, the foundation of basic knowledge of students in higher vocational colleges is relatively weak and their reserve of legal knowledge is insufficient after graduating from middle school. When they study in higher vocational colleges, one part of their legal knowledge comes from the course of Ideological&Moral Cultivation and Legal Basis, and the other part comes from the legal courses related to the major, such as educational laws and regulations, the law of service for the elderly. Restricted by class hours, teaching methods, learning ability, and other factors, higher vocational students’ understanding of the law is not comprehensive and systematic.

3.2. Lack of the Habit of Abiding by the Law

To form the habit of abiding by the law, basic legal knowledge and the consciousness of abiding by the rules are equally important. As higher vocational students are relatively weak in self-control, they often get hot-headed or take chances when dealing with problems and making decisions, instead of considering whether it is legal and feasible. In addition, because of their lack of legal knowledge and ability of learning, they don’t have a legal bottom line in their minds.

3.3. Insufficient Ability to Solve Problems According to Law

The lack of legal knowledge will lead to the inability to solve practical problems according to the law. For example, when they are plagued by campus violence, online loan fraud, and employment disputes, they do not know how to deal with them, nor do they know the ways and means to safeguard their rights. They might turn a blind eye to illegal and criminal acts, and stand idly by acts that harm public interests, all of which show that higher vocational students cannot use laws to solve practical problems.

4. Ways to Strengthen the Rule of Law Awareness of Students in Higher Vocational Colleges

In order to strengthen the rule of law awareness of higher vocational students, we should give full play to the traditional ways, and at the same time, innovate the ways of cultivation and explore more flexible ways.

4.1. Traditional Ways

4.1.1. Strengthening the Rule of Law Awareness of Higher Vocational Students in the Ideological and Political Course

We should give full play to the role of the Ideology and Morality and the Rule of Law course, as it plays a critical role in strengthening the rule of law awareness. Teachers should enrich the content of the course, and explain the importance of the rule of law to students; They should carry out targeted teaching methods according to the characteristics of students of different ages and different majors; They should adopt a variety of teaching methods, such as case method and discussion method, so as to cultivate students’ interest in learning legal knowledge; They should combine theory with practice, combine the rule of law awareness with what higher vocational students think; They should insist on lifelong learning, and improve their legal knowledge system; They should regard classroom as the main teaching venue, and strengthen the rule of law awareness of higher vocational students in their courses.

4.1.2. Integrate Relevant Legal Knowledge into Professional Courses

Learning and mastering basic legal knowledge is the premise of strengthening the rule of law awareness. The whole society is subject to the corresponding laws and regulations. While learning professional knowledge, higher vocational students should also learn legal knowledge related to their major. So schools should integrate relevant legal knowledge into professional courses. For example, students majoring in accounting should learn about company law, tax law, and negotiable
instrument law. Students majoring in preschool education should learn about educational laws and regulations. Students majoring in criminal investigation should learn about criminal procedure law. And students majoring in information engineering should learn about information policies and regulations. The study of relevant legal knowledge can urge higher vocational students to combine professional knowledge with legal knowledge, increase their reserve of legal knowledge and enhance their professional skills, so as to strengthen their rule of law awareness in the professional field.

4.1.3. Attach Importance to the Strengthening of Rule of Law Awareness in Practice Teaching

Practice teaching is an important part of the teaching process of higher vocational education. Targeted activities such as legal knowledge explanation, expert lectures, special forums, and case analysis should be carried out during practice teachings such as school training, enterprise training, and enterprise internship. By doing so, higher vocational students can deepen their impression in the process of practical training and practice, combine professional knowledge with legal knowledge, acquire legal knowledge, use legal knowledge to solve practical problems, form legal thinking, and improve their rule of law awareness.

4.2. Innovative Ways

To strengthen the rule of law awareness of higher vocational students, higher vocational students, higher vocational colleges, families, and other social forces should make joint efforts.

4.2.1. Higher Vocational Students Should Respect, Learn, Obey and Use the Law

Higher vocational students are an important force in national construction in the future. For contemporary college students to improve their rule of law awareness, they should first identify the rule of law and respect the law; They should learn legal knowledge, understand the provisions of the law, and at the same time strengthen legal practice and deepen their understanding of the law; They should develop the habit of abiding by the law and rules, act in compliance with the law, and learn to use the law to safeguard their rights. Teachers should cultivate students’ rule-of-law thinking, exercise rights and obligations following the law, respect, study, abide by and use the law consciously. Teachers should become loyal admirers and staunch defenders of the socialist rule of law.

4.2.2. Higher Vocational Colleges Should Take More Measures to Strengthen Students’ Rule of Law Awareness

In order to strengthen the rule of law awareness of higher vocational students, higher vocational colleges should first attach great importance to it, bring it into the goal of student cultivation, and formulate corresponding plans. Colleges should strengthen the publicity and education of the rule of law, and connect the work and study of teachers and students with the rule of law to form legal consciousness. Colleges should carry out diversified campus activities with legal characteristics, such as debate competitions, mock courts, Law Popularization Week, and National Constitution Day to create a strong atmosphere of the rule of law and enable students to be influenced by the law; Colleges should make use of WeChat official account, Weibo and other new media platforms, and select representative cases to carry out legal publicity and education for higher vocational students according to their characteristics. In the process of teaching, administration and service, colleges should act in accordance with the law and create a campus environment for acting according to the law and running the school according to the law.

4.2.3. Families Should Guide Students to Develop the Rule of Law Thinking

Family is an indispensable part of strengthening higher vocational students’ rule of law awareness. Based on the characteristics of the parent-child relationship, parents should create a sound family atmosphere for higher vocational students, and actively guide higher vocational students to develop good thinking and behavior according to the rule of law. Besides, parents should become models in respecting the law and lead their children to abide by the law and use the law. A benign interaction mechanism between family and higher vocational colleges should be established, during which family and school play an equal role in promoting the cultivation of college students’ rule of law thinking, so as to strengthen their rule of law awareness.

5. Conclusion

Higher vocational students in the new era are the builders of the country and an important force in the construction of the rule of law in the future. The rule of law awareness of higher vocational students in the new era is of great importance to the overall awareness of the whole nation and the progress made in governing the country according to law. Higher vocational students, higher vocational colleges, and families should give full play to their respective roles, make joint efforts, explore various ways to strengthen higher vocational students’ rule of law awareness and train higher vocational students to become newcomers of the times who respect, learn, abide by and use the law.

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