A Study on the Management and Service Mechanism of Retired Students Back to College

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Abstract. In recent years, the number of the retired students back to colleges and universities is increasing. We analyze the characteristics of these students and the current problems in the process of education management. We also research the management and service mechanism of retired students back to school from the colleges and universities, secondary schools, policy support and other aspects. Then, we put forward working styles about the educational management of these students.

Introduction

Since the Ministry of Education, the General Staff and the General Political Department of China published the “Notice on recruiting new full-time college students recruits from colleges and universities” [1,2], more and more students in colleges and universities have given up civilian pursuits to join the army and accept exercise in the troops. It is an important measure to adapt to the needs of national defense and army modernization in the new era, optimize the structure of the troops and improve the combat effectiveness of the troops. Since 2001, China has implemented the system of encouraging full-time college students to join the army, so a special group: retired college students, entered the field of vision. In recent years, with the preferential treatment of college student soldiers, and policies continuing to improve the situation, there have been hot scenes of college students who want to join the army when the conscription begins. Two years later, many students who meet the policy conditions retire and return to school, beginning a completely different life from the military life under popular educational background. However, due to the disruption of education, the change of environment between schools and military camps, and the change of roles between students and soldiers, when retired students return to school, difficulties and problems will arise in the process of role transformation. How to fully use these students' fine styles and good qualities, then help them adapt to the class and complete their studies, is an important task that the college students ideological education management department has to face. The society pays lots of attention to the enlistment issue of college students and the college student soldiers, but pays less attention to the group of retired college students. Then what are the present situations and problems of the retired students back to the school? Through our research, we have summed up a series of problems such as the increasingly prominent problem of learning; the failure of special care payment implementation; less social support; the pessimistic employment situation and so on. To solve the problems, we have proposed solutions of the relevant issues.

1. The Main Problems Facing to the Retired College Students Back to School

After the exercise in the service period, the ideological awareness of the military college students generally increases substantially in quality. Their wills are also exercised. After the resumption of school, their performance is generally better than the average classmates. When they encounter
important things, they can play an important role. If they can be actively guided, they will play the leading role. Special experiences and the habits of restraining the self-behavior developed during the service, make them get better recognition among the students. They are able to establish a certain prestige in a short time. With the experience of the troops, they have realized the importance of learning and have a correct attitude towards learning. But since they have been away from school for a long time, the retired college students also show some kinds of discomfort. According to our research results, there are several urgent problems needing to be solved.

1.1 The problem of academic study

Although the retired students back to school have a good attitude, some of the specialized courses themselves have become the obstacles of their academic study. To a certain extent, two years of delay make them strange to the professional knowledge and English. In serious cases, they can’t get the graduation certificate and the degree’s diploma. The retired students back to school are facing group problems and difficulties in professional learning. Among them, there are more difficulties for the science and engineering students than the liberal arts students in academic study, and the difficulties of English learning are common.

1.2 The reduction of social existence

Whether it is society, military or colleges and universities are actively promoting “Joining the army is glorious” and “The demobilization is glorious”. Thousands of veterans experience the infinite glory of a successful service, and retire with unlimited glory. However, the glory is just an instant. There is no difference between retired students back to school and ordinary college students, they even can not find the value and glory of their joining the army and serving the military. The value of the individual to join the army is ignored or forgotten by the community.

“Who knows the loneliness of returning to school?” Few soldiers return to school or home during the two years of service. When they come back to school, their original classmates have either entered the high grades, or have graduated from school, and their university life is also fixed on two years ago. The retired students and the original students have barriers and senses of being unfamiliar. Universities and colleges do not pay timely attention to the group, so it also makes them feel lost and lonely. Retired college students desire to enjoy the same glory and courtesy as joining the army. So they are very eager to be given the stage and the opportunity to show their military experience. In this project, we interviewed more than a dozen retired college students. They said that they had strong desires and expectations to share their experiences or feelings of the army. Many people reflected their lack of platform and exchange of interaction.

1.3 The problem of not adapting to the life

In life, retired students are also facing a lot of discomfort. Before returning to school, they have developed a very regular life in the army. The daily life is strictly planned and time is constrained, as a result, their life is well-organized and fulfilling. But after returning to college, they face a completely different life. There is no daily fixed military training, and there are no comrades. However, there are roommates who go to bed late and wake up late, classmates rare to meet, and time of self-study without courses. This very different university life makes a lot of retired students do not know what to do, and the adjustment of the biological clock has also become a challenge. This relatively free university life will make them feel confused and panicked, which is bound to affect their normal learning and so on.

1.4 Management issues

As the awareness of the retired students back to school is generally high, they do not need too much attention, and the number of college students back to school is quite small in the past few years. Therefore, the university educational management department has not set up specific departments to carry out systematic management and guidance of these students. The students have served in different units, with their own characteristics and imprints of the troops. After returning to school, they are also separated in different colleges, not causing the attention of all levels of
management, and there are few platforms for them to show themselves. The retired students are older and they have more experience than their new classmates after returning to school. These students can have more comprehensive considerations of the problems, and their learning attitudes are more motivated than the students who do not want to strive. They can win prestige, but also cause the problem that they do not understand each other, and estrangement even appears. During the period of serving, they mainly accept military training and learn ideological and political education knowledge. But for the professional theoretical knowledge, they almost learn nothing even backward, bringing greater challenges and obstacles for the successful completion of their study, especially in schools where the disciplines or training programs have adjusted. For individual retired students, it is hard to find the original or similar major to continue their studies.

1.5 Social policy is not implemented

The policy of college student enlistment is constantly updated and optimized from enlistment to retirement. The regulations of many colleges and universities have changed as well as the social policy. The literature research data show that the issue of pension is a question that has more feedbacks and the granting of the pension still exists problems in some colleges and universities, mainly in the following two aspects: First, preferential policies are unfair, and second, preferential policies change frequently.

1.6 Real employment problem

For the retired students back to school, they do not experience the special privileges over ordinary college students in the graduation and employment field. On the contrary, being slightly older, they have disadvantages. Someone puts forward that maybe due to adjustment of curriculums, other adjustments and the difficulties to communicate with their younger classmates, some retired college students might simply choose to drop out of school, thus abandoning their study. The “Second Employment” of these retired students may be more stressful, so the local government, colleges and universities need to pay more attention.

In order to encourage college graduates to join the army, China has introduced a number of preferential policies. But behind the “enthusiasm of joining the army”, a series of “cold questions” are worth pondering. For example, what is the attraction of the military camp for college students? How to treat with college students’ motivation of joining the army faced with fierce competition and multi pressure? What can the students gain in two years or even longer closed military career? Is the “second employment” of the military college students facing greater pressure? According to the analysis of the retired students’ learning, policy enjoyment, social support and employment status, we have found that although they look quite glorious but there appear many serious problems resulted from the imperfection of the government welfare policy and the lack of social and school support network. If we can not solve the problems faced by this group as soon as possible, it is not only harmful to the progress and growth of these retired students, but also affects the enthusiasm of college students to join the army and poses a challenge to the modernization of China’s armed forces and national defense.

2. Study on the Management and Service Mechanism of Retired College Students

Through our research and study, we have come up with a set of valuable service and management methods of retired college students, so that retired college students can adapt to university life as soon as possible, and each student can become a model in campus. Our methods allow them to take practical actions to influence and lead the students around, to make more contributions for the school spirit and academic atmosphere. At the same time, through the excellent military service of these students, we can promote college students to join the army; improve the propaganda work; enhance the awareness of college students joining the army and improve their enthusiasm. The results are presented as follows:
2.1 Perfecting the management system of college retired students

For retired college student group, the university should set up a special management organization or affiliate to the student work management department to carry out specialized research, management and service on the work of college students joining the army, serving, retiring, returning to school and so on, and timely preach and convey the relevant policies of the state. The organization should develop relevant incentives in line with the characteristics of the school, and provide timely help and answers to a series of demands of these students. Before the conscription, all policies should be propagated correctly, so that students can fully understand them. At the same time, the United College, the undergraduate, the financial department, employment guidance center and other units, should hold a policy preaching and farewell for the students, indicating the school's expectations of their returning to school, and give the phone number of the relevant departments to these students to ensure that if they have confusions in the troops, they will have one more channel to solve the doubts.

2.2 Check the returning to school issue

When retired students return to school, the deputy secretary of the party committee who is responsible for student work, should personally convene the coordination meeting of the leadership of relevant departments, to ensure the implementation of policies and regulations of the compensation, special care and so on. The deputy secretary of the secondary school where the retired student belongs, should communicate with the counselor and class instructor about the situation of these students, to arouse their attention before the retired students enter the new class. At the same time, the deputy secretary should focus on the educational job of retired students to make them adapt to the new life; organize classes to hold special class meetings to welcome them back to school; properly arrange their dormitories and supervise student cadres to provide initiative care, so that the retired students can feel the care and warmth of school, class and classmates.

2.3 Do academic guidance and helping work correctly

As for their academic studies, we should give them enough attention. For retired students, the professional courses of study will undoubtedly become their greatest difficulty. Therefore, the undergraduate, secondary colleges and so on should attach great importance to their study from the beginning of their returning to school. Besides the normal arrangements for class hours, special tutorship should be given to them depending on the overall learning results of their own. For retired students who have indeed difficulty in learning, special instruction should be arranged to invite teachers and seniors to help them. And we can establish an academic help mechanism in time, make sure that the counselors, class instructors, students cadres and parents are responsible for this to develop relevant programs to help the retired students adapt to the new class quickly, and complete their studies successfully.

2.4 Build after-school activities platforms

In the retired students’ daily learning and living process, we can build a platform to give them an opportunity to show themselves and to enhance their sense of honor and mission. In accordance with the conditions and procedures for the establishment of student associations and after the approval of related institutions, “Student Military Club”, “Military Friendship Association”, “Association of Military Theories”, “Green Army Association” and other student organizations can be set up by the retired student. The form of associations can unite the retired college students, enabling them to help each other. This method not only provides them with a communication and learning opportunity, but also makes it easier for them to share what they have learned and thought in the troops with ordinary college students.

2.5 Establish the archives management system of the retired students

In view of the enlisted students or graduates, the school should establish the relevant file management system to track the performance of students during their service, and track the
performance of the retired students in school continuously, in order to accumulate the first-hand data of the retired students’ role in ideological and political education. We should follow up the policy and advice, and do the relevant guidance work for these students if they meet the standard of recommended exemption graduate. We are supposed to guide and help these students to participate the employment fairs held by school, helping them enjoy the employment information, key recommendation, employment guidance and other employment services.

2.6 Make full use of retired students to participate in the ideological and political education curriculum

“Two Courses” is a required course of strengthening ideological and political education in colleges and universities. However, many colleges and universities still teach the “Two Courses” with theoretical teaching methods. Part of the class teaching is dull, single and boring. So it is difficult to arouse the interest of students, and such teaching effect is not obvious. If we can use the resources of retired students to participate in the construction of ideological and political education courses or military theory class teaching, the content will be enriched and the teaching efficiency will be improved.

2.7 Using the exemplary role of the retired students

The retired students have more experience and strong senses of social responsibility, making it easier for most of them to establish prestige in front of their classmates. From this point of view, they are more appealing to the other students. Counselors and class instructors can guide them correctly and actively encourage them to be student cadres or join student organizations, making full use of the retired students’ self-restraint characteristics to promote other students’ self-restraint. In this way, we can fully use the retired college students’ good styles and they can be role models.

Each year, colleges and universities do extensive and in-depth policy advocacy of the conscription work. In addition to the blackboard newspaper publicity and the theme class meeting propaganda, we can also use the resources of school's retired students, taking various forms such as counseling, preaching or mobilization, and letting them participate in the propaganda and mobilization work. Their sense of dedication will be improved in the propaganda process.

Conclusions

It is necessary to coordinate the efforts of multiple departments to do the education and management work of the retired students. We should pay more attention to their returning to school issues to help the students adapt to the new class as soon as possible, so that they can be in the learning state. We should pay attention to their academic and daily life, building a platform of after-school activities and styles display for them. At the same time, we should strictly implement the preferential policies for college students who join the army, improve the employment advantage of retired students, and form a set of effective management and service mechanism for college students who return to school from the troops.

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