



Research Article

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The Contribution of Ho Chi Minh in Building the Ideas of Vietnamese Today Students

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Abstract

The first president of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh always emphasizes building the ideal student model and considers it an important factor for the development of the country. The research focused on the analysis of Ho Chi Minh's thoughts and foreign research documents on the problem of building an ideal student model. This study surveyed the building of the ideal student model at universities in Vietnam to have an objective view to give the most general view. The research was also based on the main author's experience in building the ideal student model at Khanh Hoa University, where he is working. The works selected for research are documents of Ho Chi Minh and some typical works of other authors on student models. The number of students selected for the survey is 1500 second-year students from 10 universities in Vietnam. An analytical approach to Ho Chi Minh's thought in building an ideal student model at universities in Vietnam today is a very necessary job. The survey will be a scientific basis for administrators at universities in Vietnam to have a more objective and comprehensive view in developing their training strategies.

Keywords: Model, students, ideal, Ho Chi Minh, university, Vietnam

1. Introduction

Students are the driving force behind the development of each nation's intellectual assets. In the age of the information economy, science, and technology, they are the primary resource and are crucial to the growth of the nation. Students have a significant social role in every historical era, shaping the future and helping to create and protect the nation. Even while sitting on the chair of universities, students also have a certain role to play in influencing society. In the majority of these cultures,

students take political engagement even before they complete their studies, taking national, tribal, and municipal politics into the institution in a pretty straightforward approach. In a lot of less developed nations, the number of students is relatively small (in comparison to the total population), but the fact that governments in many of these countries dispute with students or push them to accept their policies, or that students may push their demands on their governments, demonstrating the potential power of educated young generation (Roucek, 1967).

In the process of leading the Vietnamese nation, Ho Chi Minh always had complete trust in students. He considers training students in universities a matter of survival because they are the future of the country. Ho Chi Minh considers students an important part in the policy of national construction, protection and development. Today, the Vietnamese government also emphasizes that in order to develop the country, it is necessary to build a strong knowledge team. In order to have high-quality human resources to meet social needs, it is essential to build an ideal student model in universities.

Daily ideal models are often used to describe dreams and aspirations such as the ideal man, the ideal house model, family role model. Most people have an idea of building their own model to their liking. However, the ideal model is often given to meet the requirements of the majority of people in society.

The term "ideal model" was coined by an American sociologist, Robert King Merton (1910-2003) in a research project at Columbia University focusing on medical students' socialization. The phrase emerged from his notion of reference groups, which are social groups that people may compare themselves to without necessarily belonging to them. According to Merton, society is the central part and there instead of just assuming a role and status, it can assume a set of roles and statuses in the social structure associated with it, a whole set of expected behaviors (Calhoun, Craig Jackson 2011).

The word "ideal" is defined as "an idea or standard that seems perfect, and worth trying to achieve or obtain" or "a person or thing that you think is perfect" (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, n.d.). To put it another way, an ideal might be thought of as a vision or aim that is significantly influenced by earlier or current experiences, information, attitudes, or ideas. We do not mean perfection or the best when we describe the "ideal" university student. What is expected of students in higher education is something we wish to emphasize. These expectations are ideals because they represent our goals or aspirations, even if they may be challenging to achieve in reality (Stemplowska, 2008).

To study the ideal student model, we have conducted research based on the study of Weber (2009). Weber argues that the ideal is a necessary foundation in society that every individual in it must follow. Model building is a method to operate society, helping society to have stability. The members of society can add criteria to make the ideal model more and more perfect. Like society, building an ideal student role model in the university will help society evaluate and understand the role and quality of the university. Through the criteria to build the ideal student model, the employer will have a more objective view of the training quality. Moreover, Stemplowska (2008) points out that ideal types can help society's normalcy operate by being a component of the socialization process, which gives us the disposition to understand, react, and respond to the intricacies of ordinary life experiences.

The ideal student model is given to build a perfect image for all students in the school to look at to practice in all aspects. Consequently, Burr (2003) states that the ideal student model is diffused first at the individual level, then at the social level, and is probably included in prevailing discourses.

Building a foundation for society requires universities to point out the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of each student while they are studying. Establishing clear criteria for the ideal student role model is better than thousands of lectures. The building of an ideal student model in universities is not only aimed at training high-quality human resources to provide for society but also contributes to reducing inequality. Through building the ideal student role model, every student will be given the same opportunity. This reduces ambiguity when teachers evaluate students and forces teachers to abandon emotional assessment to rational assessment using scales.

In addition, Brown and Carasso (2013) argue that the idea of the "perfect" university student has the ability to reduce gaps and control lecturers' and students' expectations, which have grown in scope as a result of consumerism and rising student demands. With this idea, we can see that we have a more thorough understanding of the university student model.

The research on the ideal student model in the world so far is not much. Its cause can be traced back to the idea that setting an ideal model is often behind the movement of society. According to our research, the study of the ideal student model includes the following scientists: The "ideal" student was discussed in the 1950s by Becker (1952), who also noted that instructors tended to respect children from middle-class families and their ideals. Academic ability and aptitude were the primary foundation of an "ideal" student in higher education, according to surveys conducted in the 1960s by Brown and Torrance on the personality attributes of the perfect student. In general, the works of the above authors have studied the ideal student model and focused on predictors of scholarly achievements including planning, trust, inspiration, studying style and execution.

In Vietnam, the ideal student model has been mentioned in the views of Phan Chu Trinh and Ho Chi Minh. In recent years, the Vietnamese government has mentioned many necessary things to build an ideal student role model in universities.

In this article, we will focus on answering the following questions: Firstly, what has Ho Chi Minh contributed to in building the ideal student model at universities in Vietnam today? Secondly, why is it important to build an ideal student role model? Thirdly, what criteria is the building of the ideal student model in universities in Vietnam today based on? Fourthly, are the criteria set forth to build the ideal student model out of date with the movement of society?

2. Materials and Methods

We conducted a survey of 1500 second-year students from 10 universities in Vietnam, including 4 national universities, 2 regional universities, 2 private universities and 2 local public universities. To conduct the survey, we determined that the participants were students studying in the second year, semester 1 in the academic year 2021-2022 at these universities. The questions were developed to conduct the survey focusing on 12 criteria including having revolutionary ideals, steadfast bravery, rich in patriotism, ethical purity, cultural lifestyle, compliance with the law, pioneering action, creating endlessness, continuous learning, good health, appropriate skills, and aspiration to rise. For the survey method, the research team directly met the participants to conduct the survey. After finishing the survey, we processed the data using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) software, a computer program for statistical analysis.

The document analysis method was used through contact with available documents that grasp Ho Chi Minh's points of view on building an ideal student model. We collected documents from domestic and foreign sources to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of previous works and point out gaps for development.

In addition to the two main methods mentioned above, in this paper, other methods were also used such as historical - logical method, which is based on the historical method to study events and scientific issues. On the basis of historical data, we drew out the constancy of the movement and growth of building the ideal student model. For the method of literature study, when we learned about and investigated scientific topics, we adhered to the works' original texts. At the same time, we learned the text's origin, and compared the text to analyze and clarify the criteria to build an ideal student model. We also used the method of comparison to compare the results obtained from the survey with reality.

3. Results

Ho Chi Minh made a great contribution to building the ideal student model at universities in Vietnam today. Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969) was the greatest leader of Vietnam. Faced with the basic

and urgent requirements of Vietnam's reality and on the basis of inheriting and selectively absorbing traditional national values and the quintessence of human culture, Ho Chi Minh focused on training students and considered this as one of the important factors for the development of the Vietnamese nation.

According to Ho Chi Minh's point of view, students are important resources for the development of the country. Ho Chi Minh appreciated their role and position. In order to have an ideal student model, Ho Chi Minh gave the criteria as possessing both political integrity (originally in Vietnamese as "pink" - "hồng") and professional competence (originally in Vietnamese as "specialized" - "chuyên"). "Pink" means a person who lives with revolutionary ideals, has political and moral qualities, and a pure lifestyle; this person is not afraid of difficulties and hardships, and is striving and willing to sacrifice for the nation. "Specialized" means a person with wisdom and professional capacity; has a culture; master science and technology. These two criteria have a dialectical relationship with each other and the "pink" criterion is considered more important. Ho Chi Minh (2011) says "we must take care of educating them in revolutionary morality, training them to become heirs to build socialism that is both "pink" and "specialized" (p. 15).

In order to have an ideal student model, Ho Chi Minh paid special attention to building a lifestyle with ambition, dreams, energy and aspiration with high ideals, having the virtue of sacrificing himself for great goals. The education was to awaken patriotism, national self-reliance, fostering revolutionary ideals and ambitious lifestyles for students. Consequently, having ideal models is an urgent task. The way to achieve the ideal model is that first of all, students must have a good lifestyle, know how to endure hardships, overcome all difficulties, and be determined to achieve the set goals.

Ambition is an important motivator for each student to achieve his or her ideal student model. Ambition is the desire to master knowledge to put into practice. It is also an important tool for personal development. In order to have great ambitions, students need to study, practice ethics, and participate in experiential activities. Administrators in universities need to set goals and help students make plans to achieve these goals.

Students must pursue the values of life, have faith, love for people and responsibility for the country. To do that, students must have dreams, strong will and actions that are creative, strong, enthusiastic, energetic, determined and confident. Ho Chi Minh also strongly criticized young people who only care about their own interests, are greedy for material things, love to be happy, avoid hardship, be lazy, despise labor, luxury, and arrogance. Ho Chi Minh (2011) advised students "Do not put too broad programs and plans, which sound good but cannot be implemented. The plan needs to match the reality. The work must be from small to large, from easy to difficult, from low to high" (p. 5).

For intellectual enhancement, in order for students to become ideal role models, they must constantly improve their intelligence. From the point of view of society's development, today's youth is an important link in the operation of tomorrow's machinery. Ho Chi Minh stressed that studying is not only a right but also an obligation to society and a moral obligation of young people. To improve their intelligence, students must summarize human experiences, synthesize natural and social knowledge accumulated in the historical process. Once you have mastered the theory, you must apply it to practice to see its correctness because practice is the measure of truth. "It is necessary to combine scientific theory with practice, try to study advanced theory and science of other countries, combine with the practice of Vietnam" (Ho Chi Minh, 2011, p. 186).

For physical enhancement, human health is the most precious capital, a source of social wealth. Ho Chi Minh (2011) highlights that every unhealthy citizen implies that the entire nation is unhealthy, and every healthy citizen implies that the entire nation is healthy. Students must constantly exercise to become ideal models. If you are healthy, you will have enough strength to participate in a flexible and persistent way in work that benefits the country and the people. Health is one of the important weapons to make dreams come true.

By absorbing and selecting different perspectives on building an ideal model in society and

derived from the characteristics and requirements of Vietnam's social reality, Ho Chi Minh has given his views and standards specific criteria to build the ideal student model.

The ideal of life is understood as a good goal that every human being wants to achieve. The ideal of life is a great motivation to help people overcome difficulties and challenges in life to realize their dreams and ambitions. A person with a high ideal life is a person who always has strong will to rise and move towards positive things, to improve and develop himself. People with ideal life always bring joy, happiness and meaning to their lives, bring pride to their families, and at the same time help the development of society. People with high ideals of life are always recognized and respected by society.

Building an ideal student role model in universities in Vietnam is a necessary job to create spillover for the young generation. Its purpose is to promote transparency, and clarity of what society wants about a student.

Inheriting Ho Chi Minh's thought, the Government of Vietnam always focuses on creating a new generation of individuals who live with culture and thankfulness. They are rich in patriotism and real international spirit, and possess lofty goals, a feeling of civic responsibility, knowledge, excellent health, and decent work. The Vietnamese Government also encourages Vietnamese youth to nurture great ambitions, national resilience, dynamism, creativity, mastery of new science and technology, rise to par with the times, and stand shoulder to shoulder with young people from other countries around the world. The Government insisted on forming an elite class of young men and women who are politically stable, steadfast in the socialist path, typical for the young generation, becoming good leaders, managers, business people, professionals, outstanding scientists in all aspects of social activities, erudite intellectuals occupy the heights of science (Communist Party of Vietnam, 1993). It is expected to build an ideal student role model in universities with "Pure heart - Bright mind - Great ambition" based on 12 criteria, including: having revolutionary ideals, steadfast bravery, rich in patriotism, ethical purity, cultural lifestyle, compliance with the law, pioneering action, creating endlessness, continuous learning, good health, appropriate skills, and aspiration to rise.

The criteria for building an ideal student model have also been concretized into the Law on Education of Vietnam. According to Article 5 of the Law on Higher Education, the purpose of higher education is to develop human resources, increase people's knowledge, and nurture their talents. It also aims to advance scientific and technological research, produce new knowledge and goods to meet the needs of socioeconomic development, and ensure the national defense and security of the country as well as global integration. The Law on Higher Education also have regulations to develop students' political and moral character, as well as their knowledge, professional practice skills, and capacity for scientific and technological research and development appropriate to their level of training, as well as their physical health, creativity, and professional responsibility, as well as their ability to adapt to their working environments.

At universities in Vietnam, there are 5 standards for training students to become ideal models.

Standard 1. Good ethics. The criteria to be achieved include: the average training score for the school year is 80/100 points or more; do not violate the law and the school's rules and regulations, local and community regulations; participate in faculty and school activities.

Standard 2. Studying well. The criteria to be achieved include: the average score of the school year to be achieved is 7/10 or higher and there is no debt for the course in the school year; participate in regular activities at least 01 academic club; participate in scientific research; participate in creative idea contests.

Standard 3. Good fitness. The criteria to be achieved include: join at least 01 sports club; participate in at least 01 sport;

Standard 4. Participating in community activities. The criteria to be achieved include: participate in at least 03 community activities; 1 time of blood donation.

Standard 5. Good integration. The criteria to be achieved include: participate in community activities with 01 foreign organization; participate in 01 activity to practice foreign languages; be proficient in computer science.

In order to assess the training status of students to reach the ideal model in universities in Vietnam, we conducted a survey of 1500 students studying in their second year at 10 universities in Vietnam. The number of female students is 798 students while the number of male students is 711. For the age of students surveyed, there are 1230 19-year-old students, 140 20-year-old students, 70 21-year-old students, and 60 students from 22 to 25 years old. The survey was conducted based on 5 standards including ethics, study, exercise, participating in community activities, integration. The results obtained are as follows:

Standard 1. Good ethics.

Criterion 1: The average training score of 80/100 points or more has 1368 students, accounting for 91.2%, below 80 points are 132 students, accounting for 8.8%.

Criterion 2: Violating the law and the school's rules and regulations, local and community regulations, 1497 students did not violate, accounting for 99.8%; 03 students violated, accounting for 0.2%.

Criterion 3: Participating in faculty and school activities, 975 students participated in at least one activity, accounting for 65%; 525 students did not participate in any activities, accounting for 35%.

Standard 2. Studying well

Criterion 1: The average score for the school year to be achieved is 7/10 or higher and there is no debt for the course in the school year. There are 450 students with the average score of 7 points or higher in the school year, accounting for 30%; from 5 to under 7 are 960 students, accounting for 64%; The average score below 5 has 90 students, accounting for 6%.

Criterion 2: Participating in regular activities at least 01 academic club. There were 1290 students participating, accounting for 86%; 210 students did not participate, accounting for 14%.

Criterion 3: Participating in scientific research. There were 345 students participating, accounting for 23%; 1155 did not participate, accounting for 77%.

4. Discussion

The criteria given above to build the ideal student model are backward compared to the movement of society or not. The survey demonstrated students' interest in striving to become an ideal role model in universities in Vietnam today. Whether the development of standards and criteria based on the development of Ho Chi Minh's thought is still relevant or not, it is shared and discussed. According to Wong and Chiu (2018), being ideal as a student may also entail making improvements or making progress in the future, therefore being perfect in the sense of faultlessness is not the same as being ideal. Research shows that students are very interested in the standards and criteria set by universities. Their desire comes from the subjective and objective conditions to reach the ideal they set, and at the same time, the subject has strong feelings and will towards the goal, with that exemplary image of the person. This makes the ideal different from the dream. The dream only stops at setting goals but has not been deeply aware of the difficulties and obstacles in the process of achieving the goal and has not made any efforts to the end, like the emotional desire to get there. However, dreams can be the basis for the formation of noble ideals later.

Through the survey, we found that students were eager to develop themselves to become useful citizens. They were self-aware of the need to spend time on studying, practicing ethics and appropriate skills. They were also willing to build a role model for themselves. The majority of students wanted to become an ideal model, to be able to achieve standards in life and work in the future, to become an example for friends, colleagues and people around to follow. Thus, this is a remarkable point about the students' eagerness to learn, progress, and enthusiasm. There are measures to encourage students to train themselves to become an ideal model. They would like to have "Clear mind - Bright mind - Great ambition". They would also like to become a person with "Ethical standards - Solid knowledge - Good skills - Confident integration".

Through the survey, we found that in order to build an ideal model, students at universities in

Vietnam are currently facing the following issues that need to be discussed:

Firstly, the distribution of study and leisure time is not really reasonable. Through the survey, we found that only a small percentage of students did not like to spend a lot of time studying or practicing skills; they also did not like working in groups. The status of working alone during school hours, preferring simple entertainment instead of joining academic clubs... still exists.

Second, some students lacked knowledge and skills in international integration. The students' independence, initiative, creativity, and post-training practice capacity were still weak.

Third, students did not understand the relationship between tradition and modernity. Many students mistakenly believed that the modern lifestyle was a way of absorbing the entire culture of developed countries. This misconception has pushed students to lead a self-indulgent lifestyle that forgets the traditional cultural values of the Vietnamese nation.

To have an ideal student model in universities in Vietnam, it is necessary to promote education, propaganda and training to become an ideal model. Building a model of students who achieve "Moral standards - Solid knowledge - Good skills - Confident integration" is really important. Families need to accompany and share with the school in order to help students practice to become an ideal model.

It is also crucial to build an ideal student model that is both realistic and romantic. It should be realistic because ideals are always built from many real "flavors and materials" in real life. However, the ideal is a model image that has not yet existed in reality or in life; it is something that can only be achieved in the future through our best efforts in the present. The ideal reflects the development trend of people, directs people to that noble goal, and urges people to perform and act.

5. Conclusion

Through the research process, we found that Ho Chi Minh has made a great contribution to building the ideal student model at universities in Vietnam today. This paper was drawn from the project of building an ideal student model at Khanh Hoa University, Vietnam from 2021 to 2022. In this study, research, investigation and analysis of the current situation were conducted based on the criteria of training the ideal student model at universities to make judgments about what has been achieved and issues to be discussed. The study also identified the causes affecting that process and showed the practical meaning of building an ideal model for students. At the same time, the research offered a system of solutions to be effective in the process of building an ideal model for students.

In addition, the ideal model will help students have a basis and general orientation to train themselves effectively. However, it must also be emphasized that students who have not yet reached their ideal model are not good students. The study of the ideal student model is aimed at spreading the desired effect of a good model desired by society.

We emphasize that building an ideal student model based on the criteria set by universities in Vietnam now takes time to perfect and compliment. However, in order to implement these criteria well, we believe that it is necessary to develop a specific and detailed training plan right from the beginning of the course. There should be close coordination between units in the university. To have an ideal student role model, learners need to practice the factors of physical strength, mentality, morality, skills and ideals. Universities and all staff members might then take a proactive and cooperative approach to help students develop the variety of recognized student traits that are essential in their particular situations (Johnston, 2010). The University needs to specify criteria to form a routine for students, set clear regulations, and have inspection, supervision and evaluation by functional units, in order to create complete human resources according to the public commitment to training quality of the higher education institution.

The purpose of the ideal student role model is to provide learners with opportunities to consider and make their own decisions about training to serve their purposes upon graduation. The building of an ideal model is one of the important factors in training new people. It is also a key factor that promotes the spirit of national self-reliance and the aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country.

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