

Strategies for Vietnamese Higher Education: Change and Reform

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After over 1000 years VN was dominated by Chinese imperial, VN became an independent country since 938 year. The education in VN developed too with feudal Dynasties. In 1076 the Royal College (Van Miru Qu{c T? * ĩm) was built. Later in 1253 the National Institute of Learning was also established at the Temple of Literature. The Royal College was significantly the first college among institutions in the South-East Asia.

Up to now, Vietnam has about 200 H.E institutions including all branches and training of talents as well increasing level of people is purpose of Vietnam H.E.

Since 1986 a profound socio-economic policy change has taken place in Vietnam: the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy. Thus, Vietnam has become one of the many economies now classified as a transitional economy. From 1991-2000, the average GDP per year of Vietnam increase 7.4%. Among that, the labor contributes about 60%-65% this increase GDP. Vietnam has had a lot of success, especial the increasing of size of H.E. VN is trying to develop on based stability and increasing suitable ability with society, economy for H.E. However, it is a process with a lot of opportunities and challenges.

SITUATION OF REFORM FOR VIETNAMESE H.E SINCE RENOVATION PERIOD

Together with Renovation in the Economy, the Education's Policy of Vietnam is changed by trends of Standardize, Modernize, and Socialize. It must serve multiple spheres and professions.

In recent years there has been a dramatic expansion in Vietnamese higher education. During the past 10 years, number of students on 10,000 people increase 6.1 time, it was 117/ 10,000 people in the year 2000. Number of labor with H.E level occupies 21.7% among total of trained labor but is only 3.4% total of mankind. The total cost for education has increased from VND

7,100 billion (10.08% of national budget) in 1996 to VND 14,180 billion (15% of national budget) in 2000. Budget is creasing 18% on the 2005 and 22% on the 2010. The Vietnam Government has encouraged education but it is limited by shortage of national budget.

Academic situation

Quality of Input: In passing years, number of input students are defined by Ministry of education and training. Those norms were given, that are persists of subsidies regime. It lack of criterions, from that, the government can place an order for universities. With “doi moi” new enrollment mechanisms are being developed to enhance flexibility.

Curriculums and courses: Curriculums of H.E in VN are written by different professors. They are trained from different countries. Programs and curricula have excessive theory content. The investment is still too shortage.

Lecturer staff: In general, in a few short years, the shortage of university teaching staff in Vietnam will become critical. Although the number of lecturers has been increasing, it is not fast enough to keep pace with the recent explosion in the number of enrolled students. Vietnam need develop Lecturer staff both quantity and quality.

Method of teaching and studying: It is still obsolete, focus to theory, passive but it's step-by-step changing now.

Facility for education: It is difficult for VN now because the adequate area, space, open space, and a quality teaching ambiance of classrooms are not guaranteed by standard for students.

Assess quality of education: .It is considered both with regard to official evaluation and public opinion. However, there is no fixed standard to evaluate students' educational quality.

Scientific research: It is one of two main tasks of VN universities but it is difficult for lecturers to do research since they lack of facilities and laboratories. There is a severe shortage of state funds (3,6% for Education), 30-40% number of projects of universities that could use for real life. The link between universities-institutes and companies is still not close.

International relations of H.E: During past 8 years, nearly10, 000 students applied for self-funded or semi-self-funded study. From 1987-2000, 17,000 students were sent abroad by state funds& international support. It links

between Vietnamese universities and foreign institutions by style “sandwich”
There are many projects of cooperation with International universities.

Overseas study through network: is tendency of education development in the world and even in Vietnam. However the essential point of this method is the poor of facility. That’s why; distant studying by network is limited.

Postgraduate Education: As of 2002, 4,279 Ph.D.s, 38 doctors of Science and nearly 10,000 Master have been trained. It persist some problems as quality of textbooks, teaching method, length of course, links with Researches, the management.

Private H.E system: is new system that is established since policy of Socialize. It has a lot Initial Achievements and persist problems necessitating a solution.

THE STRATEGIES OF VN H.E TO 2020

Overall targets: Consolidation of a university network, Scale of universities is being developed and intensified. The ratio of students per 10 000 people be increased from 117 in 2000 to 140 in 2005 and about 300 in 2020. The training scale of H.E in 2010 is 1.8 million students of undergraduate, 38.000 students of graduate and 15.000 students of Ph.D. Average development of scale per every year is 5%. The ratio of manpower that has undergraduate level per total manpower is 4% in 2010

Challenges: quantity & quality, capacity to produce R&D, the bureaucratic & legal rigidities, the balance between H.E and labor market, contribution of Vietnamese overseas, brain drain etc.

Strategic solutions:

1. Renovate educational Management
2. Increase the finance:
3. Improve efficiency of International cooperation:
4. Develop science Research and its application.
5. Develop teaching staff:
6. Reform the contents and Methodology
7. Reinforce the Infrastructure

COCLUSION: Vietnam is country with enormous potential. It was the first county in Southeast Asia to have university and it has a long historical heritage of education. Vietnamese H.E is influenced by some external one but it has

tremendous will to build own indigenous now. Vietnam is well aware of dangers and limitations of having an economy over dependent on the availability of abundant supplies of cheap less skilled labors. During the past 10 years, there has been a dramatic expansion of H.E in Vietnam to respond to the needs of the new free economy. Although persist many challenges but with the cooperation and supporting of International Friends, absolutely, VN H.E is going develop quickly and faster integrant with the H.E of the world.