
ON THE FOOTPRINTS OF AN UNDEFEATED GENERAL

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Abstract

The development of correct personal values is of great importance in human life. The mission of the Cadets Military Lyceum named after General Giorgi Kvinitadze is to bring up a free-thinking person with national and democratic values. The Lyceum aims to give the cadets basic military knowledge and skills, instill love and respect for military service in them, a desire for mastering a military profession, civic consciousness based on liberal-democratic values and respect for cultural values. To achieve these goals along with other activities, well-planned educational excursions and educational programs play a great role. We think that studying the heroic historical past of Georgia and the life and work of heroic ancestors will help the cadets to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Georgia.

A personal example gives a lot to a young person, who is formed right in front of us and develops those qualities, which are vitally necessary and represent the basis for the right life decision. In order to achieve this goal we planned and implemented the project with the support of the Lyceum Directorate; “On The Footsteps Of An Undeclared General”, dedicated to the life and work of General Giorgi Mazniashvili.

Keywords: Teachers’ role, military education, military career.

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INTRODUCTION

Career choice is an essential stage for students to identify suitability, readiness, and development of the capacity to work. The teachers' role has been presented as a determinant in students' career. As we are the representatives of Military Lyceum, we aim to increase our students' patriotic spirit and enhance positive attitudes towards the military service.

Career selection is one of many important choices students make in determining future plans. Alberts, Mbalo and Ackermann³ identified career choice as one of the major areas of concern for young people nearing the end of their schooling. It is important to students because this decision will impact them throughout their lives. Every student, at one time or the other, is faced with the challenge of making a choice of career. This was buttressed by Cicero quoted by Hoppock⁴ saying "... we must decide what manner of men we wish to be and what calling in life we would follow and this is the most difficult problem in the world". Akomolafe⁵ pointed out that the individual's career is one of the most important aspects of human endeavour because it determines a lot of things in human existence. It could make one's joy and happiness. He further contended that true joy, happiness and satisfaction are linked to proper choice of profession.

There are many significant ways through which teachers have a remarkable impact on the student's life. They are not only the role models but help the students with the right guidance to move their heads towards a better future. The teachers generally provide the right guidance for the students. They evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the students and guide them to follow the best practices.

Traditionally teachers are the ones who motivate the students to do better in every domain and help them achieve life goals. Through their guidance, the students know to differentiate between right and wrong. Teachers are the ultimate role models in a student's life. Teachers are always supportive and compassionate towards their students and appreciate their achievements in every field.

Now we would like to talk about our educational establishment and its aims. The mission of the Cadets Military Lyceum named after General Giorgi Kvinitadze is to bring up a free-thinking person with national and democratic values. Cadets Military Lyceum is a Legal Entity of Public Law, established under the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. It implements educational and military programs, providing Cadets with the secondary educational level, according to the National and Local Educational Curriculum. The goals of Cadets Military Lyceum are the following ; Cadets intellectual, cultural, physical and moral development, creating the basis for serving the country in its military and civil areas, moreover acquiring primary military knowledge and skills among cadets, increasing their

³ Alberts, C., Mbalo, N. F., and Ackermann, C. J. (2003). Adolescents' perceptions of the relevance of domains of identity formation: a South African cross-cultural study. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.32 (3), 169-84.

⁴ Hoppock, R. Spielger, S. *Job Satisfaction*. New York Harper, 1935. p 303.

⁵ Akomolafe. Relationship between fathers' occupational status and their children's, occupational preference. *Journal of Research in Counselling Psychology* 9, 2003. Pp. 127 - 131

patriotic spirit, enhancing positive attitudes towards the military service as well as their ambition of becoming an Officer.

The development of correct personal values is of great importance in human life. A historical, literary or personal example gives a lot to a young person, who is formed right in front of us and develops those qualities, which are vitally necessary and represent the basis for the right life decision. We would like to add that the values recognized in the Defence Forces: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Dignity, Honesty, Personal Courage - should be an action principle for future military personnel and for all citizens of Georgia in general.

As we have already mentioned above, at General Giorgi Kvinitadze Cadets Military Lyceum, special attention is given to educating cadets with a patriotic spirit. To achieve this goal along with other activities, well-planned educational excursions and educational programs play a great role. We think that studying the heroic historical past of Georgia and the life and work of heroic ancestors will help the cadets to understand better their rights and responsibilities as citizens of Georgia and let them understand the truth of the words expressing the readiness in the Defence forces - I am Serving Georgia!

We - the teachers, the officers and the sergeants of the Lyceum aim to give the cadets basic military knowledge and skills, instill love and respect for military service in them, a desire for mastering a military profession, civic consciousness based on liberal-democratic values and respect for cultural values. In order to achieve this goal we planned and implemented the project with the support of the Lyceum Directorate; “On The Footsteps Of An Undefeated General”, dedicated to the life and work of General Giorgi Mazniashvili.

General Giorgi Mazniashvili (6 April 1870 – 16 December 1937) was a Georgian General and one of the most prominent military figures in the Democratic Republic Of Georgia. On May 26, 2013, General Giorgi Mazniashvili was awarded the title of National Hero of Georgia.

General Giorgi Kvinitadze wrote about him: “General Mazniashvili was brave. I’ve seen him under fire a few times and I can testify. Giorgi Mazniashvili will cut himself off with his own hands rather than betray his homeland! He behaves bravely even when the situation is very difficult. It can be said that he is even harmed by excessive bravery. He often takes risks himself, he could have been died several times, which would be a great loss for us.”⁶

The interest towards General Mazniashvili was really enormous from our Cadets. So, we – the headteacher of the class XII² - Elene Kokhreidze and me – an English language teacher – Tatia Mardaleishvili decided to help the cadets to study things about General’s life and Military Career and raise the awareness about him. As the study of military history shows us that there are many lessons to learn from our history and similar events to evaluate. We can connect these events to many parts of

⁶ Sekniashvili, Z. “I am a General Of Georgia”, KvirisPalitra, August, 29, 2012

different missions we conduct every day. More importantly, we can use the successful techniques our predecessors used to avoid failures. Preserving military heritage highly helps us understand societal values and traditions.

We used the following pedagogical approaches; integrative approach, collaborative approach and reflective approach to achieve these educational objectives to gain the knowledge about one of the most prominent military figures in the Democratic Republic Of Georgia.

After gathering all the information and sorting them out, we decided to visit the Museum of General Mazniashvili, which is located in the region of Kaspi. It was founded in 1990. The cadets had the opportunity to see 122 exhibits which were displayed in the museum: General's personal belongings, documentary materials related to his work, photographs, tools, maps, furniture, carpets, dishes, etc. It was very impressive to see all these things for the cadets. Even the environment was unforgettable too. As the main artistic effect of the balconies was created by the transparent railing and curtains. Semicircular, rhombic and circular faces were carved to create ornament on the railing, and triangular and irregular shapes were carved on the curtains.

During this visit the cadets have found out the following things; Georgian national hero Giorgi Mazniashvili was a great military commander and selfless fighter for his homeland's unity. He definitely holds a special place in the long and glorious military history of Georgia. He certainly was one of the architects of the modern Georgian army and a military commander famed for his strategic talent, he was also a role model of courage and steadfastness for his fellow fighters. They discovered that, Mazniashvili was a Military, who did not lose a single battle, he was a reliable patriot, amazingly brave and with extraordinary strategic talent: amazingly merciful and open-handed: the great plague lord of the freedom-lost homeland.

Furthermore, cadets were impressed by General Mazniashvili's following words; "I am neither a Bolshevik nor Menshevik general-I am a Georgian general", as these words best illustrate the life of a man who has joined the ranks of Georgia's honorable sons and daughters.

After visiting General Mazniashvili Museum, one of our cadets – M. Gigiashvili pointed out the following: "Military service is a difficult and responsible job. Only the chosen ones can do this job. Since childhood, I have wanted to become such a chosen one, a military servant. As it is the best feeling to stand as the guard of your homeland and protect your own country. Personally, at the age of 15, I put on a uniform at Cadets Military Lyceum and I am going to continue wearing it at National Defence Academy. As it is one of the best Military Establishments and that is why the number of applicants to the academy is getting higher and higher every year. After visiting this museum I would like to point out my decision, to connect my future life to military career and become a prominent military figure".

“Life does not end with death. If one angry generation kills me, another one will raise me from the death”⁷We would like to be the exact generation who will be able to raise General Mazniashvili from the death.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, with the help of our visit to General Giorgi Mazniashvili’s Museum we increased the patriotic spirit of the cadets and highly enhanced their positive attitudes towards the military service. We will do our best to bring up free-thinking students with national and democratic values and to provide the right guidance for the students while choosing the future career.

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