

Discussion of Improving the Legal Education of Teenagers and the Legal Literacy of Whole Nation-Starting from a Case of Deforestation and Reclamation in Dingbian County

TIAN Miao
Xianyang Vocational Technical College

Abstract

Young people are the future of the motherland, the hope of the nation. The juvenile legal education is of great significance to the promotion of the rule of law literacy of the whole people. The ecological environment of Dingbian County province in Shaanxi Province has been seriously damaged by the production and living activities of local residents in recent years. Therefore, it is necessary for the whole society to respect, study, obey and use the law to promote ecological and environmental protection with the rule of law.

Keywords

Legal education; Teenagers; Ecological environment

Significance of Improving Legal Education of Whole Nation

Teenagers are like the sun at eight or nine o'clock in the morning, and the adolescent stage is considered as the "jointing-booting stage" of life. Good legal literacy will lay the foundation for teenagers to develop an accurate understanding of world, life and values. Strengthening the legal education of teenagers is of fundamental, pioneering, and crucial significance for improving the awareness and literacy of all citizens in the rule of law. At the same time, it has an irreplaceable function and utility in adhering to value principles and practicing correct moral norms, which is thereby conducive to deepening the moral quality of the whole nation.

Typical Case Analysis

According to the discussion and research, on August 13th, 2021, the People's Procuratorate of Dingbian County, Shaanxi Province properly fulfilled its supervision and inspection duties, and initiated a criminal incidental public interest lawsuit against a local people's act of deforestation and land reclamation. Dingbian county, located on the southern edge of the Maowusu desert, is a typical arid and water shortage zone. In the middle of last century, the forest and grass coverage rate of the whole county was only 0.5%, and people there suffered from sand storms due to the harsh natural environment. Afforestation and desertification control has always been the top priority of local residents in Dingbian. Moreover, heroic figures like Guang-Yin Shi who is the national model worker, a desertification control

hero, and the winner of "July 1st Medal", have emerged. With the strong leadership and effective support from the county party committee and the county government, after decades of efforts by the people of the county, the forest and grass coverage rate of Dingbian county has reached 29.2% now, achieving a good pattern of "people advancing and sand retreating". As a result, the ecological environment has been greatly improved, and people's lives have undergone tremendous changes.

However, in recent years, with the rapid development of characteristic agriculture and protected agriculture in Dingbian, the price of agricultural products has risen year by year, while the demand for agricultural land has also increased sharply. Local residents have gradually forgotten the suffering of that year. In the meantime, deforestation, illegal land occupation, etc. have become more and more prominent, resulting in the degradation of forest. Therefore, the hard-earned achievements of ecological civilization construction are facing a severe test. In order to spare no efforts to satisfy residents' requirements for a better life including food safety and ecological environment, when prosecuting four criminals, the People's Procuratorate of Dingbian County instituted a criminal incidental civil public interest litigation, requiring defendants to bear both criminal responsibility and civil responsibility so as to promote the restoration of the ecological environment. This avoids mechanized case handling, ensures the coordination and unification of the legal, social and political effects of such cases, thus, provides a strong legal guarantee for the building of ecological civilization.

Reflections on Legal Practice

In order to further build up the ecological security protection line, and to gather the moral consensus and consciousness of environmental protection in the whole society, the departments and units of justice, education, environmental protection, etc. should also keep footholds on popularizing legal education, rescuing, and protecting functions, and bear in mind the purpose of serving the people. Together with the People's Procuratorate, they should endeavor to practice the original mission of the Party, for example, starting from the troubles around the masses and the difficulties that need to be solved urgently, do good and practical things, and be both a close friend and a lamplighter of the masses. Specific measures are as follows:

Firstly, in view of the poor legal knowledge and the low level

of rule of law among young people, starting from the 8th Five-Year Plan of popularizing legal education, the Bureau of Justice, together with law firms, should take advantage of the theme publicity activities like World Water Day on March 22th, World Earth Day on April 22th, World Environment Day on June 5th, and Constitution Day on December 4th. By focusing on schools, enterprises, networks, communities and rural areas, in forms of setting up publicity tables, circulating publicity materials, hanging publicity slogans, and answering questions on the spot, targeted publicity activities can be carried out in order to popularize and implement the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China. Staff can explain, for example, Article 9 of the General Provisions that "The parties to civil legal relations shall conduct civil activities contributing to the conservation of resources and protection of the environment." In addition, Article 1235 can also be introduced to the masses, namely, where a violation of the provisions issued by the state causes harm to the ecology and environment, the authority specified by the state or the organization specified by law shall have the right to require the tortfeasor to make compensation for the following losses and expenses: (1) The losses resulting from the loss of service functions from the time when damage is caused to the ecology and environment to the completion of remediation. (2) The losses resulting from permanent damage to ecological and environmental functions. (3) Expenses of investigation, authentication, and assessment of ecological and environmental damage. (4) Expenses of pollution removal and ecological and environmental remediation. (5) Reasonable expenses incurred to prevent the occurrence and aggravation of damage.

Secondly, the Bureau of Education should take "environmental protection on campus" as the theme, as well as inspire teachers, teaching materials, and students capable of awareness of the principle underlying environmental rule of law. The majority of teenagers can be educated to remember that ecological environmental protection, as the bottom line, is the first and rigid, which can guarantee human survival and development, and that "everybody is responsible for protecting the environment". In the forms of classes, lectures, extracurricular activities, theme days, class meetings, and college students' art festivals, a variety of campus cultural activities can be carried out to arouse the enthusiasm of teenagers for environmental protection and develop self-consciousness of action throughout their studies and lives.

Thirdly, the Bureau of Ecology and Environment and the People's Procuratorate should solve the social contradictions related to ecological and environmental protection through the rule of law. To further standardize administrative behaviors such as ecological environment administrative permit, administrative punishment, administrative compulsion, etc., the legal audit system for major law-based administrative enforcement decisions and the legality audit system for regulatory documents should be strictly executed to improve the capacity and level of law-based administration, and to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the people. We will vigorously combat ecological and environmental crimes, fairly enforce the law, strictly implement justice, handle cases in a civilized manner, conduct sunshine supervision, and open the last "mile" of ecological environmental protection.

Fourthly, the local city, county, and town governments, should

be obliged to explore the good people and deeds of protecting the ecological environment, set up the award of "moral model of ecological environmental protection", spread good practices of the public, and boost the masses to actively participate in ecological environment protection. Being propagandists, athletes, referees, and supervisors of the ecological environmental protection of "Civilized Shaanxi", the masses can preserve the "Beautiful Shaanxi" with practical actions.

Realistic and Long-term Implications

As socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era, it is necessary to cultivate and train a new generation with ideals, skills, and responsibilities, who are committed to realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. The new generation can further act on the "people-centered" development vision, implement "people's education for the people", promote the construction of social spiritual civilization and ecological civilization, serve high-quality economic development, accomplish common prosperity for all the people, and enhance all people's sense of fulfillment of fairness and justice. Common prosperity not only refers to material prosperity, but also includes the development and spiritual enrichment of the people themselves. We must enhance the development of all aspects including health, morality, quality, and literacy in the new development stage, and place greater focus on the utilization of people's creativity and talent.

Education can be divided into family education, school education, and social education. The purpose of education is to teach students a sense of social responsibility, compassion for the vulnerable groups, respect for the privacy and rights of others, tolerance towards different lifestyles and religious beliefs like "I do not agree with your view, but firmly defend your right to have different views". Moreover, students can be educated to abide by the law, hold fast to their conscience, strengthen beliefs in Marxism, Communism, and Socialism, and reinforce the confidence in realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Sticking to the bottom line of the law and focusing on details, the legal habits and behaviors of teenagers can be cultivated from a young age to advance their moral quality, refine their moral traits, and foster their moral characters. According to the Constitution, education is both a right and a duty of citizens. Only all the people's teachers inherit and uphold good judicial tradition and philosophy, acting as the role of "flag", can they collaborate with students and schools to form a tripartite cooperation to fully achieve respective nurturing functions. By attaining the identical direction and sharing the same mind with ideological and political curriculum, a pattern of three-sphere education will be created to cultivate qualified socialist builders and successors. In order to improve the moral quality and legal literacy of all kinds of teenagers, it is no longer for the pursuit of knowledge alone, but "through knowledge" to achieve all-round developments and spiritual autonomy.

To this end, all kinds of universities, primary schools, and secondary schools are resolutely determined to follow the rules of educational development, adhere to principles such as "appropriate to the time", "appropriate to the people" and

“appropriate to the place”, and actively promote the educational approach of “ideological and political curriculum”. Through employing online interactions, classroom lectures, “four histories” education, mock court, and drama performance, together with the combination strategies of blackboard writing and PPT teaching means, the universities and schools mentioned above will initiate a series of correct and scientific teaching and research methods like questionnaire survey and interspersed history. By means of “teaching ability competition”, the “young teacher mentor accountability” will be promoted to establish a characteristic educational mode of “red classics inheritance” so as to make full use of teachers’ subjective initiatives. A favourable situation will be formed, where the party committee takes the lead in making lectures and presentations, plays the role of the Party, and pulls on student cadres to unify ideology and cognition. More importantly, instructors, specialized courses (compulsory and optional), general courses, and teaching staff can collaborate to educate students who can actively and consciously engage in. At the same time, a wonderful and peaceful campus environment which comprises a natural ecological environment and a cultural environment, as well as a beautiful global village where “humans, nature, and living beings” are harmoniously integrated (also called “community of life”), can be established.

Ultimately, the long-term implications are to achieve common prosperity. Being the essential requirement of socialism and the common expectation of the people, common prosperity is a major strategic extension made by the Party at the beginning of the second centenary. By appreciating the connotation and requirements of common prosperity accurately as well as practicing core socialist values vigorously, the Party’s regulatory system can be constructed, among which, the governing Party exercises its power on the basis of the rule of law, leading cadres take the lead in obeying the law, teenagers and public officials focus on popularizing the legal education, and all people take involvement in the improvement of this system. In addition, a social legal environment can be created, in which autonomy and heteronomy support and interact with each other in the people’s constitutional legal education. At the same time, we will continue to reveal the superiority and essential characteristics of socialism by actively and steadily promoting it in a solid manner. In a word, we will live up to our mission, make innovations, carry forward the “Saihanba” spirit, contribute to improving the ecological environment of Yulin, and strive to write a new chapter of building rule of law in Yulin on the journey for the new era!