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The actual situation of organizing experiential activities in the national defense and security education subject at high schools in Thai Nguyen province

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Abstract

Used research methods: method of document analysis and synthesis, interview method, method of mathematical statistics. The article has evaluated the actual situation of organizing experiential activities in National Defense and Security Education at high schools in Thai Nguyen province to serve as a basis for the selection of solutions for organizing experiential activities of the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at the Center for National Defense and Security Education at Thai Nguyen University. The main results are: The conditions of facilities, yards, models, and teaching aids for teaching the National Defense and Security Education subject for students are still not guaranteed. In particular, the teaching staff do not have enough knowledge and skills to carry out the experiential activities of the National Defense and Security Education subject for students, so the efficiency achieved is not high, there is no attractiveness to students.

Keywords: National defense and security education, experiential activities, students, high school

1. Introduction

Following the direction of the Ministry of Education and Training, schools are currently implementing Circular No. 46/2020/TT-BGDĐT dated November 24, 2020 of the Minister of Education and Training promulgating the curriculum of the National Defense and Security Education at the high school level. The National Defense and Security Education subject in the high school curriculum is the main course, ensuring students have an initial understanding of the national defense; on the nation's tradition of fighting foreign invaders, the people's armed forces and Vietnamese military art; have basic and necessary knowledge of civil defense and military skills; be ready to perform military service to defend the Country.

However, the quality of the National Defense and Security Education subject in recent years still has limitations such as: The level of understanding and awareness of the educational forces and the source of access to information about the organization of experiential activities of the National Defense and Security Education subject as well as the contents, organizational form, and conditions to ensure the organization and evaluation of the effectiveness of the organization of the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject.

Stemming from the above facts; The author's group conducted a field survey on the organization of experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at high schools in Thai Nguyen province in order to have the most accurate and objective assessments in accordance with the requirements and the purpose set out by the Law on National Defense and Security Education. At the same time, it shall be served as a basis for the selection of solutions for organizing experiential activities of the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at the Center for National Defense and Security Education at Thai Nguyen University.

2. Research methods

To solve the research objective of the problem, the article used the following research methods: Method of document analysis and synthesis, Interview method and method of mathematical statistics.

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3. Research Results and Discussion

To evaluate the actual situation of organizing experiential activities in National Defense and Security Education subject at High schools in Thai Nguyen province, the article has surveyed 200 people, including managers of Thai Nguyen Department of Education and Training, managers and teachers of high schools (collectively referred to as educational forces). The results are presented in the sections below:

3.1 Evaluating the level of understanding of the educational forces at high schools about the experiential activities of the National Defence and Security Education subject for students

Table 1: The results of the survey on educational forces at high schools about the level of understanding of the experiential activities of the National Defense and Security Education subject (n = 200)

Level of understanding	Result	
	Number	Ratio %
Know the full details of this activity	44	22%
Know this activity to a certain extent	124	62%
Heard about it but don't know the specific content	28	14%
Haven't heard of this activity	4	2%

According to the survey results in Table 1, it shows that the vast majority of educational forces in the school have certain understandings of the experiential activities of the National Defense and Security Education subject, accounting for 62%. However, the number of educational forces who fully know about experiential activities is only about 22%, especially there are still educational forces who have only "heard about but do not know the specific content" and have not heard of this activity, accounting for 14% and 2% respectively. Thus, through a survey of the actual situation, we have found that it is necessary to raise awareness for school educational forces about the organization of experiential activities in general and experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject in particular.

3.2 Evaluation of the educational forces at high schools on the source of access to information about the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students

Table 2: The results of the survey on educational forces at high schools about the source of access to information about the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject (n = 200)

Information sources	Result	
	Number	Ratio %
Introduced through teaching materials of leaders	59	30.6
Trained through professional training sessions	94	48.7
Promotion of Military Schools, Center for National Defense and Security Education	111	57.5
Self-study from books, newspapers, magazines, Internet	107	55.4
Others...	1	0.5

Through the survey results in Table 2, it is shown that the school's educational forces have access to the experiential activities of the National Defense and Security Education subject through many sources of information, with different forms: This is most clearly shown through professional training and fostering sessions, and through the promotion of Military Schools, Center for National Defense and Security

Education, accounting for the 48.7% and 57.5% respectively. In addition, the school's educational forces get to know the experiential activities through teaching materials of leaders and self-study from books, newspapers, magazines and the internet, which are mainly sourced from the Center for National Defense and Security Education.

It can be seen that the source of access to information about the National Defense and Security Education subject are very diverse; especially in the era of Industry 4.0 Revolution, the advertising information of schools and centers as well as newspapers, magazines, and the Internet is receiving a lot of attention. This is the strength of the organization of the experiential activity program on the National Defense and Security Education subject because it will be introduced and spread to many people in society. It contributes to the overall success of the program.

3.3 Evaluating the educational forces at high schools on the necessity of organizing experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students

Table 3: Evaluation results of the educational forces at high schools on the necessity of organizing experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students (n = 200)

Level of evaluation	Result	
	Number	Ratio %
Very necessary	105	52.5
Necessary	90	45
Less necessary	5	2.5
Unnecessary	0	0

From the survey results in Table 3, it is shown that the majority of the school's educational forces think that it is very necessary to organize the experiential activities for high school students, specifically: The "Very necessary" evaluation accounts for 52.5%, and 45% rated at "Necessary". The results of this evaluation show the need to organize the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students. This means that the school's educational forces deem it very suitable when organizing the experiential education activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students.

3.4 Evaluation of the educational forces at high schools on the frequency of organizing experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students

Table 4: The results of the survey on the educational forces at high schools on the frequency of organizing experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject at the schools (n = 200)

Level of evaluation	Result	
	Number	Ratio %
Very often	8	4
Often	43	21.5
Less often	111	55.5
Not implementing	38	19

After trying to find out the cause of this low evaluation, we know that: In recent years, some schools have organized annual tours for high school students at military units stationed in Thai Nguyen province or organized tours to visit Military Museums (Vietnam Military History Museum, Military Zone 1 Museum.), visit some historical sites. Which

is covered by contents of subjects (History, Literature, Geography.) in the main course curriculum and in combination with the National Defense and Security Education for students, so it has been evaluated as "Often" by the educational forces. But this is an activity beyond the curriculum, the funding is done according to the motto "socialization". Therefore, if it cannot be funded or contributed by parents, it cannot be implemented, for such reasons, the vast majority of educational forces evaluated as "Less often" and "Not often".

According to the group of authors, this will be an opportunity for the Center to promote its existing strengths and seize the opportunity when the overall high school education curriculum has been promulgated by the Ministry of

Education and Training; In which, it is determined that in each class, 105 periods are required for experiential activities. Thus, it is possible to build the Center for National Defense and Security Education of Thai Nguyen University to become a place of experiential activities for students, not only about National Defense and Security Education, but also a place of practical experience for other subjects in the high school education curriculum.

3.5 Evaluation of the educational forces at high schools on the funding sources for organizing the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject at schools

Table 5: The results of the survey on managers and educational forces at high schools on the funding sources for organizing the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject at the units (n = 200)

Unit	Result	
	Number	Ratio %
Government	34	20.1
Sponsored by Enterprises	27	16
Self-funded cost	84	49.7
Contributed by Parents	120	71
Other expenses	1	2

Through the survey results, it can be seen that the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject are beyond the curriculum at school, so to organize the experiential activities at high schools, the main source of funding is parents' contributions. Funding sources from the state budget or other funding sources account for a very small percentage. Therefore, if it is not possible to mobilize additional funding or funding from parents' contribution, it will not be possible to organize the implementation. According to the group of authors, this will be an opportunity

for the Center to promote its existing strengths and seize the opportunity when the overall high school education curriculum and Circular No. 46/2020/TT-BGDĐT dated 24 November 2020 of the Minister of Education and Training have been determined.

3.6 Evaluation of the educational forces at high schools in Thai Nguyen province on the effectiveness of organizing the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject at the school

Table 6: Evaluation results of the education forces at high schools in Thai Nguyen province on the effectiveness of organizing the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject at the schools (n = 200)

Level evaluation	Result	
	Number	Ratio %
Very good	26	13
Good	63	31.5
Average	85	42.5
Not good	26	13

As shown in Table 6, the evaluation results of the education forces on the organization of experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at high schools show that the effectiveness is not really high. Of which, 26 people evaluate as "Not good" (accounting for 13%), while the majority (42.5%) evaluate as "Average", the rest evaluate as "Good" and "Very Good".

This reflects the actual situation of the quality and effectiveness of organizing experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at high schools. Despite being deeply grasped about the goals and requirements of National Defense and Security Education

task, being fully aware of this task, in the face of the fact that the guarantee conditions are not met, if there is no innovation in form and method of National Defense and Security Education and methods... it will not achieve the requirements set forth in the National Defense and Security Education task for high school students and certainly cannot be effective in this task.

3.7 The actual situation of conditions to ensure the organization of experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for high school students at the schools

Table 7: Evaluation results of the educational forces at high schools on the conditions to ensure the organization of experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject at the schools (n = 200)

Contents	Result							
	Very good		Good		Average		Not good	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Facilities								
Equipment for National Defense and Security Education	12	6	73	36.5	94	47	21	10.5
Sports field, training ground	13	6.5	62	31	104	52	21	10.5
Manpower								
Knowledge and skills about National Defense and Security Education of educational forces at the Schools	27	13.5	126	63	43	21.5	4	2
Experience in organizing experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject of the educational forces at the Schools	17	8.5	93	46.5	78	39	12	6
Enthusiasm and responsibility of the school's educational forces	33	16.5	137	68.5	30	15	0	0

According to the survey results in Table 7, it can be seen that the educational forces at the schools have been very frank in pointing out the current limitations of the schools in terms of the conditions to organize the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students, specifically as follows:

Regarding the minimum conditions of a specific nature, to ensure the organization of the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at the Schools (Disc of pictures, set of pictures) related to the contents of National Defense and Security Education for students, which are evaluated by the educational forces as "Average", even with evaluation as "Not Good". Particularly, the condition in terms of "Sports field, training ground to ensure students' activities" is evaluated by the educational forces as "Average". In addition, there are still limitations in terms of ensuring the sports field, training ground. The main reason comes from the limited financial resources of the schools, there are many other urgent and important items that need to be purchased and built first; The materials, equipment, etc regarding National Defense and Security Education have specific characteristics and are not used much, so they have not been fully invested.

Conditions of human resources, in addition to the general requirements of officials and teachers, it is required that the organizers of the program of experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students need to have three minimum elements, which are: Deep knowledge and skills in contents; Experience in organizing the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject; A survey of the school's educational forces on enthusiasm and responsibility shows that the evaluation results are concentrated at "Good" and "Average".

Thus, through the survey, the ground of authors has found that the organization of the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at schools with the under-guaranteed working conditions in terms of facilities, equipment and human resources is not possible, does not meet the purposes and requirements as defined by the Law on National Defense and Security Education and Circular No. 46/2020/TT-BGDĐT dated November 24, 2020 of the Minister of Education and Training.

4. Conclusion

Organizing experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students at high schools in Thai Nguyen province is a meaningful and important work for the National Defense Education of the entire people. The experiential activity program will help students have the

opportunity to learn and experience the knowledge of National Defense and Security Education in an effective manner.

The experiential activity program for high school students in Thai Nguyen province is held annually and has achieved certain results. However, due to the actual conditions, the schools still face some difficulties such as: The conditions of facilities, yards, models, and learning tools for teaching the National Defense and Security Education subject for students are still not guaranteed. In particular, the teaching staff do not have enough knowledge and skills to carry out the experiential activities in the National Defense and Security Education subject for students, so the effectiveness achieved is not high and not attractive to students.

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