

## Role of universal education with sustainable development goal in Vietnam today

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*This research is funded by Thai Nguyen University of Technology, Vietnam*

**ABSTRACT:** Sustainable development is considered an inevitable trend of mankind in the 21st century. During the integration process, Vietnam strives towards the goal of sustainable development through the direction of the Party, the guidelines and policies of the State and the contribution of the whole people. Higher education with the task of training comprehensive human resources, contributing to raising the people's intellectual level, research and transfer of science and technology plays an important role in the realization of sustainable development goals.

**Keywords -** higher education, sustainable development, Vietnam

### INTRODUCTION

Vietnam's achievements after more than 30 years of renovation (from 1986 to present) have been reflected in many fields, changing the face of the country and improving people's lives. However, in order to maintain the results in the long run, it is not possible to focus only on the goals of socio-economic development and environmental protection, but also pay attention to the renovation of education and training, towards the goal of sustainable development. Sustainable development is a multi-disciplinary integrated development method, which is concretized into an action program with many criteria in many different fields. Sustainable development is inevitable and a noble goal of the development process. Education, especially higher education has a great role in training the future generation of the country's owners with enough qualifications, skills and ethics to continue the process of building the country in the direction of modernity in association with the goal of sustainable development

### I. HEADINGS

#### 1. Vietnam and the issue of sustainable development

Sustainable development is a common trend that all mankind is striving towards. There are many definitions of sustainable development given by organizations and individuals from many countries. In this article, we use the concept on sustainable development by the United Nations. It is development that meets the needs of the present, but does not interfere with the needs of future generations: "A development that meets the needs of the present without compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" [1, p. 107]. The development always maintains a balanced and harmonious combination on all three pillars of development in terms of economy, society and ecology/resources and environment [2, pp.45-50].

Economically sustainable development is fast and safe development with quality, in which natural resources for economic activities are shared equally. A sustainable economy needs to bring prosperity to the majority instead of concentrating profits on the hands of the few. Some requirements for a sustainable economy are: to have high GDP growth and GDP per capita; the share of industry and services in GDP is higher than that of agriculture; economic growth associated with environmental protection through the use of clean technology and industrial ecology.

Socially sustainable development is assessed through criteria such as: HDI, income equality coefficient, indicators of education, health, social welfare, cultural enjoyment. In which, social justice and human development, human development index (HDI) is the highest criterion for social development, this index focuses on per capita income; education level, education, health, life expectancy, level of enjoyment of culture and civilization achieved by each individual. Socially sustainable development also emphasizes fairness in accessing opportunities to develop one's potential and having acceptable living conditions.

Environmental sustainability focuses on ensuring the quality of human living environment through the purity of air, land, water, geographical space, and landscape. The quality of the above elements should be regularly assessed against national or international standards. Environmentally sustainable development is associated with the rational and efficient exploitation and use of natural resources, while supporting living conditions for humans and living creatures on earth.

Sustainable development is an important strategic goal that the Communist Party, Government and people of Vietnam are determined to achieve. This is reflected in the lines and viewpoints of the Party, guidelines and policies of the State as well as clearly reflected in the strategies, master plans and plans for socio-economic development in the country as well as in sectors and localities of Vietnam.

Since 1991, Vietnam has approved Decision No. 187/CT of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers: "Decision on the implementation of the national plan on environment and sustainable development" thereby emphasizing the implementation of the national plan on environment and sustainable development is necessary at the central level as well as in the sectors and localities. The view of sustainable development has been affirmed in Directive No. 36-CT/TW dated June 25, 1998 of the Politburo on strengthening environmental protection in the period of industrialization and modernization of the country, which emphasizes: "Environmental protection is an integral part of the socio-economic development guidelines, policies and plans of all levels and branches, is the basis to ensure sustainable development, successfully implement the cause of industrialization, the goal of social sustainable development is to achieve high results in the implementation of social progress and justice, to ensure that the people's nutrition and health care quality is increasingly improved. All have the opportunity to study and have a job, reduce poverty and narrow the gap between the rich and the poor between classes and social groups, reduce social evils, improve the level of equity in rights and interests. obligations between members and between generations in a society, maintaining and promoting the diversity and national cultural identity, constantly improving the level of civilization in terms of material and spiritual life; The objective of environmentally sustainable development is to rationally exploit, economically and effectively use natural resources; effectively prevent, stop, treat and control environmental pollution, well protect the living environment; protect national parks, nature reserves, biosphere reserves and conserve biodiversity; overcome degradation and improve environmental quality [5].

The view of sustainable development has been reaffirmed in the documents of the National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Most recently, the Document of the 13th National Congress of Deputies once again affirmed: "Arousing the aspiration to develop the country, strongly promoting Vietnamese cultural and human values and the strength of the times, mobilize all resources, develop quickly and sustainably on the basis of science, technology, innovation and digital transformation" [8, p.206]. Sustainable development has become the consistent line, viewpoint and policy of the Party and State. In order to realize the goal of sustainable development, many other directives and resolutions of the Party, many legal documents of the State have been issued and implemented; many research programs and projects in this field have been conducted and initial results have been obtained;

Under the leadership of the Party, the management role of the State and the efforts of the people, Vietnam has made important achievements in the fields of economy, society and environment. In general, the country has escaped from underdevelopment, the economy has grown quite rapidly, and the people's material and spiritual life has been improved. However, achievements are not commensurate with the potential of Vietnam. In order to continue to integrate effectively and realize sustainable development goals, Vietnam needs specific solutions to overcome challenges, move towards a green economy, perfect the institutional system, and continue sustainable development of the country. Within the scope of this article, we refer to the role of higher education in providing human resources for Vietnam's sustainable development goals.

## **II. Role of higher education with the goal of sustainable development**

### ***2.1 Comprehensive human resource training***

According to the Government of Vietnam's university network plan, higher education institutions in Vietnam include a university system that gathers many member universities along with specialized and multidisciplinary universities and academy. Higher education is a form of educational organization for post-secondary education levels with training levels: college, university, master and doctoral degrees. According to reports on education, in the first decade of the 21st century, "Vietnamese higher education developed very quickly, the scale of higher education increased 2.35 times. In 2010, the number of university and college students reached 2,162,1061, which is 227 students per 10,000 people, or the number of students per young people of university age (GER) is 24".[3, p.7]. With the educational goal "to develop the Vietnamese people comprehensively with ethics, knowledge, culture, health, aesthetics and profession" [10], higher education also aims to train qualified, skilled and ethical human resources to contribute to national construction and development.

To realize the goal of sustainable development, workers first need to have the qualifications to conduct the labor process. The goal of knowledge for the university level is specified in the Law on Higher Education 2012 [11]. For all levels of study, students and trainees are provided with general and specialized knowledge to serve the work process after graduation.

The training of highly qualified human resources is an indispensable requirement of the development process. This goal is closely linked with the content of the training program at the university level because this is an environment that provides knowledge to help learners access the knowledge of the professions and jobs they undertake later. Education can be considered as a great driving force for the development of society. A well-run education produces qualified and creative people in an industrial society. However, the quality of higher education in Vietnam currently does not meet the development requirements, especially the training of highly qualified human resources is still limited. Higher education is facing the risk of lagging behind other countries in the region and the world. The reform of higher education is necessary to ensure competent, talented and creative human resources to continue the country's industrialization and modernization and sustainable development at the necessary speed of the nation.

Besides training qualified human resources, skills and capacity are also important requirements for integration and development of the country. Skills can be understood as the ability to apply human knowledge and understanding to perform technical, professional or emotional work, survival, communication... Within the scope of this article, we identify the following 3 groups of skills: academic skills, general skills (life skills) and professional skills [12, p.17]. Many studies have shown that skills have a positive and important role in human creativity and productivity. As a direct source of labor for society, higher education is an important step in preparing workers for the labor process. Skills education at university level does not stop at identifying skills but also helps learners apply them directly to practice through learning and practicing activities right in the classroom. The actual assessment of Vietnam's labor force in recent years has shown a shortage of skills, making it difficult for workers to meet the requirements of the job, without innovation and creativity to keep up with the pace of strong advances in science and technology. Therefore, it is necessary to have specific solutions to improve the skills of employees right during the training period at universities and colleges. There is no innovation and creativity to keep up with the strong progress of science and technology. Therefore, it is necessary to have specific solutions to improve the skills of employees right during the training period at universities and colleges. There is no innovation and creativity to keep up with the strong progress of science and technology. Therefore, it is necessary to have specific solutions to improve the skills of employees right during the training period at universities and colleges.

In addition, the issue of moral education and living ideals for young people needs to be respected. Educational content includes not only knowledge of science - technology, professional technology, but also knowledge about culture, humanities, cultural and human values of Vietnamese people. Male. Higher education needs to integrate the educational contents of patriotism, will and determination, self-reliance, self-reliance, not resigned to poverty and backwardness; and at the same time educate the young generation about morality, physicality, sense of thrift, civic responsibility, national consciousness, understanding of ecological environment, legal culture and democratic culture... The content of education and training must become a decisive factor in creating people with personality suitable to the requirements of national development. To develop the country towards industrialization, modernization associated with sustainable goals requires us to know how to preserve the positive side of traditional values, develop those values, and at the same time must know how to absorb and select cultural values and human intelligence.

## **2.2. Raise the intellectual level**

For the education and training sector, Vietnam's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are to ensure quality, equitable and inclusive education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The level of education is an important criterion to evaluate the development of a country. The Government of Vietnam is also aware of the important role of education for the sustainable development of the country: "Improve the quality of education to raise people's intellectual level and professional qualifications suitable to the requirements of the future development of the country" [5]. With the strong development of the higher education system, as of 2019, Vietnam has about 237 universities and institutes (including 172 public schools, 60 private and people-founded schools, 5 schools with 100% foreign capital), 37 scientific research institutes tasked with doctoral training, 31 pedagogical colleges and 2 pedagogical intermediate schools with 1.5 million students [13]. The rich school system, the location for building universities and colleges is not only limited to big cities but also located in localities, increasing access to education, especially in remote areas and ethnic minorities. Continuing to perfect the national education system in the direction of openness, flexibility, and connection between education levels and training levels and among other forms of education and training, especially higher education, is a priority goal. It has always been a priority and has always been concerned, becoming an important task of the entire Party and people: "Building a master plan on a network of higher education and pedagogical institutions for the period of 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050; review and arrange

the university system in each economic region in the score; linking universities with research institutes, businesses, with market and social needs; planning training and developing core industries to meet the needs of the labor market” [6]. With such efforts, currently, the level of trained labor in Vietnam is increasing, in 2019, this index is 22.8%, Vietnam sets a target by 2030 to have 40% of the trained workers from 15 years of age and older [8, p.219].

## 2.2 Science and technology development

The goal of higher education is not only to train comprehensive human resources, improve people's intellectual level, but also to foster and train talents, build a team of good experts in science, engineering, technology, etc. management and business. Universities are not only training places but also centers of research, science and technology transfer, creating a driving force for the development of the country. This perspective has been incorporated into the 10-year socio-economic development strategy for 2021-2030: "Sustainable rapid development is based mainly on science and technology, innovation and transformation" [8, p.214].

Over the years, universities have made significant contributions to the development and transfer of technology in many fields. The report on the survey results of science and technology activities at 142 higher education institutions in the period 2011-2016 by an independent research group showed that the university sector contributed more than half (50, 08%) of the total number of science and technology human resources of the country, in the period 2011-2015, the total number of scientific and technological products of the university sector accounted for more than two thirds of the country [14]. Research and development activities in science and technology at Vietnamese universities are often associated with the training professions of the university, present in most areas of social life such as searching and discovering, resources, infrastructure development, application of science and technology in health, in the environment, in developing economic models, national defense, security, development path theory, law change and development, cultural development... In particular, the research and application of science and technology in the fields of agriculture and rural areas have contributed about 30%-40% on the growth of this industry. In industry, scientific and technological activities have supported to remove difficulties, promote enterprise development, improve productivity and quality, reduce product costs, and create new products to replace imports in key economic sectors. These contributions demonstrate the important role of higher education, and are the driving force for universities to continue their scientific research tasks to create a strong and breakthrough development for the country in this current period

## III. CONCLUSION

With the trend of regional and world integration, over the years, Vietnam has made great efforts to achieve great achievements in many fields without separating from the common trend of mankind. Sustainable development is a common goal of mankind and also a strategic goal that the Party, Government and people of Vietnam strive to achieve. Higher education with the goal of directly training labor resources for the defense and construction of the country in the transition period also contributes to sustainable development through comprehensive human resource training, has the qualifications, capacity and ethics to arouse the aspiration to develop a prosperous country. Simultaneously, with the expansion of the scale and number of schools, higher education contributes to raising the people's intellectual level, and at the same time performs the task of researching and transferring science and technology to create a driving force for the development of the country in the twenty-first century

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