

Lund University, Sweden

Education

**Advanced International Training Program on Child Rights,
Classroom and School Management Supported by SIDA**

Project Title:

Forming and activating class students'
councils of grade 6 in Le Quy Don School

Final Report

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I. The Pilot Project Plan:

1. Title of the Project

Forming and Activating Class Students' Councils of Grade 6 in Le Quy Don Secondary School, Hanoi, Vietnam.

2. Brief Introduction

Piloting *the first students' councils* in helping to solve problems of their classmates and also transforming the form teachers' traditional way of holding weekly class meetings into *participatory democratic ones* can make CRC be practiced and influenced teachers' and students' behaviour of Le Quy Don Secondary School.

3. Target groups

a) Target areas: Le Quy Don Secondary School, Cau Giay District, Hanoi, Vietnam.

b) Target groups: 425 grade-6 students of 8 classes.

c) Stakeholders: District Education&Training Chief, Le Quy Don Secondary School Principal, teachers, students and parents.

4. Main Activities

- Reporting about the course in Sweden to the respective managers.
- Holding workshops for colleagues (at the Centre for Education Technology and Cau Giay District of Education and Training), form teachers and the Young Pioneer Organization Secretary of Le Quy Don School about what has been learnt from the course on CRC and what will be done after the course.
- Holding a seminar for students about the CRC.
- Encouraging form teachers to transform their present approaches of conducting the weekly class meetings into bottom-up and right-based approaches.

- Establishing students' councils in the 8 classes: The councils help their classmates to solve the problems occurring in their life.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Establishing 8 student councils.
- Changing the approaches the form teachers conduct the weekly class meetings to participatory democratic ways.
- Raising the awareness of the CRC among students, principal, teachers, parents.

6. Implementation Schedule

| October 2008 | November 2008 | December 2008 | January 2009 | February 2009 | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Reporting to respective leaders | Preparing workshops, seminar | Organising workshops, seminar | Eshtablishing Operating Students' Councils | Reporting by teachers Reporting to the mentor | |
| March 2009 | April 2009 | May 2009 | June 2009 | July 2009 | August 2009 |
| Following Reporting in Jordan | Following Supervising | Following Supervising | Reporting to the mentor | Vacation time | Welcoming the mentor Evaluating |

II. The Pilot Project Implementation:

1. Project Focus

The project focuses on the child rights in schools. The rights are practiced in class weekly meetings conducted by form teachers. Children learn to speak out their ideas and willings, to participate actively in the learning process and building their learning environment. Through the activity, the students' confidence and democracy in school are improved.

Target groups of the project are grade 6 students, 2008-2009 school year, in Le Quy Don Secondary School, Hanoi, Vietnam.

2. Activities

Below is what have been done by the project staff so far (from October, 2008 to September, 2009):

- Completing project document.
- Preparing for the meetings with the organisations' leaders.
- Reporting on the training course and the pilot project to the respective leaders so that the project can be carried out.
- Preparing for the workshops: translating the documents, structuring the reports, making power point, inserting pictures, inviting participants.... .
- 3 workshops were organised: one for the staff of the Center for Education Technology on October 29th, one for Cau Giay Department of Education & Training on November 14th and one for Le Quy Don School on November 15th. And all the staff are interested in the project and encourage us to do it.
- On December 8th, we had a meeting and establish and activate 8 students' councils in 8 classes of grade 6 at LQD School. Each council has 4 students as leaders with the form teacher as an advisor (32 students and 8 form teachers all). We discussed and came to the consensus:

+ The aim of the councils:

To practice CRC in the school through operating the weekly class meetings , to make children participate actively in the learning process and building their learning environment.

+ How the councils work:

To give students the chance to raise their ideas, questions, difficulties... and get these solved by themselves or by specialists

To discuss in the class weekly meetings and decide what students should do to be good and more active.

To collect the students' problems in a request form and discuss how to solve the problems within the council.

* Some problems requested:

-Why do my parents favor my little brother and seem to neglect me since he was born?

-Some students in class still litter and minitalk.

-Why do I have black dots on my face, how do I treat them?

-My mother read my diary and punished me for what I had written about her in it.

-How should I study Maths...well?

-What child rights do I have? ...etc.

Discuss the ideas relating to the class activities, duties, disciplines, studying...in the 45-minute class meetings on Friday once every two weeks. The students have done this 4 times with 4 different topics:

19/12/08: How to prepare well for the coming exams.

02/01/09: Right and wrong doings in famliy and society according to the CRC.

16/01/09: Preparation for the English festival to welcome the Lunar New Year.

(30/01/09: Lunar New Year Vacation time).

13/02/09: How to keep the environment in the classroom, school and neighborhood green and clean.

Meanwhile, except the activities following the project document, our group have done some other activities relating to the implementing CRC in the school and broader, in society:

- We held a consultation about the CRC, child responsibilities, avoiding child trafficking, smuggling, child labour & exploitation and traffic rules on December 20th with the help of Hanoi Lawyers Association and Tao, a team member as a consultant of the association. A similar consultation was done for 574 students at Trung Hoa Junior High School, Cau Giay District.
- We helped Le Quy Don School to rehearse the drama “The lost shoes”- an old Vietnamese folktale (similar to “Cinderella”) to take part in the city English festival and won the first prize.
- We helped Le Quy Don School to organize an English celebration to welcome the Lunar New Year on January 19th.
- We helped Le Quy Don School to design and hold a meeting with Singaporean students on January 21st.
- We had a meeting at the end of the 1st term with the school parents’ association and informed them what we had done recently.
- We developed a chapter for a handbook named ”How to make schools friendly, students active”. A lot of materials from the program *Child Rights, Classroom and School Management* have been sorted out, translated and included into the handbook.
- We left for Jordan on February 27th for the follow-up part of the training and presented our progress report on March 5th 2009.

*** What has been done since after the trip to Jordan:**

- On April 10th, the students' councils were helped to organize a quiz show in English: Ring the Golden Bell (which is similar to a popular game show for students on T.V). They were interested in this. All the grade 6 students took part in the game: some of them as players and the others as audience. The players were chosen in a class discussion by the class councils.
- On April 29th, there was a meeting between the team and the students' councils. All the activities were reviewed. Students have made some progress on their activities such as reducing talking in class, more pairs of helping each other friends, not going to school late, adding more activities....
- On May 8th, each council held a discussion about how to cope with the coming end-of-term tests. They shared their experience in revising the lessons.
- On May 9th, the team worked with the form teachers of grade 6, the heads of the student councils. We met 6 teachers of 8 all. We discussed about what they have done, what were their difficulties...
- On May 15th, the class meeting was again about how to revise well for the coming end-of-term test.
- On May 22nd, each students' council has discussed how to make student's council regulations and get consensus in obeying them.
- Here are some suggestions from us to the form teachers:
 - + Each form teacher will suggest extending the scope of interests for their students: not only within their classroom, but also school
 - + Only the issues students can not solve need to be passed to the teachers. And students try to find solutions themselves first, teachers are their guides or advisors only.
 - + Teachers should take notes what they have done and give comments on the done so that they can draw experience and share with their colleagues in the following years.
- On May 23rd, the school had a meeting with the students' parents. The parents were informed about the students' council activities.
- On May 25th, each council prepared a program for the school and class closing ceremony on May 26th morning.
- Summer vacation: from June to July.
- 18.50 Thursday, 30/July/09, we picked up Mentor Per Wickenberg on his visit at the airport.
- 16.00 Friday, 31/July/09, we met our mentor and discuss the plan again.
- 9.00 Monday, 03/August/09, we discussed the continued report of Batch 9. At 14 p.m, we visited an orphanage called Birla Children's Village in Cau Giay

District, Hanoi. In the evening, Mentor Per met and had dinner with Hanoi participants.

- 14.00 Tuesday, 04/August/09, Mentor Per Wickenberg gave the lecture 'Children are future' at Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences. At 16.00, Per Wickenberg worked with Vietnam Association for Protection of Children's Rights.

- 8.30 Wednesday 05/August/09, Mentor worked with managers of Cau Giay DoET, some teachers of English in the district. Then at 10.00, he worked with the board, form teachers of grade 6, students' councils, met and talked with the students about their activities.

- 8.00 Friday, 07/08/09, Mentor worked with Hanoi University for Education - H.N.U.E.

- 17.00 Saturday, 08/August/09, we saw our mentor off at the hotel.

- On September 22nd, our team had a workshop with 50 form teachers of grade 6 from 12 schools in Cau Giay District. We reported what, how, why we did our project to these teachers and then they would start similar project in their school.

3. Results

- 8 Students councils have been established and operating.

- Little by little the way the form teachers conduct their weekly class meetings has been changed, more participatory and active. The form teachers realize that they are interested in changing from top-down approach to right-based and bottom-up approach for better education of children, giving their students more participation and interest.

* With the things done, we hope that:

- The students are more aware of their rights and responsibilities. They have the chance to give ideas, requests also they are shown how to do this. They can discuss among themselves about what they think important and necessary for them, how to do their duties, responsibilities, how to solve their problems, difficulties in their daily life and in the relationship with their families, friends and the society.

- The education managers can see how CRC implementation is done specifically and lively in the school not only CRC articles in the paper.
- The parents are more aware of CRC and agree with the new methods our team have done to their children and hope that their children will be more active and creative and more responsible for themselves (not passive and waiting for parents' decisions).
- The booklet "Building friendly schools, active students" written by Mrs Tuyen has been printed and sold in public. We can say that the chapter "The role and responsibility of a principal in the movement *Building friendly schools, active students*" is a product from the Child Rights Programme of Batch 9.
- Mrs Tao wrote an article about Jordan trip. The article "Impression of Jordan" was printed in one of the newspapers in Hanoi Capital (Economy and the City). Many memories about Jordan were reviewed: Child Rights, Schools, children and life in Jordan ...

4. Some reflections of students, teachers, parents

Reflections of students:

- They are very keen on being members of the councils and participating in the activities held by the councils.
- Everything seems to go more and more smoothly especially after the monitoring trip of the teams.
- They become more active and feel free to do things by themselves and express themselves.
- They are more involved in the activities and
- They are more aware of their rights and responsibilities (what they should/shouldn't do).
- They want to continue with the councils.
- They are very interested in the student council results. They want more friends to involve in and they need their class teachers help. Still some complains: they have some boys in class, very playful and persisted. Some others (boys and girls) seem to fall in love. The issues "outside classroom" they don't think to touch, such as waste in the playground, dirt in the toilets, or food at school lunch...

Reflections of form teachers:

- They are very interested in the project because they want to change their approach: from top-down to bottom-up.

- They know more about the CRC so they can change their view over their students.
- They want to listen to and understand their students better and are more positive in evaluating their students. So they can stimulate the students' advantages and help them reduce their disadvantages.
- They don't have to prepare everything for the weekly class meetings like before as students can do many things themselves. They just give some advice or comments.
- They are ready to continue the project.

Reflections of parents:

- They are very happy to know about the results of the project.
- They can see that their children are more confident to express their ideas.
- Some parents do not pay attention to this project. We don't have their reflections.

5. Experience and difficulties drawn after the project

1. The managers are very ready to help carry out the project and the teachers are eager to conduct new methods and the activities designed and done by students themselves are more effective than the present ones.
2. A careful and feasible plan should be prepared.
3. Good co-operation among the team members.
4. We are lack of references and instructional materials in Vietnamese specialized in human rights and child rights .
5. Lack of time to implement the project because of the time table of students is full and the team members are busy at different periods of time.
6. The school is building a new building so there is lack of space for organizing activities.

6. Future Plan

- Reporting on project progress to local managers, mentors.
- Drawing lessons learnt from the project and suggesting a plan for multiplying the results of the project in other schools in Cau Giay District as well as in Hanoi.

III. Index

1. Information about Le Quy Don Secondary School:

Le Quy Don Secondary School belongs to Cau Giay District Division of Education & Training.

Address: Nguyen Van Huyen Road, Nghia Do Ward, Cau Giay District, Ha Noi, Vietnam.

Phone : +84 04 8364046 - +84 04 8360674

Fax : +84 04 8364046

E-mail: thcs_lequydon@viettel.vn

- **ESTABLISHMENT:** on July 1st 1995 with the name of Tu Liem District Specializing School.
- After the foundation of Cau Giay District in September 1997, it was renamed Le Quy Don Junior High School at 14 To Hieu Street, Nghia Tan Ward, Cau Giay District, Hanoi.
- September 2002, Cau Giay District People's Committee gave out the decision to merge Le Quy Don Junior High School and Nghia Do Junior High School into Le Quy Don Secondary School at the new location on Nguyen Van Huyen Road.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- ✦ Constantly received awards of good school from Hanoi Service of Education & Training.
- ✦ Received an award from Hanoi People's Committee.
- ✦ In the school year 2001-2002, award from Ministry of Education & Training for successful completion in the project of renewing the syllabus and textbooks.
- ✦ In the school year 2003-2004, award from Ministry of Education & Training for having successfully completed the objectives of the year.

✦ In 2005, award from Ministry of Education of Education & Training to successful unit in the project of renewing the syllabus and textbooks, phase 2000-2005. Also award from the Prime Minister to the successful unit in accomplishing objectives.

✦ Labor Medal (Rank 3) from the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

✦ Awards of good school at physical education from year 1998-1999 to now.

BOARD AND STAFF

1. Board :

Principal : Mrs. Nguyen Thi Mai Lan
Vice - principals: Mrs. Hoang Ngoc Dan
Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thanh Binh
Mr. Le Van Hac

2. Party cell :

Secretary : Mrs. Nguyen Thi Mai Lan
Secretary assistant : Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thanh Binh
Member : Mrs. Ho Thi Kim Dung

3. Trade union :

Chairman: Mr. Vu Xuan Truong
Vice - Chairman: Mrs. Nguyen Minh Chau
Member: Mrs. Ho Thi Kim Dung
Mrs. Nguyen Anh Minh
Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Thuc

4. Heads of professional groups:

Maths - Physics: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Minh Chau
Literature - History: Mrs. Pham Thi Ngoc Bich

Chemistry – Biology - Geography: Mrs. Le Thi Kim Anh

Foreign Language: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Khuong

Music – Art – Physical Education: Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Thuc

Administration: Mr. Nguyen Hoa Hoc

5. Staff:

Total: 89

Master degrees: 6

B.A: 46

Junior B.A: 37

6. Students:

Classes: 32 (Grades 6,7,8,9)

Total: 1525

Grade 6: 425

2. Regulations of Class 6E

**Le Quy Don Junior High School
Class 6E**

Class regulations

do:

1. Keep the school, class regulations.
2. Go to school on time.
3. Keep clean inside and outside the classroom.
4. Respect the teachers, other staff and guests.
5. Help classmates make progress.
6. Learn by heart the previous lessons and do homework before class.
7. Listen to the teachers attentively
8. Wear uniform as required.
9. Absent with permission for leave.
10. Turn off the lights, fans and close the doors before leaving.
11. Unite with classmates, schoolmates.
12. Save drinking water.
13. Bring all the necessary books, notebooks, schoolthings.
14. Be willing to participate in learning and raise your voice during lessons.
15. Have disciplines in class, responsible to tasks, assignments.
16. Be ready for school and class activities.
17. Be honest in tests, exams.
18. Protect the furniture and school facilities.
19. Prevent social evils: drug abuse, illegal motorbike racing and cheering...
20. Keep traffic rules.

All class members should follow these regulations and be a good child and student.

Le Quy Don Junior High School
Class 6E

Class regulations

Don't:

1. Play truant.
2. Be late for school.
3. Steal anything from friends or others.
4. Forget homework.
5. Draw on tables walls, doors or windows.
6. Minitalk in class.
7. Change your seat or go out without permission.
8. Swear at friends.
9. Throw trash.
10. Copy tests.
11. Bring toys, walkmans or other valuable things to schools.
12. Color your nails, hair or make up when going to school.
13. Read storybooks, comics, newspapers in class.
14. Irresponsible to your tasks, assignments.
15. Use alcoholic drinks.
16. Gamble.
17. Store, watch, read pornography or harmful documents.
18. Quarrel or fight.
19. Cover up faults or bad doing of yours or your friends'.
20. Waste or damage belongings or school facilities.

All class members should follow these regulations and be a good child and student.

3. Basic Information on Vietnam

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (The S.R.V.) has fulfilled the inspiration of President Ho Chi Minh for national independence and has made great strides towards becoming a strong country with well-educated, healthy and prosperous people. Our recent achievements have been recognized and appreciated by international community.

Vietnam's achievements in economic, social and political reforms have brought about great improvements in people's living standards. Vietnam has gone far towards the goals of turning Vietnam into an industrial country by 2020 and building for the people an advanced society of order, democracy and the rule of law.

Vietnam pursues a foreign policy of peace, expanding exchanges and co-operation with all countries in the world regardless of social-political systems on the basis of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, equality and mutual benefits. Vietnam works to strengthen friendship and solidarity with all nations and contributes actively to the world struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

NATIONAL FLAG: The national flag of The SRV. is rectangular in shape; its width equal to two thirds of its length, in the middle of the red background is a yellow star.



NATIONAL EMBLEM: The national emblem of the SRV. is circular in shape; in the middle of the red background is a yellow star symbolizing the revolutionary history of the nation, surrounded by rice ears symbolizing agriculture; below is half a cogwheel symbolizing industry and the inscription "Socialist Republic of Vietnam".



NATIONAL ANTHEM: "Tien Quan Ca"- "March to the Front"

AREA & LOCATION: Vietnam has a total area of 331,689 square kilometers. The country is situated in South-east Asia on the Indo-chinese peninsula and shares borders with China to the north, Laos, and Cambodia to the west, and facing the Eastern Sea and the Pacific to the east and south.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS: New year: January 1st ,

Lunar New Year: 4 days

Reunification day: April 30th

May Day: May 1st

National day: September 2nd (since 1945)

POPULATION: There are about 84 million people and ranked 13th among the most populous countries in the world. About 25% of the population live in the urban areas; 75% live in the rural areas. Vietnam has a young population with about 52 million people at working age. And life expectancy in 2005 was 72.

Vietnam is multi-ethnic with 54 groups co-existing together, among which Kinh people account for 86%; among ethnic minorities, the most populous ones are Tay, Thai, Muong, Hoa, Khmer and Nung with about one million people per group.

CLIMATE: Vietnam is in the tropical and temperate zone. The climate changes by the season and the regions from the low land to the highland from north to south and from east to west. There are two climate regions. Northern Vietnam (from Mong Cai to Hai Van Pass) has a highly-humid tropical monsoon climate with 4 distinguishable seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Southern Vietnam (from Hai Van Pass to Ha Tien) has a rather moderate tropical climate given the weak influence of monsoon and characterized by dry and rainy seasons and warm weather all year round. Vietnam has 2,360 rivers (of more than 10 kilometers in length) so there is often flood every year especially under the influence of climate change and global warmth.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS:

Vietnam has internationally recognized heritages: Ha Long Bay, Phong Nha-Ke Bang, Ancient Capital of Hue, Hoi An Ancient Town, My Son Sanctuary, The Royal Refined Music of Hue, The Cultural Space of Gong in the Central Highlands.

Other forms of Vietnamese art are being studied to be restored and introduced for recognition such as Water Puppetry, Quan Ho Singing, Ca Tru Singing, Ancient Castle of Thang Long.

There are beautiful bays and beaches along the coast, also many mountains and caves.

ECONOMY: Vietnam has a socialist-oriented market economy with the existence and development of multi-sector economy. The main export products

are: crude oil, garment, textile, footwear, seafood, woodwork, electronic appliances and rice.

Foreign direct investment was 5.8 billion USD in 2005. FDI of 2008 was about 15 billion USD.

The currency unit of Vietnam is "dong" (VND).

RELIGIONS & BELIEFS:

Vietnam is a country of many religions and beliefs.

Traditional beliefs: With the perception that every object has a soul, since the ancient time, the Vietnamese have worshiped a large number of gods, especially those relating to agriculture such as the sun, the moon, land, mountains, rivers, forests, and gods of the kitchen, soil... for good luck.

Every Vietnamese family has an altar to worship their ancestors and attaches to the importance to the commemoration of death anniversaries and acknowledgement of the service rendered by the predecessors. Besides, many villages have a communal house or a temple to worship the village Deity. The Deity can be a deity or an out-standing person who rendered great service such as the forefather of a traditional handicraft or a national hero who recorded glorious feats in national building and in the wars against foreign aggression. Other people practise nil or one of those Buddhism, Christianity (Catholicism, Protestantism), Muslim, Caodaism, Hoa Hao...

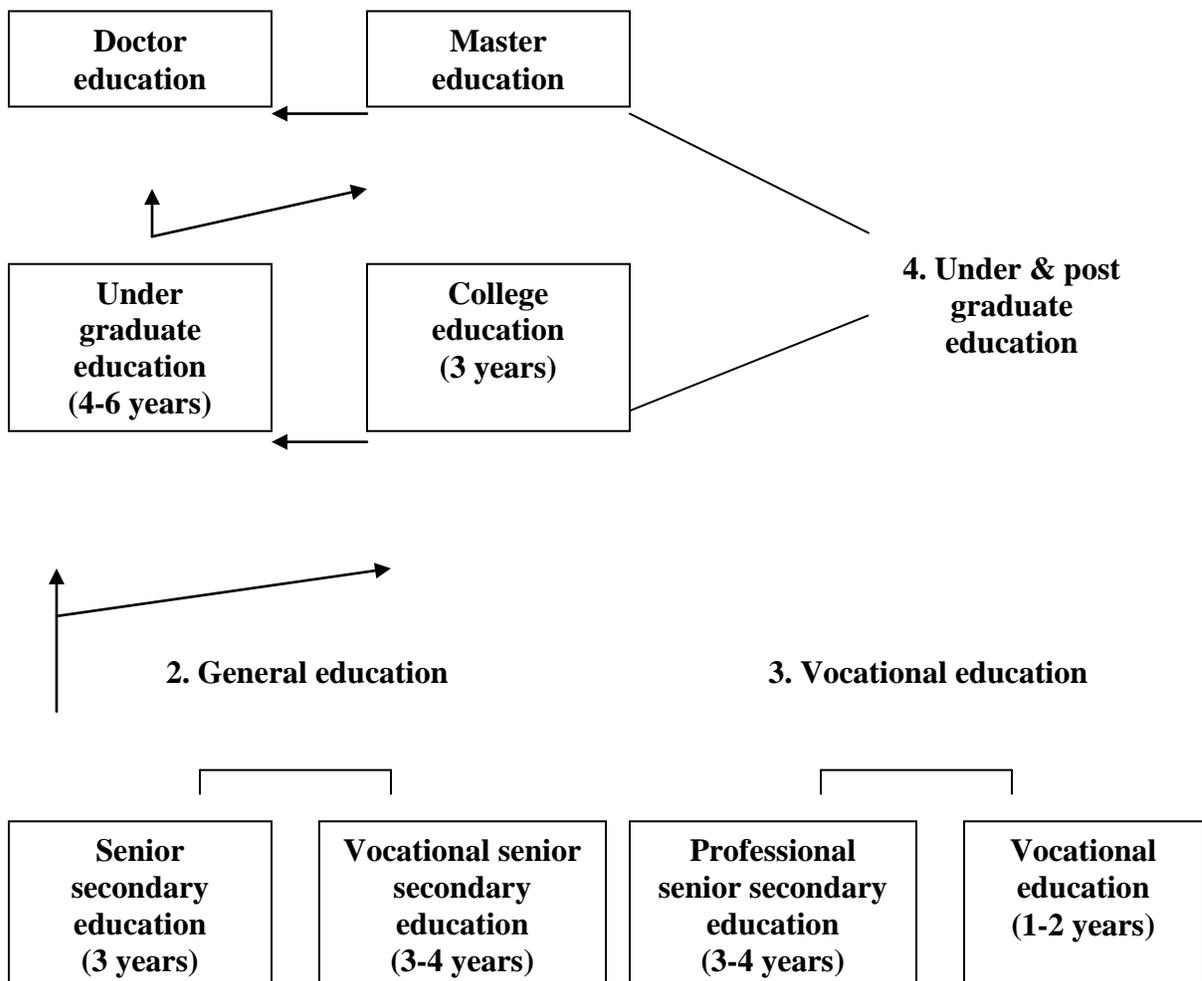
4. Educational System

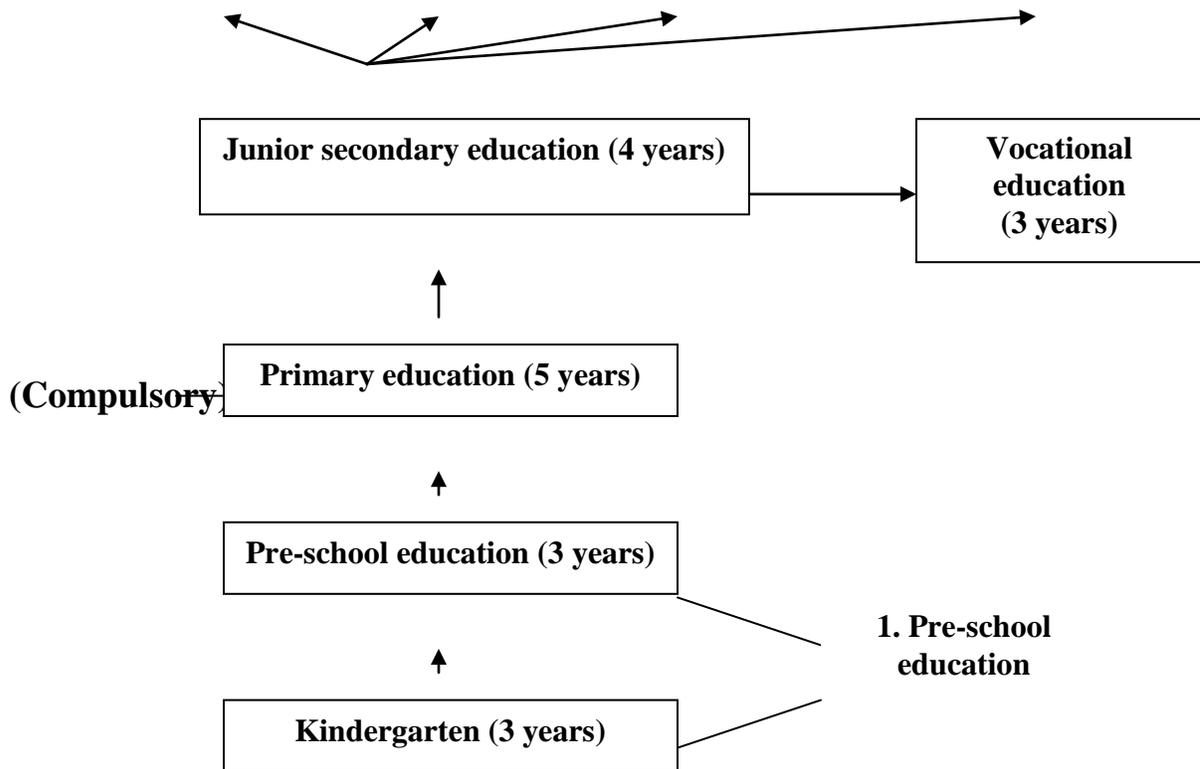
The State considers education a priority in the national policy. Education has been socialized with different sources of investment. Teaching and training methods are diversified. School management is democratized while content, methods, facilities are being modernized. A complete unified educational system has been established throughout the country encompassing all education levels, skill training methods and school types.

In 1998, the 10th legislature adopted the education law, raise people’s educational level and train human resources, and nurture talents for the cause of industrialization and modernization. It is clearly stated in the Education Law that every citizen has equal opportunity for education. The State favors and facilitates children of ethnic minorities, children from especially difficult families, and the handicapped or those under other preferential policies to go to school.

Certificates: Certificates are granted of each schooling phase including primary, junior and senior secondary schools and vocational training. There is also a college diploma, a bachelor, a master and a PhD degree.

Diagram of the education system:





5. CRC in Vietnam

Vietnam is the first country in Asia and the second country of the world which adopted the CRC in the 1989 and ratified it on February 20th 1990. Our government believes that we need to show respect for the dignity, equality and rights of all people, including children especially the right to protection, studying, and happiness.

Legal instruments:

- Give birth certificate to every child not later than two months after birth.
- Free health insurance to children 1-6 years
- Free primary education
- Make laws for children's rights
- Give scholarships or loans to poor students
- A free phone number for children to consult

- Use of corporal punishment in school is illegal
- Child labour below the age of 18 years is not allowed
- Negligence of Children by parents is punishable by law.
- Marriage below the age of 20 years is not allowed.