

Learn some policies to respond to the covid – 19 plan in Vietnam's education

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ABSTRACT : The emergence and outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of social life in Vietnam, including education. To respond to the pandemic situation and ensure education work, the Ministry of Education and Training has issued many policies and solutions such as policies on teaching, disease prevention, support... to overcome the negative effects of the pandemic on the education sector. These policies have brought about positive effects, helping educational institutions have grounded in conducting educational activities, facilitating the digital transformation process, towards a dynamic and modern education.

Keywords -COVID-19 pandemic, education, response policy, education in Vietnam

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of social life. In Vietnam, the COVID- 19 pandemic appeared since January 2020, with a fast spreading speed, all activities are seriously affected, including education. In order to respond to the pandemic situation and ensure socio-economic development, the Communist Party of Vietnam, the State and the Government have given direction and set forth guidelines and policies to closely follow the actual situation. In the field of education, the Ministry of Education and Training has issued guiding documents in order to implement solutions to prevent and control the complicated development of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure school safety, and at the same time complete the school year's tasks, meet the requirements of innovation and ensure the quality of education and training. . Within the scope of this article, we focus on clarifying a number of policies in education through circulars and directives of the Ministry of Education and Training in the period from January 2020 to present. Thereby, we assess the impact and propose some solutions to effectively implement these policies in the situation where the pandemic still exists and is complicated.

I. CONTENT

1.1. Policy to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in education

Since the appearance of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has taken resolute and right steps to curb the spread and outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining business, economic, and social activities. Like other fields, the education sector still performs two tasks in parallel: fighting the epidemic and teaching, ensuring that students' learning is not disrupted nationwide. During this time, the Ministry of Education and Training - an agency of the Government, performing the state management function of education, has issued many official documents and circulars to direct and administer educational activities; adjusting educational objectives, programs and contents; adjusting regulations on examination and enrollment to adapt to new conditions. Hereunder, we summarize the policies that have been issued by the Ministry of Education and Training in the past time through the following specific contents:

Policy group related to teaching:

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Prime Minister issued Directive 15, Directive 16, directing measures to prevent and control the Covid-19 pandemic such as avoiding mass gatherings, maintaining a minimum safe distance, operation of business establishments, transportation... in different times. In particular, Directive 16 is the document that shows the most drastic measure with the measure of "social isolation". [see

1;2]. The implementation of Directive 16 nationwide means that students cannot go to school to study. Teaching methods have shifted from face-to-face education to online education. The Ministry of Education and Training considers this as one of the effective measures to continue carrying out teaching tasks in the new situation. For universities and colleges, because they are concentrated in big cities with a number of students and students from many provinces, when implementing social distancing and isolation, online teaching is conducted quite early. Official Letter No. 795/BGDDT-GDDH dated March 13, 2020 on the implementation of distance training in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Official Letter No. 988/BGDDT-GDDH dated March 23, 2020 on ensuring Distance learning quality during the COVID-19 pandemic provides guidelines to help universities, academy; pedagogical colleges and intermediate pedagogical colleges deploy distance learning for formal training courses, working while studying in order to cope with the complicated situation of the pandemic. According to the above dispatches, depending on the conditions of the facilities and the database, the schools will evaluate the course, recognize the accumulated learning results as prescribed, ensure the quality of the student's training program. members during the period of isolation[see 3; 4]. The online assessment of theses and theses is carried out according to Official Dispatch No. 707/BGDDT-GDDH dated February 26, 2021 of the Ministry of Education and Training.[5]. For primary and secondary school levels, depending on the practical situation to flexibly apply online teaching with face-to-face teaching, online teaching is not applicable to preschool level.

In addition to adjusting the way of teaching and learning, the content of the program also has an adjustment to suit the transformation of learning forms. For the general education program of lower secondary and high schools for the 2020-2021 school year, the Ministry of Education has issued Official Letter No. 3280/BGDDT-GDTrH, in 2021-2022, the above dispatch is replaced by Official Letter No. 4040/BGDDT-GDTrH in which the principle to conduct educational activities is: retain the minimum requirements to be met with each subject/class, do not require students to perform advanced learning content, overlap between subjects study, the contents are too old compared to modern scientific knowledge; Do not periodically check and evaluate the self-study content[6; 7]. For primary level, Official Letter No. 3969/BGDDT-GDTH instructing schools to integrate some contents into 1st and 2nd grade teaching topics to ensure that students achieve the required requirements of the first and second class and prevent students from being unable to read or write Vietnamese; The arrangement of learning topics needs to be done in accordance with the online teaching organization or can guide students to self-study with the support of parents, without putting pressure on students. For grades 3, 4, and 5, it is necessary to streamline the level of knowledge and skill requirements, integrate some content within the subject and between subjects into learning topics to save time but still ensure the program's regulations[8].

In addition to adjusting the method and content of the curriculum, the graduation exam plans at all levels, especially the high school level, and the admissions process to universities and colleges have also changed. Official Dispatch 2873/BGDDT-QLCL in 2020 and Official Letter No. 2515/BGDDT-QLCL in 2021 both have specific instructions on the organization of high school graduation exams in the context of complicated developments of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to these documents, it is necessary to strengthen the propaganda of the Ministry of Education and Training's policy of organizing exams to create consensus of the society; thoroughly understand that candidates and participants in the organization of the exam strictly abide by the regulations on disease prevention and control of the health sector; The island ensures absolute safety for candidates and all participants in the organization of the exam. With the contestant being F0, F1, F2 and the distanced areas according to the Government's regulations, The Ministry of Education and Training arranges a time to conduct the exams in accordance with the pandemic situation in the localities. Along with the adjustment of the graduation exam time, the time for university and college admissions is also adjusted accordingly to facilitate admission for candidates in the exams.[9; 10].

Group of policies on pandemic prevention and control:

Pandemic prevention and control is always a top priority in the teaching plans launched by the Ministry of Education and Training during the outbreak of the pandemic and affects the learning of students. The official dispatches of the Ministry of Education and Training on the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic focus on ensuring the safety of teachers and students when returning to face-to-face learning, and implementing prevention and control measures. Translate. Official Dispatch No. 550/BGDDT-GDTC guiding the implementation of measures to prevent and control the pandemic in educational institutions during the time students are absent from school. Following that, Official Letter No. 696/BGDDT-GDTC dated March 4, 2020 provides specific and more detailed instructions on what to do for schools, teachers, and students before and when students go to school. In addition to the requirements for teachers and students, the official dispatch also stipulates the tasks that medical staff and school security guards will do to serve the pandemic prevention and control work when students return to face-to-face classes. From time to time, depending on the evolution of the

pandemic situation as well as recommendations from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Training has issued official dispatches to strengthen disease prevention in schools.[12].

Recently, the Ministry of Education and Training issued "The Education Sector's work plan to ensure safety against COVID-19 for the school year 2021-2022" with the aim: "Actively prevent and promptly prevent the entry and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in educational institutions in order to realize the dual goal of ensuring the health and safety of learners, educational administrators, teachers and staff in educational institutions, and at the same time overcome difficulties to successfully complete the school year's tasks, meet the requirements of innovation and ensure the quality of education and training" through specific requirements and solutions such as: Organizing the implementation of documents and policies on COVID-19 prevention and control -19 in educational institutions; Strengthen the propaganda of pandemic prevention and control and activities to support learners; Carrying out professional activities to prevent and control the COVID-19 pandemic in educational institutions; Inter-sectoral coordination on prevention work, fight against the COVID-19 pandemic; Carrying out inspection and supervision to ensure safety in the prevention and control of COVID-19[13].

Support policy group:

Next, adjust policies in teaching and pandemic prevention and control measures in schools, and support policies focusing on teachers, especially students, are also priorities of the Ministry of Education and Training to minimize the negative impacts of the pandemic on the education sector.

Right from the first months of 2020, following the Prime Minister's direction on strictly controlling educational service prices to stabilize the market price level, reduce difficulties for production and people's lives, the Ministry of Education and Training issued Official Letter No. 1620/BGDDT-KHTC directing the implementation of revenues in the field of education and training for the 2019-2020 school year; 2020-2021 and directing the price management in 2020. Accordingly, during the period of Covid-19 pandemic prevention and control, tuition fee collection shall comply with the Government's regulations on the mechanism of collection and management of tuition fees for institutions. education under the national education system and the policy of tuition fee exemption and reduction and support for study expenses from the 2015-2016 school year to the 2020-2021 school year; For the implementation of online teaching, it is recommended that localities and educational institutions need to ensure the quality of distance learning and computing, transparent public announcement and collection agreement on the basis of actual implementation of teaching work. Especially, during the time when students and students are absent from school to prevent pandemics, if both public and non-public educational institutions do not deploy online learning, they will not collect tuition fees. If you organize online learning, you must have a reasonable fee collection plan, share difficulties with parents and students [14].

For online teaching, the issue of learning equipment plays an important role. According to the summary of the Ministry of Education and Training, as of September 12, 2021, the whole country has 26/63 provinces/cities that are studying online (some provinces only study online in certain regions, some do not. ways but still high risk for online learning), with the number of students studying online is estimated at 7.35 million students. The number of students who do not have computers for online learning in 26 provinces/cities who are studying online in need of support is estimated at 1.5 million students[16]. In implementation of Directive No. 24/CT-TTg dated September 3, 2021 of the Prime Minister on accelerating the implementation of tasks and solutions for organizing safe teaching, ensuring educational programs and objectives, training to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and Official Letter No. 6218/VPCP-KGVX dated September 7, 2021 of the Government Office conveying the Prime Minister's direction on the development and implementation of the Program " Waves and computers for me"; The Ministry of Education and Training issued Official Letter No. 3961/BGDDT-CDN to launch donations and support "Computer for children" to mobilize and mobilize all resources in the whole industry to support funding and learning equipment. online for students who do not have and cannot afford to purchase online learning equipment. The goal of the program is to mobilize and mobilize all resources throughout the industry to support funding and online learning equipment for students who do not have and cannot afford to buy online learning devices in difficult localities and regions heavily affected by the epidemic.

For students, the Ministry of Education and Training issued Official Letter No. 3734/BGDDT-GDCTHSSV to the Departments of Education and Training; universities and academies; universities and pedagogical colleges on supporting students affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and preparing for the new school year 2021-2022. Accordingly, in order to timely support and help students who are affected by the pandemic, the Ministry of Education and Training assigned the Department of Political Education and Student Affairs to continue organizing the program "Accompanying students and students in the COVID season" on the fanpage <https://www.facebook.com/cthssvvn> to carry out psychological counseling and study skills training activities for them. The official dispatch also requested universities, academies, universities, and colleges of pedagogy to pay attention to students and trainees in studying as well as disease prevention and control;[15].

Not only paying attention to material support, the Ministry of Education and Training also focuses on the psychological effects in the context of the prolonged Covid-19 pandemic, especially for high school students. To support students to overcome the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, on October 21-22, 2021, the Ministry of Education and Training in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund in Vietnam (UNICEF) organized an online training for staff. Ministries and teachers in high schools on counseling and psychological support for students in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Within the framework of the program, experts will share experiences and knowledge in 4 topics: Identifying psychological problems of high school students during the Covid-19 pandemic; Guidance on counseling and psychological support skills for students during the Covid-19 pandemic and after returning to school; The risk of psychological harm in cyberspace and the ways in which teachers, parent counseling support; Guide work and family balance techniques for officials and teachers[17]. Through the training, the staff and teachers initially had the knowledge and skills to identify common psychological problems during the COVID-19 pandemic such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, withdrawn, afraid to communicate, mentally disturbed.... From there, develop a plan to be ready to support students, helping them gradually overcome the crisis caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, soon catch up with the direct learning environment at school.

1.2. Effectiveness of the policy

Such timely and practical policies have contributed to limiting the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in education. Some specific effects include:

Firstly, ensuring the progress of learning during the period of social distancing and isolation. The pandemic prevention and control strategy is flexibly adjusted, in line with the reality of the Government of Vietnam, the separation and isolation are implemented in each locality depending on the pandemic situation, accordingly, the education sector Education also flexibly adapts teaching and learning to both in-person and online formats. From 2020 until now, the learning process of students at all levels has been almost uninterrupted. According to reports from provincial Departments of Education and Training, most localities in the country ensure to complete the school year before May 31, 2021 according to the 2020-2021 school year planning framework of the Ministry of Education and Training. In particular, the high school graduation exam and the plan to enroll in universities and colleges in 2020-2021 still take place and ensure the requirements for disease prevention and control.

Secondly, ensuring the quality of teaching despite the continuous change of teaching forms. Due to the impact of the pandemic, most schools have had to flexibly apply both face-to-face and online teaching methods. With the guiding documents on the adjustment of educational programs and contents of all levels, in general, in the 2020-2021 school year, the basic knowledge contents of all levels are still guaranteed. The part of the program to reduce the load belongs to the content of additional reading, self-study and no testing and evaluation, which partly reduces the burden on learners while still ensuring the necessary and basic knowledge content of each level. With the higher education level, due to the characteristics, the online learning time is quite long, the assessment of courses in the online form is applied when ensuring honesty,

Thirdly, policies are made comprehensive, not only interested in the curriculum and teaching content, but also in the material and spiritual life of learners, and at the same time have solutions to support learning equipment to help students in disadvantaged areas gain access with new ways of learning. The effectiveness of these programs not only solves the immediate problem of online teaching, but also creates physical conditions to improve the quality of teaching and learning in areas with difficult economic conditions, shortening education gap.

1.3. Some recommendations

The policies introduced by the Ministry of Education and Training have brought positive effects, meeting the requirements during the complicated development of the pandemic and affecting all aspects of life. For better performance, we offer the following recommendations:

Firstly, it is necessary to have long-term solutions to not only solve the problem during the pandemic, but also to have a total solution to comprehensively renew education, adapting to many conditions and circumstances. Therefore, perfecting management policies in the field of education, ensuring the synchronization and consistency of policies from top to bottom, from general policies to industry-specific policies is an urgent requirement to create effective in education.

Secondly, the mandatory use of online teaching instead of face-to-face has opened up new opportunities for education. The diversification of teaching forms is not only to respond to the pandemic situation but also to

accelerate the digital transformation process in education. New trends in education aim to form Online educational platforms, educational websites are also expanded to meet the requirements of parents and students. *Thirdly*, it is necessary to pay attention to security and safety issues when conducting online teaching. The online teaching and learning associated with technology devices and classes taking place through free software causes many difficulties in classroom management. Although there are guidelines on ensuring security and safety when teaching online, besides the sense of responsibility of teachers and learners, it is also necessary to the participation of information safety and network security management agencies in order to minimize the bad effects of hackers, create strong enough deterrent sanctions, and strictly handle those who commit acts of fraud and bad behavior for online teaching, towards building a safe space for online classes.

II. CONCLUSION

With comprehensive and flexible solutions, the policies launched by the Ministry of Education and Training based on the direction of the Government on disease prevention and control have solved most of the problems arising in the country during the time when the whole country implements isolation and social distancing. The policies are in accordance with actual situation, increasing the initiative of schools in arranging content, programs, and forms of teaching, thereby contributing to completing the training plan set out in the school year. In the school year 2021-2022, the pandemic situation is still complicated, the timely direction of the Ministry of Education and Training helps educational institutions continue to implement training plans, and at the same time increase their initiative and innovation in management, teaching and learning. In the coming time, effective solutions need to be maintained, and at the same time, overall solutions are needed to increase the adaptability of the entire education sector and accelerate the digital transformation process in education towards a modern and effective education.

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