

# The Impact of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution on Improving the Effectiveness of Ideological and Political Education in College Students in Vietnam at Present

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**Abstract:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution has a great impact on every aspect of life including the realm of education. This paper aims at analyzing the impact of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution on improving the effectiveness of ideological and political education in college students in Vietnam at present. The paper has pointed out clearly the role of ideological and political education in college students. It has mentioned some factors affecting ideological and political education in the age of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. Also, the paper has given some predictions about the impact of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution on ideological and political education in college students in the future. The author has proposed some solutions to improve the effectiveness of ideological and political education in college students in the era of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution including: propagandizing and disseminating to raise awareness and responsibility of the Party committees, authorities, branches and the whole society towards ideological and political education; innovating the contents, methods and forms of ideological and political education; improving the effectiveness of the educational activities of the Youth Union and associations; promoting emulation movements in education and training establishments; strengthening coordination between schools, families, and society in teaching students, and promoting the role of students in cultivating and improving their moral qualities and lifestyle.

**Keywords:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, Ideological and Political Education, Vietnamese College Students

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## 1. Introduction

So far, the world has undergone 4 industrial revolutions which are known as Revolution 1.0 to Revolution 4.0. The Industrial revolution is both the leap and sequential development. In the first industrial revolution at the end of the eighteenth century steam locomotives were invented, followed by the development of mechanical and semi-automatic industries. By the 2nd Industrial Revolution at the end of the nineteenth century, with the development of the energy industry and the application of energy to production and life, chain production was developed. The 3rd Industrial Revolution took place in the 1960s of the twentieth century, the world has witnessed the development and strong application of electronics and IT into automated production. It can be said that this is a "dramatic" transformation of world production, the interaction between people and machines through the development of robotics and IT applications. Today, the 4<sup>th</sup>

Industrial Revolution is being formed on the basis of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Industrial Revolution. This revolution has created technologies blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres both in life, manufacturing and in the field of education and training. Unlike the 3rd Industrial Revolution, the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution has a wide and very fast application speed that is disrupting almost every industry in every country. The breadth and depth of these changes herald the transformation of entire systems of production, management, and governance. Technology breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, energy storage, and quantum computing have an enormous impact on social life in general and school education in particular, including political and ideological education in students.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution also brings new opportunities for ideological and political education in colleges and universities.

Promoting ideological and political education in college students is an essential requirement in the context of globalization and international integration today. Good implementation of the work of political, and ideological education can ensure the comprehensive and healthy development of college students and ensure the quality of education and training in universities and colleges according to objectives of the Party's resolutions on the innovation of education and training and building Vietnamese culture and people to meet the requirements in the era of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial revolution.

## **2. The Important Role of Ideological and Political Education in College Students in the Age of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution**

Ideological and political education plays an extremely important part in the entire operation of the Vietnamese education system which always goes along with the implementation of the Party's guidelines and policies and laws of the State, as well as the performance of political duties by students. Not only that, the work of political and ideological education must go ahead, paving the way for the implementation of the Party's guidelines and policies, the goals, and tasks of the country, especially for difficult and complex tasks at critical moments like the present period.

Ideological and political education is one of the steps in the process of educating and spreading Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, the Party's guidelines and the State's policies and laws to officials and the Party members and the people to raise awareness, unify ideas and social consensus; continuously improving self-awareness, initiatives, and creativity of the people in the cause of national development and national defense. During his lifetime, President Ho Chi Minh paid special attention to this work. He always kept in mind: "The party wants to be strong, there must be doctrines, everyone in the party must understand, everyone must follow these doctrines. The party that has no doctrines is like a person without a brain, a ship without a guide" [1]. According to him, the goal of ideological and political education is to teach people to have wisdom. Ho Chi Minh stated that "Our party is a communist party in a nation that had low intellectual standards, backward production background and diverse family background of party members in the past, therefore, ideological and political education is the most important and basic method" [2] to build the political spirit and maintain the revolutionary nature of cadres, party members and the masses.

## **3. Factors Affecting Ideological and Political Education in College Students in the Era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0**

Regarding positive impacts: The trend of globalization and

international integration, especially the scientific and technological revolution is having a great impact on all aspects of Vietnam's economy, society, culture and people creating opportunities and challenges for education and training. The process of stepping up industrialization and modernization of the country has made our people's lives increasingly improved; besides, urban lifestyle is well defined and gradually stabilized in many territories in Vietnam. Students are better cared for, nurtured and educated. Traditional moral values are still preserved and promoted alongside the rule of law and individualism; Traditional living rules are still maintained in families. The basic and comprehensive renovation of education and training is receiving the support and approval of the public opinion and the participation of the Party committees and authorities. That will significantly change the quality of comprehensive education, especially education of morality, lifestyle, skills for students in schools and educational and training institutions.

Regarding negative impact: In addition to the positive impacts, education and training in general, education of morality and lifestyle for students in particular face many difficulties and challenges. Directive No. 42 - CT / TW dated March 24, 2015, of the Secretariat of the 12th Party Central Committee, clearly indicates, "the degeneration in political ideology, morality and lifestyles have not been prevented and repelled. Manifestations of "self-evolution" and "self-transformation", red-tape, corruption, and wastefulness of a portion of cadres and party members still exist. The gap between the rich and the poor and the social division is increasing. There is some deterioration in the cultural environment and social morality. There are many difficulties and challenges in protecting the sovereignty of our Fatherland. The negative side of modern media, especially the information on the Internet, and the increasingly intensive international integration process will have a great impact on young people's ideology, affection, and education for them" [3].

## **4. Predictions About the Impact of Industrial Revolution 4.0 on Ideological and Political Education in College Students in the Future**

In the coming time, the young generations of Vietnam, including Vietnamese students and pupils, will continue to study and train in an environment with many favorable conditions. "The economic and social life will be improved. Moral values and traditional culture of the nation will be preserved and promoted, creating conditions for students of all backgrounds to have intellect, ethical qualities to promote creativity and proactively and quickly get access to the achievements of modern science, technology meeting the requirements and demands of the cause of renovation and international integration" [4]

Along with the influence of the lifestyle of people and hi-

tech products from developed countries, a portion of Vietnamese students are easy to change their lifestyle and moral values, following a pragmatic and individualistic lifestyle contrary to the nation's fine customs and traditions. Some students even have a life attitude that requires more than sacrifices, which desires to enjoy more than contributions. They pay less attention to citizen obligations and responsibilities. Therefore, adjusting the deviation and promoting the traditional ethical values to help shape and perfect the personality, morality, and lifestyle of students today have great significance. It is one of the factors determining the success or failure of the cause of industrialization, modernization and international integration of our country and the construction of socialism. "Taking care of education, fostering, training and comprehensive development of politics, ideology, morality, lifestyle, culture, health and career for today's young generation of Vietnam so that they have favorable conditions for developing talents and creativity, promoting role in the cause of national construction and defense is the responsibility of both the political system and the whole society" [5]

## 5. Some Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Ideological and Political Education in College Students in the Era of Industrial Revolution 4.0

*First*, propagandize and disseminate to raise awareness and responsibility of the Party committees, authorities, branches, unions and the whole society towards ethical education and lifestyle for young people, teenagers and children. Throughout his life, President Ho Chi Minh always cared about educating ideology and morality of the patriots, officials, party members and young people. He said, "Our Party is a ruling party. Each party member and cadre must truly imbue revolutionary morality to be truly uphold diligence, thrift, integrity, honesty and impartiality. We must keep our Party clean and deserve to be the leader, the loyal servant of the people" [6]. Therefore, education about morality, lifestyles and revolutionary ideals for students is a long-term, important and strategic task that requires appropriate attention and investment. Therefore, investing in education, including teaching culture, lifestyles and revolutionary ideals in college students is an investment in the country's future. This is the duty of the Party, sectors, unions, families and the whole society. It is necessary to focus on promoting propaganda and mobilizing the whole society to see the significance, role and necessity of education about morality, lifestyles and ideals for students as well as promptly solve legitimate needs and aspirations and take care and protect the legal rights for students.

*Second*, innovate the content, methods and forms of ideological and political education. Developing the content of teaching lifestyles and ideology in schools to ensure the practicality and efficiency at each education and training level, ensuring the content focusing on basic values of human

culture, the core values and humanity of Ho Chi Minh's thought. It is necessary to focus on teaching students about revolutionary ideals, traditions and national pride, increasing legal awareness and compliance, "kindness, tolerance responsibilities towards themselves and their families and the society" [7]. It is imperative to combine teaching political theory with skills, professional ethics, self-learning skills, and creative capacity.

*Third*, improve the effectiveness of the educational activities of the Youth Union and associations. Improving the quality of organizing movements of youth, and adolescents launched by Youth Union and other organizations, especially on anniversaries of major holidays and important political events of the country. It is necessary to focus on historical, traditional and cultural education, promoting the socio-economic achievements of the province and the country, especially in the period of renovation and integration. "A nation, a party and a person, who was great yesterday is not necessarily loved and praised today and tomorrow if they are not pure and contaminated with individualism [8]. On important national holidays and events, we should organize political activities for members of the Youth Union and students in various forms such as "forums, seminars to foster patriotism, the spirit of national pride, and the aspiration to rise among students" [9].

*Fourth*, promote emulation movements in education and training establishments and strengthen the work of training and improving the capacity for staff and collaborators in charge of moral education. Education and training institutions need to continue to renovate the content and form of the emulation movement "Good Teaching - Good Learning". Besides, it is necessary to promote the movement "Learning and following Ho Chi Minh's ideology, morality, and style. President Ho Chi Minh once taught: "a living example is worth more than a hundred of political speeches" [10]. Also, we should organize political, cultural and sports activities on national holidays and events. It is necessary to promote the role of Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and Ho Chi Minh Young Pioneer organization at schools. Annually, we need to examine and evaluate the results of the implementation of the patriotic emulation movement among managers, teachers, students to promptly reward good examples of teachers and students.

*Fifth*, strengthen coordination between schools, families, and society in teaching students. It is necessary to promote the role and responsibility of the family in caring for and educating students. "Families are propagandized to raise their awareness about responsibilities towards comprehensive educational goals of creating the best potential for the development of their children" [11]. They need to actively coordinate with schools and mass organizations in education and commit to the education institution to fulfill their obligations of caring, educating and creating the best environment for their children in learning and practicing.

*Sixth*, promote the role of students in cultivating and improving their moral qualities and lifestyle. President Ho Chi Minh stated that "in order to train revolutionary ethics,

we must strive to study, cultivate, and improve ourselves for long-lasting progress”, because “revolutionary ethics does not fall from heaven. It is developed and reinforced by constant struggle and training, just like the fact that practice makes perfect” [12]. The target of innovation in education is to move from knowledge transfer to quality and capacity development. “Promoting the role of self-study and moral self-improvement is an important measure to help students to progress and grow” [13]; creating motives for them to strive and to make them consciously eager to learn, to progress, and assert themselves. That is the condition determining the training results of each student. It is necessary to create a healthy social environment for students to develop moral qualities and define their responsibility towards the Fatherland and the people, living with an ideal ambition and a desire to reach progressive things.

*Seventh*, enhance the inspection and supervision role of the Party Committees and authorities in the work of ideological and political education for students. Party committees, authorities at all levels and the Education and Training sector need to strengthen the examination and inspection of the implementation of the Party and State's policy on political and ideological education for officials, Party members, teachers and students. It is imperative to promptly and severely handle violations according to party discipline, administrative discipline and by law to prevent adverse impacts on the educational environment. This is an indicator to assess the degree of accomplishment of the duties of each party organization, mass organization, officials, party members, and teachers in schools and educational and training establishments.

## 6. Conclusion

To sum up, the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution has greatly changed the way people live and work. It has a great impact on all aspects of Vietnam's economy, society, culture, creating opportunities and challenges in the realm of education and training. Students are considered as the future generation of the country, therefore, it is necessary to take advantage of all opportunities and overcome challenges of this revolution to improve the effectiveness of political and ideological education for students. Thanks to the achievements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, the content of ideological and political education in colleges and universities is more abundant, the means and methods are more modern and diverse, and the forms and contents are

more attractive and effective.

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