



Solutions to improve the quality of legal awareness education for current students of tan trao university

Nguyen Mai Chinh

Tan Trao University, Tuyen Quang Province, Vietnam

* Corresponding Author: **Nguyen Mai Chinh**

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Abstract

In the context of constructing a rule-of-law state, Vietnamese education must cultivate students with strong political and moral qualities; possess comprehensive professional knowledge; demonstrate basic practical skills; be capable of working independently and creatively; understand and adhere to the Constitution and laws to meet the demands of the country's industrialization and modernization; operationalize the goal of higher education reform; and address local development needs in the foreseeable future. On a theoretical foundation, our focus is to elucidate the current situation of the issue to propose suitable solutions that contribute to enhancing the quality of legal awareness education for students at Tan Trao University in the present period.

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1. Introduction

The province of Tuyen Quang possesses many favorable conditions for socioeconomic development and the promotion of industrialization and modernization. However, it still faces numerous challenges, with a general lack of understanding about the Constitution and laws among the populace, including students studying at Tan Trao University – the province's sole university. Despite recent efforts to educate students about legal awareness at Tan Trao University, there remain significant shortcomings. It is imperative to address these issues with the aim of enhancing the quality and effectiveness of legal dissemination and education within the academic environment. This requires a concerted effort to: improve the quality and efficiency of legal education and dissemination within the university setting, foster a strong shift in awareness and respect for the law among educators, educational administrators, and students, contribute to a stable educational environment, and enhance comprehensive education quality to cultivate a high-quality workforce that serves the socioeconomic development of both the nation and Tuyen Quang province specifically.

2. Historical research

Legal consciousness and legal education for students have been subjects of interest and research by scholars across various perspectives. Works directly or indirectly related to the research topic include:

"Law, Politics, Ethics, and Social Legal Consciousness". "Legal Spirit". "Formation of Socialist Legal Consciousness of Individuals". "Law and State Governance" by Minogue Martin (2003) ^[16]. "Democracy: State and Society" by N.M Voskresenskaia and N.B Davletshina (2023) ^[17]. "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?". "Philosophy of Law" by Raymond Wacks (2011). "Politics" by Aristotle (2018). "Some Theoretical and Practical Issues in Legal Education during the Renewal Process" (Research topic at Ministry level, Institute of Legal Science Research, Ministry of Justice, 2016). "Legal Consciousness" (Author Nguyen Minh Doan, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2017). Doctoral thesis in Law by Phan Hong Duong "Legal Education for Non-Law Major Students in Vietnamese Universities" (2014). "Legal Education for University Students: Urgent Requirements Today" by Vu Thi Hong Van (Journal of Democracy and Law, issue 3, 2016). "Organizational Measures for Legal Education for University

Students (in Ho Chi Minh City)" (Doctoral thesis in Education by Nguyen Khac Hung, 2009).

In summary, the above-mentioned works provide comprehensive insights into legal consciousness, serving as valuable resources for further elucidating the following aspects: Firstly, analyzing the conditions in Tuyen Quang province that impact the legal consciousness education for students at Tan Trao University. Secondly, analyzing and evaluating the current situation of legal consciousness education and the challenges within the legal education framework at Tan Trao University. Thirdly, proposing solutions to enhance the quality of legal consciousness education for students at Tan Trao University in the present phase.

3. Research Methodology

During our research, we employed the following coordinated methods:

Logical and Historical Method: Utilized to analyze, interpret, and clarify the concepts, content, structure, functions, and roles of legal consciousness; the position, role, and tasks of legal consciousness education in Vietnam today.

Analysis and Synthesis Method: Used to elucidate the contents of the research subject; employing synthesis methods helps provide an overview of the analyzed issues, thereby facilitating the construction of research conclusions.

Sociological Survey Method: Applied to investigate and assess the current situation of legal consciousness education for both faculty members and students at Tan Trao University.

Practical Research Method: Employed to investigate and survey the legal consciousness of Tan Trao University students, their awareness of legal compliance, thus enabling the formulation of conclusions and evaluations regarding the effectiveness of legal consciousness education for students during the past period, and proposing solutions.

Data Processing Method: Used to process survey data on students' legal awareness, the situation of legal violations among students, thereby providing conclusions and evaluations of the research process.

4. Result

4.1. Some fundamental issues regarding legal consciousness and legal consciousness education for students

In the capacity of a form of social consciousness, legal consciousness plays a particularly crucial role in various spheres of social life in our country today, specifically:

Firstly, the role of legal consciousness in the construction of a socialist rule-of-law state. In the socialist rule-of-law state we are building, the law reflects the profound will and aspirations of the majority of the people, with all state power belonging to the people. To fulfill their duties, the people and the National Assembly must enhance their understanding of the state and the law for all social classes. Therefore, educating legal consciousness for students serves the purpose of helping them understand, enhance their citizenship awareness towards the law, and contribute their efforts to the nation's construction and development amidst globalization. Secondly, legal consciousness contributes to the construction and development of legal systems and legal science, as well as the enforcement of laws and the promotion of socio-economic development. Legal consciousness helps create a well-ordered society, where the enactment, observance, and

application of laws require a high level of legal consciousness within society, social groups, and individuals. The higher the legal consciousness of society, social groups, and individuals, the quicker and more accurate the enactment and application of state laws, and vice versa.

Thirdly, legal consciousness contributes to safeguarding national security and defending the motherland. To effectively carry out the tasks of protecting the motherland and maintaining national security and social order, every citizen must have a firm grasp of national and international laws. With a strong understanding of the law and high legal consciousness, people will act to protect national sovereignty and contribute to safeguarding the homeland.

Legal consciousness education is an activity with specific purposes, organization, planning, based on defined content, and implemented through certain methods and forms by the subject of legal consciousness education, impacting the recipients of legal consciousness education to develop in them a system of knowledge about legal perspectives, legal thoughts, legal psychology; attitudes and feelings towards the law, legal order; evaluations of the fairness and correctness of current laws, lawful behaviors of citizens, the state, and organizations in society. The content of legal consciousness education must be specific, directly targeting the education subjects. Legal consciousness education for students aims to equip them with knowledge, information, and understanding of the law; attitudes, feelings, and beliefs towards the law; habits, lifestyles, and positive legal behaviors for students; helping students develop personalities, absorb, and apply into professional work after graduation.

In addition to adhering to the general objectives above, legal consciousness education for students must be closely linked with political education, moral education, and aesthetic education to help students not only gain knowledge and understanding of the law but also have a cultural behavior style in life.

4.2. Current Status of Legal Consciousness Education for Students at Tan Trao University

4.2.1. The Current Status of Faculty Members Engaged in Legal Consciousness Education

The number of law faculty members at Tan Trao University primarily depends on the scale and training fields of the institution. Currently, the university is training 2,585 regular students, among whom only 6 faculty members are involved in teaching law subjects. This reality indicates a shortage of law faculty members at the university.

Regarding the age structure of the law faculty members: the distribution of law faculty members across different age groups and generations is uneven. Presently, the university's law faculty members range from 31 to over 45 years old, with no faculty members under 30. This constitutes a group of dynamic and sharp young faculty members who will eventually bridge the gap with the older generation.

In terms of gender composition, all law faculty members at Tan Trao University are female, with no male faculty members. This gender imbalance in the law faculty highlights certain limitations typically faced by female faculty members, such as having less time for academic pursuits and professional development, maternity leave, and the tendency to experience more pressure in teaching compared to their male counterparts.

Regarding the structure according to academic disciplines, out of the total 6 law faculty members, 2 are involved in

teaching General Law, a compulsory subject for most student groups, including pedagogy and political science majors. These 2 faculty members also teach specialized law subjects for pedagogy and political science majors. As for other disciplines such as economics, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and medicine, there are currently 4 faculty members teaching specialized law subjects. These results indicate an unbalanced distribution of law faculty members across disciplines, with some disciplines having a higher proportion of law faculty members than others.

As of December 31, 2023, Tan Trao University has 4 law faculty members who are party members, accounting for 66.6%, and 2 non-party member law faculty members, accounting for 33.3%. Among them, 4 party member law faculty members hold master's degrees, 1 non-party member law faculty member holds a master's degree, and 1 law faculty member is currently pursuing a master's degree. All law faculty members possess good moral qualities, which is a significant factor influencing legal consciousness education for students. Education must focus on cultivating both morality and knowledge, and law faculty members must serve as role models for students to emulate. In terms of academic qualifications, the number of law faculty members with academic titles and degrees is relatively low compared to the national average. There are no law faculty members with doctoral degrees or associate professor titles. However, in terms of professional competence, 100% of law faculty members have certifications in university teaching methods and scientific research methodologies. All law faculty members meet the requirements for computer literacy and foreign language proficiency.

4.2.2. The current status of students and the outcomes of legal consciousness education for students at Tan Trao University

According to statistics, the number of undergraduate students enrolled for the academic year 2023-2024 at Tan Trao University is 2,585. In recent times, there has been an increasing trend in legal violations, breaches of regulations, and ethical misconduct among students, including some severe criminal offenses. The data also indicates a rise in violations of regulations, thefts, traffic safety violations, and gambling among students. However, these violations are mostly of a less serious nature, with the majority being first-time offenses.

The content of legal consciousness education for students still faces numerous limitations and shortcomings. These include general and inadequate educational content, a rudimentary curriculum structure lacking in-depth legal knowledge, and a theoretical-heavy approach with limited practical application and guidance.

Surveys reveal that the majority of lecturers still predominantly employ monologue teaching methods. This often results in passive learning among students, leading to psychological rigidity, apathy, and a lack of enthusiasm, dynamism, positivity, and creativity. Consequently, the effectiveness of legal consciousness education for students is compromised.

Currently, the university lacks specific regulations regarding the forms of legal consciousness education applicable to different groups of students. The differentiation and diversification of legal consciousness education methods among students in various fields and majors are still insufficient, lacking variety and a combination of multiple

forms to achieve the highest effectiveness.

Furthermore, some departments have yet to develop their own legal curriculum or establish open educational resources. Based on these realities, the continued development, innovation, and enhancement of the quality of curriculum systems, textbooks, reference materials, and open educational resources convenient for students' exploration and use are essential measures to improve the quality of legal consciousness education for students in the future.

Regarding infrastructure, the current facilities for legal consciousness education for students at the university are generally adequate in meeting the current student population's requirements. However, the quality of infrastructure remains outdated, deficient, and inconsistent, particularly in lecture halls, classrooms, libraries, playgrounds, and laboratories, thus failing to fully support the scale of training needs.

4.3. Proposing Solutions to Enhance the Quality of Legal Consciousness Education for Students at Tan Trao University

4.3.1. Solutions for the Lecturer Team

The university needs to develop detailed and specific plans for the recruitment, supplementation, training, development, and orientation of the legal lecturer team towards 2030 for both existing and prospective training programs. Additionally, the university should implement incentive policies, demonstrate concern, and provide the most favorable conditions, both materially and spiritually, to ensure that the legal lecturer team can work comfortably and avoid situations where some legal lecturers seek transfers to other institutions or regions due to economic difficulties.

Between now and 2030, there is a need to continue planning, training, and standardizing the legal lecturer team, increasing the number of PhD holders and associate professors, aiming to have 1 to 2 associate professors in legal studies. The proportion of legal lecturers with doctoral degrees or above should strive to exceed 80%. Furthermore, greater emphasis should be placed on teacher training to ensure that lecturers regularly undergo training to update legal knowledge and teaching methods, participate in training on new university teaching theories, innovate teaching methods, and observe each other's classes to learn from each other.

Establishing a rational structure for the legal lecturer team in terms of age, experience, and gender is essential to ensure a reasonable ratio between senior, experienced lecturers and younger, dynamic, creative lecturers who are willing to think and act.

The university needs to enhance the legal lecturer team's awareness of the responsibility for scientific research and technology to improve the quality of the team and the training quality to meet the fundamental and comprehensive requirements of current higher education. Collaboration with domestic and international universities should be strengthened to enhance management capacity, training, scientific research, technology transfer, legal lecturer training, and facilitate legal lecturer training and development abroad.

4.3.2. Solution Group for Students

In the upcoming period, Tan Trao University needs to develop detailed and specific forecasts of the labor demand in the province and neighboring provinces until 2030. It requires thorough calculations regarding the labor demand

for certain fields currently training a large number of students, especially in pedagogy, which tends to be oversupplied. Conversely, the demand for labor in certain fields such as agriculture-forestry-fishery, basic sciences, information technology, law, economics, pharmacy, nursing, and cultural management is projected to exceed the available workforce in the foreseeable future.

The university should allocate the General Law course as a mandatory subject in the undergraduate curriculum for all training fields and majors, specifying a minimum teaching load of 2 credits. Additionally, there is a need to enhance and supplement specialized law courses into the foundational and specialized knowledge blocks. Alongside improving the core legal education curriculum, the university must also focus on developing extracurricular legal awareness education programs for students.

There should be mechanisms and policies in place to encourage and support students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who often have to work to cover their study and living expenses. The university should consider establishing a specialized unit to monitor and supervise students living off-campus. Moreover, regular guidance from student organizations should be provided to organize extracurricular activities to attract students' active participation in healthy and beneficial activities.

The compilation of curriculum systems and legal documents to serve the teaching and learning activities of lecturers and students is equally critical. This is an urgent task as the current legal teaching materials of the university are inadequate and deficient. In addition to the curriculum system, specialized reference materials should be developed for core curriculum subjects, and the university should focus on creating extracurricular educational materials, training documents, specialized bookshelves, and legal materials tailored to the requirements of each field and specialization. Each law lecturer should innovate their teaching methods. They should blend traditional lecture methods with problem-solving approaches, combining theoretical teaching with presenting case studies and quizzes. Moreover, law lecturers should shift their focus from "teacher-centered" to "student-centered" in the era of strong information technology development, aiming to enhance the quality of teaching. Additionally, there is a need to innovate methods for testing and evaluating students' learning outcomes, ensuring that assessments accurately reflect students' capabilities.

Regarding the organization of legal awareness education, there should be changes in approach. In addition to formal classroom teaching, law lecturers can employ various methods such as lectures, themed seminars, current affairs reports, film screenings, surveys, and evaluations of law enforcement. For extracurricular legal awareness education, the university needs to organize diverse activities, including oral legal propaganda for students, integrating oral propaganda with mobile legal aid...

In the future, the university needs to continue investing in infrastructure, purchasing supportive tools and equipment for lecturers to change their teaching methods, actively applying information technology in teaching, increasing the procurement of computers, speakers, microphones, projectors, electronic boards, specialized language labs, audiovisual rooms, online meeting rooms, movie theaters, etc. Strengthening investment resources to build libraries, electronic libraries, increasing the number of books, newspapers, documents, and textbooks...

Legal awareness education must be closely integrated with political, ideological, ethical, aesthetic, and lifestyle education for students at Tan Trao University, aiming to train students to have a solid political foundation, affirm loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought, and steadfastly pursue the goal of national independence associated with socialism. Educating legal awareness for students is not only about imparting legal knowledge but also about combining it with education on work style, ethics, and a righteous lifestyle for students.

5. Conclusion

To enhance the quality and effectiveness of legal awareness education for students at Tan Trao University, it is essential to consider both the distinctive characteristics and specificities of the locality and to integrate this task closely with political, ethical, and professional education. Legal awareness education must prioritize both core curriculum and extracurricular education, integrating it with organizational and educational activities. To improve the effectiveness of legal awareness education for Tan Trao University students, a comprehensive system of solutions across all relevant aspects is required. Among these, solutions related to the development of the faculty and innovations in the content, forms, and methods of legal awareness education are fundamental and crucial. These solutions play a decisive role in determining the quality and effectiveness of legal awareness education for students in the current period.

6. Acknowledgements

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