The Present Condition, Causes and Countermeasures of College Students’ Inadequacy of Legal Quality

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Abstract. In the course of constructing China into a socialist country under the rule of law, the level of college students’ legal quality plays a determinant role in their development in the society and also influences the effect of collegiate legal education that advocates the spirit of lawfulness, develops legal quality, reduces and prevents violation of law and crimes. From the view of improving students’ legal quality, this paper gives an analysis of the present condition and causes of college students’ inadequacy of legal quality and also illustrates the approaches and countermeasures to enhance college students’ legal quality.

The Present Condition of College Students’ Inadequacy of Legal Quality

Concern about China’s Law Construction while Still Weak Legal Consciousness

At present, college students show due concern about the democratic and lawful construction of the nation whereas quite a considerable number of students are skeptical about law, lack confidence in the judicial justice and harbor weak legal consciousness. College students ought to be law-conscious, which remains a critical factor for a country’s legal system. However, when students are confronted with legal problems, what first occurs to their mind is not law but how to pull strings and take advantage of relations. Some students though think of law, yet in any case of difficulty and hardships they tend to lose confidence in law thus to exaggerate the role of power deeming human power to be greater than lawful power. In the cases of law breaking and crimes, a majority of students lack the courage and resolution to fight against violations and crimes.

Apparently, that fails to comply with the objective of college students’ legal education and contradicts the present pursuit of legal society. Therefore, it’s not surprising to see the cases of Li Mingqi from Hebei Province who ever has shouted “My Dad is Li Gang” and Yao Jiaxin Murder from Xi’an.

Aware of the Importance of Law While Inadequate in Legal Knowledge

Legal knowledge is an important element of legal quality which turns to be a important means to judge the level of legal quality. Universally speaking, college students consider law important in the contemporary world as in cases of legal disputes they show particular desire for legal knowledge. However, their interest in learning legal knowledge stays in a low level whose purpose is to deal with examinations. Especially with the increasing pressure of employment and influence of social trend of fickleness, many students expect courses to be immediately
helpful for their future employment. So their focus is on professional knowledge and specialized techniques whereas they are inactive in learning the legal knowledge. Even if they begin to study, it mainly is of very superficial degree and many students have the least amount of basic legal knowledge. For instance, some college students were cheated to get involved in pyramid scheme without realizing it is illegal organized activity. College students’ inadequate knowledge of labor law in the middle of employment will lead to inability to protect their own legal rights by means of law when signing contract with enterprises. Similar inadequacy can also be manifested in the case of crime in which a college student split sulphuric acid onto bear. The above incidences are all direct manifestation of lack of legal knowledge.

Inability to Apply Legal Knowledge and Frequent Occurrences of Crimes and Violations

At present, inadequacy of college students’ legal quality has resulted in mishandling of interpersonal relationships. The number of collegiate crimes from key universities and even famous universities have been on the rise and campus burglaries, frauds, sex crimes and physical injuries occur from time to time. Crimes of students mainly feature property and injuries whereas most of the crimes originate from their vanity, revenge and even kleptomania. At the same time there also exist some new types of cases, such as endangering public security (Explosion of Heyuan in Tsinghua University), psychological crisis (Murder by Ma Jiajue) and so on. The crimes tend to be of higher intelligence, disguise and more harmful than common crimes which all reflect the inability to apply college students’ legal knowledge and ignorance of how to abide by and uphold law.

Causes of College Students’ Inadequacy of Legal Qualities

Current State of Colleges’ Emphasis on Intelligent Education Instead of Moral Education

The present condition of China’s education still puts emphasis on exam-oriented educational pattern where there is insufficient training and development in students’ psychological and legal qualities. Furthermore, college students are in their puberty years with incomplete psychological development. During that period, they have limited self-control, inadequate life experience and lack ability to distinguish right from wrong in the complicated society.

Change of Contemporary College Students’ Sense of Value

Greatly affected by the societal elements, the thousands of years of Chinese feudalism has grown people’s concept of the supreme power. This concept equals power instead of law in the conservative Chinese people’s mind. Accordingly, concepts like supreme power and money worship made the public distrust the justice and seriousness of law. With the development of commodity economy, college students’ sense of value bear the tendency of individualism and utility. Some students mistakenly believe material benefits are the measure of personal gains and loss while even some students abandon the fundamental moral standpoint and code of conducts for the benefit of economical gains.

Legal Education Contains Weak Points among Higher Education

At present, though all colleges have added law basis into the teaching plan, still due to the limits of the law classes and emphasis on the law theory lecturing as well as insufficiency of
psychological instruction and necessary practical teaching parts, many students lack due legal and moral faith.

**Countermeasures to Inadequacy of College Students’ Legal Quality**

All kinds of methods should be taken to promote legal knowledge among college students and efforts should be made to consolidate the legal education in colleges and training of legal quality should be involved in the overall plan of college students’ legal quality education. Sense of social responsibility of teachers and colleges should be reinforced; efficient methods of legal quality education should be studied and rule of legal education is to be followed. The relationship between colleges and judicial organizations should be strengthened. By means of holding students’ hearing the jury and cases, practical teaching can be strengthened in terms of legal education, students’ level of legal knowledge can be improved and consciousness of abiding by the law can be enhanced.

**Take Advantage of the Administrative and Supervisory Role of Colleges’ Political Instructors, Students Leaders and Students Party Members**

Guided by socialist core value system leading young students grow up into talents, seminars, legal discussions, legal knowledge competitions, speech competitions and legal publicity month should be actively carried out in terms of legal education. Students should get more access to legal knowledge and get developed with interest in legal knowledge and practical use. Spontaneous study and practice of socialist core value system, improvement of self moral qualities, right scientific life outlook and sense of value, steadfastness in socialist faith to meet the expected effect of improving legal quality. Once students are on the verge of committing a crime or have committed a crime, they should be instantly prevented and reported to school and related department.

**Combination of Accumulating Morality and Law to Create a Harmonious Campus under the Rule of Law**

Combination of morality and law turns out to be the integrity of realizing moral rules and lawful rules administrating school among college students’ management. Administration under the rule of law is the basis and prerequisite of school’s stable order. However, in order to play its due role depends largely on the coordination of morality-oriented administration. For the purpose of creating legal educational environment, teachers and faculty from private colleges should be required to abide by the law and set examples of applying the law and treat all students fairly and justly to instruct students to form legal conscientiousness through personal acts. Outside the classrooms, seminar instructions, legal discussions, competition of law knowledge, speech of law and miscellaneous kinds of legal educational activities should also be carried out.

Students should get more access to law knowledge and develop their interest in legal knowledge thus to meet the expected effect of legal quality education. At the same time, stable order of the society and cleanness of social environment are prerequisites of preventing college students from committing crimes. Governments of all levels should also cooperate with colleges to vastly regulate the security order within and around the colleges and universities and strictly crack down on the illegal acts of obscenity, gambling and drug-taking.
Conclusion

Education of college students’ legal quality remains a significant and indispensable part in the process of enhancing China’s rule of law. Reinforcing legal education to college students and making them conscious of rule of law, study law, abide by it, know it and apply it is of realistic meaning for safeguarding the campus stability and order and constructing a harmonious campus. It also can fulfills the duty of legal education. Hopefully concerned departments should regulate the Law of Campus Security. We are firmly convinced that a scientific, standardized and legal system of college students’ legal education will take shape.

Reference


