

## Ho Chi Minh's Ideology on Training the Young Generation and Its Value in Vietnam Today

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### Abstract

Ho Chi Minh's ideology is a comprehensive and profound system of views on the fundamental issues of the Vietnamese Revolution, the result of the creative application and development of Marxism-Leninism in specific conditions of Vietnam in each stage of the evolution to ensure the victory of the resistance war and successful national construction. Vietnamese youth play an important role in developing the nation. Currently, besides the young people living meaningful lives, there are those living selfishly without passion or faith and becoming law-breakers, which is seen as an unexpected and alarming reality in society. Based on the collected data, as well as the use of analytical and comparative methods, the article offers a conclusion. In order to train the next generation to become talented and idealistic, it is necessary to foster their qualities based on the testament of President Ho Chi Minh, including: training and fostering the spirit of enthusiasm to take initiative and embrace challenges; taking care of the revolutionary ethic education; moving towards comprehensive human development. The article not only contributes to confirming the value of the testament in particular and Ho Chi Minh's thought in general, but also the author's infinite love for Uncle Ho.

**Keywords:** Ho Chi Minh's ideology, training, Vietnamese youth.

### Introduction

Ho Chi Minh's ideology is a comprehensive and profound system of views on the fundamental issues of the Vietnamese revolution, from the people's democratic revolution to the socialist revolution; is the result of the creative application and development of Marxism-Leninism in the specific conditions of our country and at the same time the crystallization of the national quintessence and age intelligence to liberate the nation, liberate the period granting and liberating people (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1991, p.12).

Ho Chi Minh - the great leader of the Vietnamese revolution, a great thinker and culturalist of the Vietnamese nation, soon recognized the good virtues as well as the position and role of the generation young. Therefore, throughout his life and career, President Ho Chi Minh always put his faith in the young generation and wholeheartedly took care of building, training and fostering the revolutionary generation for the next life. Before leaving, Ho Chi Minh warned our Party: Our union members and young people are generally good, everything is enthusiastically volunteering, not afraid of difficulties, and have the will to advance. The Party needs to take care of educating them in revolutionary morality, training them to be heirs to build society with both talent and virtue. In this day and age, "whether innovation is successful or not... it is entirely up to the youth force" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2007, p.134). Therefore, good education for the young generation in

the Ho Chi Minh President's testament is not only relevant in the short term but also strategic for the long-term development of the country.

Two research questions are revealed as following:

- What was the content of training the young generation according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology?
- What is the value of training the young generation according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology in Vietnam today?

### **Literature Review**

Ho Chi Minh's thought in general and his thought on youth training is a broad topic with profound theoretical and practical value, which has been attracting the research attention of many scientists study with different angles and works such as: The work of *Ho Chi Minh Thought, the process of formation and development* by Vo Nguyen Giap, Publishing House. Truth, Hanoi, 1993; The book *The Fundamental Formation of Ho Chi Minh Thought* by Prof. Tran Van Giau, Publisher National politics, Hanoi, 1997. These are major scientific works, focusing on the identification of milestones marking the fundamental formation of Ho Chi Minh's thought, helping the author to refer in the process submit your thesis.

The work *Exploring Ho Chi Minh's thought on youth education* by Van Tung, Publishing House. Youth, Hanoi, 1999. In this work, the author presented the basic arguments in Ho Chi Minh's thought on education and fostering youth through revolutionary periods; contents of youth education and youth training in Ho Chi Minh's thought; some issues about the motto and methods of educating and fostering youth in Ho Chi Minh's thought. The work has mentioned many issues related to the topic of the thesis such as affirming the importance of fostering the revolutionary generation for the next life, the content and methods of fostering youth in Ho Chi Minh's thought. However, the work has not deeply analyzed the practical basis, theoretical premise and the process of formation, development and characteristics of Ho Chi Minh's thought on youth education.

*Ho Chi Minh on culture and innovation* by DinhXuan Lam and Bui DinhPhong, Publishing House Labour, Hanoi, 2001 (second edition). The book was born as a collection of articles of the above authors on Ho Chi Minh's thought. DinhXuan Lam and Bui DinhPhong approached Ho Chi Minh's thought from many sides - politics, culture, ideology, national tradition and the influence of world trends past and present, in order to explore further explore the relationship between culture and innovation in Ho Chi Minh's thought. Through their articles, the authors have clarified the theoretical premise of forming Ho Chi Minh's thought, the content and basic characteristics of Ho Chi Minh's thought.

Pham DinhNghiep with *the revolutionary ideal education for today's youth*, Publishing House. Youth, Hanoi, 2004. In this work, the author is inclined towards sociological investigation. By rich investigation data, the author has shown the reality of enlightenment of revolutionary ideals and revolutionary ideal education for the young generation. From there, the author proposes solutions to improve the effectiveness of revolutionary ideal education for the young generation in the new situation of the country, so that they can promote their intellect and morality, contribute to serving effective for the cause of national renewal. The revolutionary ideal education for the young generation is only one of the contents of youth education, so the work has not fully studied the current situation and solutions for Vietnamese youth education. However, this is also a valuable document for the author to refer to and use for the thesis.

*Youth and lifestyle* of Nguyen ThiOanh, Publishing House Young, 2011. The articles in the work focus around the issue of youth and lifestyle, especially the work has analytical articles on the whirlwind of consumption in youth lifestyle, with in-depth analysis articles industrial style. Although there are no specific solutions, the article has opened a direction: to promote industrial style, it is

necessary to urgently change the organization and educational methods. Although difficult, those who promote industrial style must change from themselves.

## **Research Method**

### Method and Data

*Subjects and research objectives:* The article focuses on studying Ho Chi Minh's ideology thought on training the young generation and its value in Vietnam today. Thereby, people see more clearly the superior nature of socialism and the path to socialism in Vietnam is right, in line with the country's reality and the trend of the times.

*Method:* For this article, the author uses the Marxist philosophical method; at the same time, it also uses the method of analyzing documents, observation methods, methods of combining history – logic.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **The content of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on training the young generation**

Ho Chi Minh was always interested in the role of youth in the revolutionary cause. To prepare for the spread of Marxism - Leninism into Vietnam, in May 1925, he founded the Vietnam Revolutionary Youth Association (in Guangzhou - China). Here, Ho Chi Minh opened the first training classes for revolutionary cadres, all of whom were young intellectuals; published the first revolutionary newspaper named Youth newspaper ... etc. In his view: In order to awaken the nation, the youth must first be awakened. That is the important point expressed by Ho Chi Minh in the letter "To the youth of Annam" written in 1925: "O poor Indochina! He will perish, if his youth is not revived soon". Because as he commented: "On average, young people make up about one third of the total population - that's a huge force"; and "youth are an important part of the nation". To realize that potential, first of all, it is necessary to unite and gather young people into a revolutionary organization. He said: "Our youth is very enthusiastic". We know that if we muster that enthusiasm and guide it in the right way, youth will become a very powerful force.

Not only recognizing youth as a great and powerful force, Ho Chi Minh also affirmed: "Youth is the future master of the country. Indeed, the country's prosperity or decline, weakness or strength is largely due to the young people". Therefore, Ho Chi Minh always reminds the Party committees, authorities and mass organizations to pay attention to the education and training of the young generation. In his Will, before leaving, he advised: "Our union members and youth are generally good, everything is enthusiastically volunteering, not afraid of difficulties, and have the will to advance. The Party needs to take care of educating them on revolutionary morality, training them to be heirs to build socialism both "moral" and "talented". Nurturing the revolutionary generation for the next generation is a very important and necessary thing.

According to Ho Chi Minh, in order for young people to be worthy to be the future owners of the country, to be the next cadres of the Party, it is necessary to educate and foster young people with moral qualities and abilities: talented, have virtue, "moral" and "talented". Therefore, he asked the youth to cultivate, practice, strive to study, to grasp knowledge, foster the will, energy and revolutionary spirit, to serve the Fatherland. One must always be on guard against falling into "individualism, because as Ho Chi Minh analyzed: Individualism is an ally of the empire, a very poisonous germ. Individualism poses hundreds of dangerous diseases, such as: bureaucracy, orders, factions, subjectivity, embezzlement, wastefulness, greed for fame, profiteering, status-loving, power, and collective contempt, egotistical, autocratic. It was "a very deceitful, crafty thing; it cleverly coaxes people to go downhill".

Along with asking young people to cultivate, study and strive for themselves, Ho Chi Minh warned our Party to have the responsibility to take care of the education, fostering and training of young

people. The content of education and fostering for young people, first of all, is revolutionary moral education. Because, according to Ho Chi Minh: "Making a revolution to transform the old society into a new one is a very glorious career, but it is also a very heavy task, a very complicated and long struggle. Only strength can carry the burden and go far. A revolutionary must have revolutionary morality as the foundation to fulfill his glorious revolutionary task".

In his view, in order to become true revolutionary cadres, young people must consider moral cultivation and training as the foundation, the root, because: "If you have revolutionary morality, you will face difficulties when you encounter difficulties, hardship, failure, not fear, timidity, retreat..."; "when facing advantages and successes, they still maintain the spirit of hardship, simplicity and humility"; "worry before the world, happy after the world"; "Do not be greedy for position. Not greedy for money. Not greedy for happiness. Do not flatter yourself ham person. Therefore, the luminosity is righteous and never corrupts. There is only one thing that is eager to learn, eager to do, and eager to progress". The moral qualities and abilities of each person "do not fall from the sky. It develops and strengthens through struggle and daily practice. For young people - who are in the process of accumulating knowledge and forming personality, the education of moral qualities, self-cultivation and training of each person "must be as often as brushing teeth, washing face daily".

For me, each young man builds his own patriotism, the thought of being loyal to the country, filial to the people, loving the people, wholeheartedly serving in order to be trusted and loved by the people, to become qualified people need, thrift, integrity, righteousness, impartiality.

In relationships with people, specifically those with superiors and subordinates: "Do not flatter the superiors, do not look down upon the people below. The attitude must be sincere, humble, honest, and united. Must learn from people and help people move forward". In particular, in relations with the people must be very attentive. Ho Chi Minh said: "What is beneficial to the people must be done with utmost effort, and what is harmful to the people must be avoided as much as possible". Ho Chi Minh advised, when becoming a cadre, always remember that the leader is the people's servant, not a "revolutionary mandarin", not to "ride the people's neck".

For work: To put public work above, before private work, housework. If you are in charge of something, you can decide to do it, until you reach your destination, not afraid of difficulties or dangers, good deeds are done no matter how small, evil deeds are avoided no matter how small. Every day, try to do something beneficial for the country and the people. With: "when doing anything, don't think about yourself first, when enjoying, you should go later", "must worry before the world, be happy after the world".

Training the young generation, Ho Chi Minh only taught specifically, that is the ideal of living for the Fatherland, for the people; resolutely overcome all difficulties and challenges, always volunteer, be exemplary in all work, complete all tasks: "implementing the slogan where young people are not needed, where young people are difficult" and "Where the Party needs it, the youth have it, when it's difficult, the young people do it". Ho Chi Minh advised, each young man must always think about his or her duty before the Fatherland, before the people: "The task of the youth is not to ask what the country has given him. But ask yourself, what have I done for my country? What should I do for the benefit of the country more? How much have I sacrificed for the sake of the country?"

Training the next generation Revolutionary moral education for young people, so that young people have moral qualities, are good at changing subjects, is first of all the responsibility of the Party, the Youth Union and previous generations focused on young people. Moral education for young people, as a leader, the Party must closely follow the youth movement, promptly praise their good deeds, heroic actions, bravery and wisdom; always emphasize the pioneering role of youth in revolutionary action.

### **The value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on training the young generation in Vietnam today**

Nowadays, the trends of internationalization and globalization, especially the industrial revolution 4.0, are taking place strongly. Vietnamese youth today need to "take initiative despite difficulties and have an open mind to progress" (Minh, 2011, p.569). At the same time, they must know how to keep themselves updated, dare to think and dare to do, be active and creative in everything. Conservative and outdated ideas will be left behind and give way to the will to progress, to new and progressive ideas of the youth. This is essential for the youth of the new era, as well as the driving force behind the development of Vietnamese society.

Of course, it is not because of this that young people disregard everything, chase material interests, downplay traditional values, and then violate the law. Or they only care to satisfy their personal interests, overlook the common interests, and even harm the society. Therefore, in order to avoid making mistakes, each young person, besides being dynamic and creative, needs to be aware of their own position and responsibility.

They must always remember they are the citizens of an independent, free, Party-organized country with a Union organization, with government and especially they are the future owners of the country. Because young people are the future owners, they are the ones who take on great tasks and future responsibilities, so they must stand in solidarity, strive to emulate and help in the cause of building a good state – a peaceful and unified Vietnam.

In addition to training and fostering among Vietnamese youth the spirit of "energetically taking initiative despite difficulties and having a will to move forward", "they need to be cared for and educated about revolutionary morality" (Minh, 2011, p.356). But why must educate revolutionary morals for young people? Education of revolutionary morals for young people is an important task for the survival and development of each nation. Because, young people are owners and the future generation of the country. When young people understand revolutionary morality, "if they have a revolutionary morality, when they encounter difficulties, hardships, and failures, they are not afraid, shy, or hesitant. They will live and act rightly, "for the common good of the Party, of the revolution, of the class, of the people and of the human race without hesitating to sacrifice all their own personal interests" (Minh, 2011, p.189). Therefore, the fostering of the moral qualities for the Vietnamese youth today, according to Ho Chi Minh President's Testament, must pay special attention to the matter of revolutionary moral education. In the matter of education, the revolutionary moral education is the most important part, because it is the factor that creates the "root", the basic and solid foundation for the revolutionaries. Vietnamese society always needs young people who are "both talented and virtuous". If they have only talent and no virtue, corruption is very likely, which will do harm to the people and the country.

"The moral of the revolution is not falling from heaven. It is due to the development and consolidation of it through daily struggle and training" (Minh, 2011, p.896). Therefore, the education and training of moral qualities for young people must be conducted regularly. It is a long and persistent process. If we are subjective and lower our ethical principles, it is very easy to make mistakes. In the trend of the market economy, besides the positives, it contains the negatives, making us easily drawn in, the most susceptible being young people.

The responsibility of educating revolutionary morals for youth rests with the school and the education and training sector. The school itself is the most convenient place to educate young people in all aspects. In this environment, the young generation can absorb necessary knowledge and basic experiences to prepare for life. Ho Chi Minh President once emphasized the role and responsibility of the school: "The most important thing is to teach students to be patriotic and compassionate, to teach them the will to be self-reliant, to be determined not to be inferior to anyone else, never to be a slave" (Minh, 2011, p.158). In the new era, there are many reasons why many families do not have

time to care for their children such as work, money, and circumstances. But not so that they forget the great responsibility of the family, especially parents. The school is not enough: it needs the attention of the family. The school and the family must have the relationship and coordination to be effective. It is important for the family to avoid situations where children are neglected and left to the school, without the care, guidance and instruction from the family.

In addition, youth unions also need to join hands, build and train revolutionary morals for the youth. By many different measures, "Central Youth Union needs to further strengthen the education of patriotism, enlightenment of revolutionary morality for union members and young people" (Minh, 2011, p.324). Youth organizations need to attract young people to participate in activities, from which propaganda and education. Through practical jobs, the above activities will contribute significantly to the education of young people, helping them live a more beautiful and ideal life. Ho Chi Minh President emphasized: "Schools, families and youth unions need to pay attention to educating young people's ideas, attitudes of activities and daily activities to promptly encourage, rectify and repair" (Minh, 2011, p.105). It is a synchronous and coherent coordination to educate the youth ethics. In particular, each young person, more than anyone else, needs to be self-aware, make efforts and train themselves seriously. Individuals must define a healthy lifestyle for themselves.

President Ho Chi Minh reminded: "A talented person without morality is like a good businessman who steals money; they will harm society. If people have morality but have no talent, just like the Buddha, they will do no harm, but do not benefit mankind" (Minh, 2011, p.345). Talent and morality are two very important factors to create people. Not only focusing on training the morality of young people, but the Party and State also need to aim at comprehensive human development, "must be both ethical and talented". Ethics and talent have dialectical and interactive relationships.

In the Testament, President Ho Chi Minh once again emphasized: Educating the current youth is to "train them to be heirs to build socialism" and to be both "moral" and "talented" (Minh, 2011, p.548). "Moral", according to Uncle Ho, can be understood that it is the revolutionary morality, political quality, living for others, not being self-interested, not being afraid of difficulties, hardships, of sacrificing of oneself, and the inquisitiveness to learn new things. A young person needs both factors "morality and talent".

In the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the combination of technologies has blurred the lines between physics, digital and biology. This has a great impact on social life, changing the way of life, the way of working and communication of the entire humanity. It promotes production, accelerates integration and economic development in our country, but at the same time poses great challenges. One of those challenges is the shortage of highly skilled workers and professional skills. In order to adapt and develop in that new environment, in addition to cultivating morality, the young generation of Vietnam needs to make efforts to improve their expertise, foreign language proficiency, computer skills as well as soft skills (communication, teamwork, presentation skills, time management etc.). The proposition "morality" must precede "talent" is not meant to undermine talents, but they are conditions for each other to develop together. Because if a person "has morality and no talent, like the Buddha sitting in the temple, it is not helpful to anyone". Therefore, to develop comprehensively and sustainably, young people need to combine both elements "morality" and "talent". Fifty-two years have passed, but the teachings of Ho Chi Minh in the Testament are still of great value today. Putting them into perspective of the actual situation of today's young people, studying and following Ho Chi Minh President's Testament is significant and urgent.

## **Conclusion**

More than any other nation in the world, the Vietnamese people understand the pricelessness of independence and freedom. Because, in order to have peace, independence and freedom like today, our nation had to trade with the lives, blood and tears of generations of Vietnamese people. It is a

voluntary sacrifice for a true goal, a noble ideal, a patriotic act of a heroic nation, a shining symbol of revolutionary heroism. It is the aspiration, will, bravery and wisdom that have created the great strength of Vietnamese people in the cause of fighting for and maintaining the independence and freedom of the Fatherland. During the process training the young generation, which is decisive for all victories of the Vietnamese revolution. Currently, in the new conditions, it is necessary to continue to deeply grasp and creatively apply Ho Chi Minh's thought on promoting the human factor to make the tradition, bravery, mettle and intelligence of the Vietnamese people become a great power to firmly defend the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, "The youth is the national pillar, the future owner of the country, is the force in the construction and defense of the country, one of the factors determining the success or failure of industrialization and modernization, nationalization, international integration and building socialism" (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2008, p.134).

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