

Thinking About Improving the Time Use Efficiency of Growing Cadre Students from the Perspective of System Theory

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Abstract—This paper puts forward countermeasures and suggestions for improving the time use efficiency of growing cadre students in military school on the basis of system theory, in order to solve the outstanding contradictions existing in the new situation such as the contradictions between the constantly increased quality cultivation requirement and the insufficient intensiveness in time use, between the continuously expanded outer boundary of the course and the insufficient independence in time use and between the unceasingly raised individual demand of students and the weak purpose in time use.

Keywords—system theory; military school; growing cadre students; time efficiency

I. INTRODUCTION

Time is one of the most precious and limited resources we have. The time of growing cadre students in military school is controlled and used by many parties such as authorities, student team, teaching and research section, and the students so that it is highly bonded and normalized, has high compulsory and uniformity requirements and has its own characteristics. With the development of military construction, the requirements for talent training in military schools are getting higher and higher. At present, students' time planning and using is facing new contradictions and problems and thus how to scientifically make overall planning for their time allocation and improve the time use efficiency becomes the pressing matter of the moment.

II. CONTRADICTIONS AND PROBLEMS FACED BY STUDENTS IN TIME PLANNING AND USING IN THE NEW SITUATION

Effective time planning and using plays an important role in improving time use quality, reducing time waste and improving management or work efficiency. In the new situation, the existing time allocation and using mode of

students is facing some inevitable contradictions and problems.

A. Contradiction Between the Constantly Increased Quality Cultivation Requirement and the Insufficient Intensiveness in Time Use

The core goal and task of education in military school is to cultivate high-quality talent team that can win in the future information war. With the transformation and development of military schools, the talent training mode is transformed from cultivating students specialized and oriented to specific posts to cultivating students that are applicable to many posts. In this background, student should not only master firm political ideals, solid military skills and profound professional knowledge but also have higher psychological quality and good behavior and will. The training requirements are gradually raised, but the total training time is fixed. Due to insufficient attention to time use, there is a lack of overall planning and coordination between the time-allocation subjects so that students' time use is fragmented, scattered, at random and low-efficient for a long time, causing the increasingly prominent contradiction between supply and demand of time and more and more pressure for military school to provide training. So, it is necessary to enhance making rational arrangement for students' time and take the way of intensive growth to gain the maximum benefit in the least time and realize the transformation from extensive and inefficient management to fine and intensive management.

B. Contradiction Between the Continuously Expanded Outer Boundary of the Course and the Insufficient Independence in Time Use

The transformation and development of the troops requires military schools to effectively solve the "last mile" problem, realize the transformation from "knowledge-

centered" education mode to "capability-centered" education mode and continuously shorten the time for graduates to adapt to the army environment. To adapt to the development and changes of the situation, in recent years, military schools have successively implemented many new teaching methods with high-level openness, interaction and practice such as case-based teaching, seminar-style teaching and heuristic teaching, as well as many classroom modes such as "flipped classroom", "smart classroom", "case-based teaching" and "teamwork learning". Such teaching methods and classroom modes plays a great role in activating the classroom atmosphere and improving students' thinking and learning ability as it pays more attention to give full play the students' creativity, cultivate their independent learning ability and solve real contradiction and problems. However from the perspective of actual teaching effect, it is often not that good and is difficult to achieve the desired goals. This is mainly because this method (mode) is executed provided that students have mastered basic knowledge and skills of relevant courses before taking the class so that students need to take more time and energy to learn before class. However currently, there are still many management problems such as paying more attention to process management, weak ability in target management, insufficient management on the difference among different age, level and stage of students, over concentrated management, over much control and over strict management on spare time, students having less independence, flexibility and fluctuation in allocating their time so that it is not available to match with the teaching mode variation's requirement for time use.

C. *Contradiction Between the Unceasingly Raised Individual Demand of Students and the Weak Purpose in Time Use*

The new generation of young students pays more attention to selective learning based on their personal interests and growth planning and has high individual requirements. However at present, the management of time, especially for spare time, is not enough and lack clear purpose and target. On the one hand, activities such as elective courses and second classroom have played a very good role in promoting the cultivation of students' interest and hobbies. However in specific implementation, there are still many problems such as the insufficient steering guidance for operational needs, paying not that much attention to cultivate core abilities such as decision-making command and practical operation as well as unclear characteristics of each post. On the other hand, students generally lack the initiative to control time and have weak consciousness and ability of time management. In addition, some students lack motivation to learn, has strong utilitarian mind, take most time in passive learning and have weak ability to make planning for, use and control their time.

III. BASIC FEATURES OF STUDENTS' TIME PLANNING USING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SYSTEM THEORY

The planning and using of students' time is a common objective oriented systematic process jointly participated by many parties to mutually couple with and affect each link

and element and thus can be regarded as an organic unity in making relevant investigation and analysis.

A. *Highlighting Overall Integration and Strengthening the Goal Orientation of Time Use*

According to the overall integration principle in system theory, the design and operation of each stage and element of the system must subject to and serve the entire optimization of the system. Battle effectiveness standard is the highest standard for modern military management and is the only measure to evaluate the effectiveness of modern military management. [1] Using the generated benefit of battle effectiveness to measure the quality of talent training has become the consensus and common practice of elite military schools in the world. The use of students' time must adhere to the standard of battle effectiveness and focus on "the ability to fight and win". Focusing on the construction of a "three-in-one" new military talent training system, military schools should take most time in improving students' individual quality all-round and vocational qualifications, organize teaching activities and rationally allocate and construct the time specific structure on the basis of command operations, construction management, training on combat readiness and political work. Through the course study with relatively complete system, strong application performance and deep theoretical level as well as practical exercises such as military internships and working on post, students will be able to master relevant knowledge and skills, lay a solid foundation, consolidate the military quality as well as build up the image of the military and the core values of contemporary soldiers. By introducing the actual case and hotspots of the army construction into the classroom, setting up the scenario and using the problem-introducing method, it is available to temper students' thinking, enlighten their wisdom and improve their self-learning ability, practical ability and innovation ability so as to meet the job requirements.

B. *Grasping the Dynamic Correlation and Paying Attention to Flexible Use of Time*

In the dynamic correlation principle of system theory, dynamic balance is the premise of existence of rational structure and it is needed to consider the correlated reactions caused by change in single element and constantly adjust the structure to maintain the system in relatively-stable state. The allocation and use of student's time may be affected and restricted by many factors. So, its content structure should be revised in time with the change of the environment. For example, for students of different grades, levels, professions, even ages and personality characteristics, their time use mode shall be appropriately adjusted in combination with the changes in objective, individual difference and environment and gradually be transformed from process management to goal management. In addition, due to the particularity of the environment, the relatively strict management on students in military schools, the many sudden and temporary tasks and little independent time and the time use process being easily to be disturbed and interrupted, it is necessary to abide by the concept of dynamic balance and flexible management and flexibly adjust the use of time based on the cultivation

orientation and core goal so as to not reduce the required time to realize the core goal while keeping closely pace with and flexibly changing with the development of the times. By making constant follow-up and feedback and in-time regulation, it is available to obtain the real effect while not reducing the standard and extent.

C. Paying Attention to Maintaining an Ordered Structure and Focusing on Improving the Use Efficiency of Time

In the principle of keeping in an ordered structure in the system theory, the system may produce different properties, functions and effects when the same elements have different structural forms and can perform its best function if only the structure is in optimal status. It is necessary to break the boundaries among all time dominating subjects, form rules by making in-depth study on students' ability, scientifically design the objective and responsibility and authority of each subject, adjust the proportion, stage division, sequencing and content composition of time controlled by different subject to allocate time reasonably. Practice has proved that it is difficult to achieve significant results in teaching by just teaching or in management by just management. It is needed to consider from view of entire benefit, strengthen and improve the internal links of each time module, establish a sound coordination, communication and feedback mechanism and form a stable system structure. Namely, it is necessary to longitudinally get the former and latter stages of students' time allocation management linked and horizontally get different time dominating subjects coordinated and interlinked with each other to ensure getting all elements organically linked, mutually penetrated and supplemented, playing the role of fusion and mutual promotion in the entire effect and forming a strong and integrated power.

IV. COUNTERMEASURES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE TIME USE EFFICIENCY OF SUCH STUDENTS

It is suggested to consider from all-round point of the system, constantly optimize the use mode of students' time for the purpose of improving training quality, get out of the dilemma of "not enough" time for use, the blind zone of "cannot use" of time and the trap of "inefficient use" of time.

A. Making Systematic Planning for Time Use Based on the Talent Training Goal of Military Schools

Training goal is the fundamental starting point and the foothold of time use. Facing the new situation, the time planning and using should abide by the principle of taking multi-measures in order to improve the time use efficiency from multiple ways, directions and points. In order to play the role of "orientation" of the organization in making planning for student's time, it is necessary for the organization to insist on cultivating military talent based on the future battle needs, guide the key use of time and promote cultivating students' core quality through course setting, promote the cultivation of the core quality of the students as well as guide the use direction of spare time by providing diverse extracurricular activities to promote the development of non-intellectual factors of students. In order to play the "critical" role of the teaching and research section

in the use of students' time, it is also necessary for the section to take ability training as the orientation, judge the time use value on the basis of the teaching content and improve the learning quality of students as well as use different teaching methods to realize the time use value and trigger students' enthusiasm for learning. In order to play the "subject" role of students in time management, it is necessary for students to insist on getting individual development integrated into the construction of national defense, make life planning matching with the time management concept to form clear value orientation and standardize their behavioral practice through time management to promote personal growth and progress. In order to play the "supervising" role of students team in time management, it is necessary for the team to conduct hierarchical classification and management, improve the condition for effective use of students' time by creating relevant environmental atmosphere to stimulate the motivation of the students to be talent as well as widen the field of effective use of students' time through innovation in management mode to promote students' all-round development.

B. Solving Management Conflict Problem and Allocating Time Rationally

Time should be well allocated in schedule control and target time control and other methods in the principle of "to keep harmony between powers and responsibilities, maintain system construction, focus on effectiveness and highlight key points". First, it is needed to well deal with the relationship between class time and spare time. The two elements are complementary and organically linked with each other. Hence, it is necessary to focus on the cultivation goal and well coordinate the proportion and structure of the two elements, especially to make good planning for the use of spare time. A considerable number of foreign military schools pay attention to the use of students' spare time. For example, The United States Military Academy has very detailed rules for management of spare time and the content is very rich. There are basic requirements for how many activities to be organized in each semester and which students should participate in which activities. It has formed a long-term adherence mode [2]. Further, it is also necessary to standardize the use of spare time in system, tend to cultivate students' core competence of command management, refine quantitative indicators, turn soft indicators into operable and measurable "hard bars", reduce excessive intervention, increase the self-management authority of the students and implement the operation mode of clear responsibility and hierarchical management to gradually realize the transformation from process management to target management. Second, it is needed to well deal with the relationship between taking lectures in class and consolidating what learnt in spare time. In this aspect, it is necessary to adapt to changes in teaching methods and distinguish basic, military and practical courses, appropriately reduce the number of courses, increase the depth of courses, enlarge the construction extent of online courses and course databases, enhance the leading role of core courses, improve the practical and ideological, guiding and forward-looking natures of the course content, get the

necessary preparation time for the course integrated in the planning so that students have sufficient time to complete the theoretical knowledge learning and homework practice, and guide students to actively think, ask questions or do practice by the discussion and solution links in the class. Third, it is needed to well deal with the relationship between realization of the overall goal and development of personality. In this aspect, it is necessary to adhere to the thinking of bottom line, namely to encourage students to develop their shown advantages and special skill based on their actual situation, actively provide the second classroom, interest clubs and other forms of activities, cultivate their interests and vision, exercise their skills and realize an organic unification in their individual development and military development demand provided that students meet the basic requirements at least.

C. Focusing on Efficient Use of Limited Time

On the one hand, military schools should strengthen students' consciousness of time management, carry out time management training for students, enhance the guidance training for students' time management ability and cultivate their scientific time concept; at the same time, it is also necessary to continuously create new management mode to provide a good environment and platform for students to effectively use time and improve management effectiveness; in addition, it is further suggested to strengthen time management control, use cycle diagrams, system dynamics and other tools and establish time use efficiency assessment accountability mechanism to timely evaluate and feedback the time use effect and constantly amend and optimize the time use process. On the other hand, scientific use of time is an important guarantee for students to obtain a good knowledge and ability reserve and is the basic premise for achieving personal goals and realizing better development. Students should learn to manage their own time, outline the direction of personal development, formulate work and study plans, distinguish the major and minor works and urgent and common works and create a work flow to sort out various works in close combination with the army needs, can master the classification management method, statistical management method and target management method and other efficient time management methods and flexibly apply time management tools such as "time quadrant", "learning biological clock" and "mind map".

V. CONCLUSION

To improve the ability of systematic management on students' time, it is necessary to fully recognize and grasp the systematic correlation of students' time management, make systematic planning for time, rational allocation of time and efficient use of time and unceasingly improve the effectiveness in time management focusing on enhancing the purpose, relevance and flexibility of time management.

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