

Fostering the Spirit of Self-reliance and Resilience among Vietnamese Youth - A key Internal Resource for National Prosperity and Happiness

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Abstract: Vietnamese youth play a pivotal role in the nation's development and defense. They represent the modern productive force of the future. Regardless of circumstances or challenges, Vietnamese youth have consistently demonstrated resilience and determination, excelling in their duties to contribute to the realization of a strong, prosperous, and happy Vietnam.

Keywords: Vietnamese youth, internal resources, prosperity, happiness.

1. The spirit of self-reliance and resilience in the Vietnamese youth

Building and promoting the spirit of self-reliance and resilience has been a central mission throughout the process of national development and defense. History has witnessed the nation's unwavering determination for self-reliance and independence, evident in significant milestones such as the resistance against French colonial rule and the victory at Dien Bien Phu, the resistance against American imperialism, and the liberation of the South for national reunification. In every situation, and through all policies of the Party and State, the spirit of self-reliance and resilience has been strongly emphasized. This principle stems from the understanding that success can only be achieved through proactiveness, while dependency and reliance on external forces inevitably lead to the erosion of national independence.

The spirit of self-reliance and resilience is manifested through the self-reliance and resilience of each individual, and is nurtured by the collective will of the entire people. National spirit represents the unity of will and strength of all the people, so in order to fully promote the self-reliance and resilience of the nation, it is necessary to awaken and strengthen the spirit of self-reliance in every individual. In every specific situation, for every subject, Ho Chi Minh always emphasized the need to promote the spirit of self-reliance and resilience: "Waiting for the Party and the Government to help is not the right approach. The Party and the Government set out policies and send officials to guide, which is assistance. But that is secondary. The main force is the people organizing themselves. We should not rely on others; we must rely on

ourselves”⁽¹⁾. Especially for the younger generation, “We must teach them to be independent, self-reliant, to never accept inferiority, to never be slaves”⁽²⁾. Therefore, each individual needs to make their own plans, take actions, and overcome challenges to achieve their goals. The spirit of self-reliance and resilience is a noble quality that helps each person become someone with self-respect, ethics, knowledge, and contribute to society.

The Party and the State have always paid special attention to the youth. The Government has issued the Vietnam Youth Development Strategy for the period 2021-2030, with the overall goal: “To build a generation of Vietnamese youth who are fully developed, patriotic, self-reliant, and proud of their nation; who possess revolutionary ideals, aspirations, and a desire to contribute to the development of the country; who are ethical, law-abiding citizens, in good health, with a healthy lifestyle; who have culture, knowledge, education, life skills, professions, and jobs; who have the will to establish themselves and succeed, dynamic, creative, and masters of science and technology. To develop high-quality young human resources to meet the fast and sustainable development needs of the country and international integration. To promote the spirit of dedication, enthusiasm, voluntarism, and enhance the responsibility of youth in the cause of building and protecting the country”⁽³⁾. Particularly, it emphasizes building generations of Vietnamese youth with good health, knowledge, high ideals, and the spirit of self-reliance and resilience for their own future and the future of the country; always aspiring to acquire new knowledge and achieve success in global integration.

2. Current state of educating self-reliance and resilience for Vietnamese youth

With the aspiration to develop the country, the guiding perspective of the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam (2021) is to prioritize national and ethnic interests above all else; continue to rapidly and sustainably develop the country. The issue of awakening and promoting patriotism, self-reliance, resilience, national unity, upholding the will for independence, autonomy, and proactive integration; maximizing internal resources and leveraging external resources, especially the cultural values that the Party emphasizes, is crucial.

This is reflected throughout the documents of the 13th National Congress of the Party. Terms such as *self-reliance*, *resilience*, *patriotism*, and *national unity* are mentioned over 80 times in the entire Congress document. Compared to previous Congresses, the Party’s understanding of development drivers has been shifted and elevated to a new level. The spirit of self-reliance, resilience,

and the desire for a prosperous and happy nation has become an internal resource, one of the key drivers of national development. The 13th Congress of the Party emphasizes: “More attention should be paid to educating morality, personality, creative capacity, and core values, especially fostering patriotism, national pride, national traditions and history, and social responsibility awareness, particularly for the younger generation” ⁽⁴⁾. The awareness of self-reliance and resilience in the process of renewal must be realized in all fields: politics, economy, culture, defense-security, environment, etc.

Determining the content of strengthening the education of self-reliance and resilience for Vietnamese youth in the context of globalization, with the goal of realizing the aspiration for a prosperous and happy nation, is an urgent, long-term requirement, responding to the new situation of the country. Educating the spirit of self-reliance and resilience for youth is about cultivating ideals, political courage, aspirations for their own future and the future of the country; having the will and confidence in life; acquiring knowledge; mastering oneself and learning new knowledge. Education on self-reliance and resilience is connected with the building of revolutionary ethics, a sense of responsibility, a pure conscience, and the spirit of mutual support. Next, it includes educating knowledge on self-reliance and resilience in specific fields such as politics, economy, culture, military, national defense and security, environment, science, and technology...

The Youth Union actively implements action programs based on the Resolution of the 13th Party Congress; Plan No. 460-KH/TWĐTN-BTC dated December 3, 2021, of the Central Secretariat of the Youth Union on the implementation of the Conclusion of the Fourth Plenum of the 13th Central Executive Committee of the Party. The Youth Union organizes a political activity throughout the Union with the theme “Aspiration for Contribution - The Life of Youth”. A highlight of this program is the online dialogue between the First Secretary of the Youth Union and union members inside and outside the country. With three parts of dialogue: Aspiration - Life Purpose - Pride in Moving Forward, many issues are addressed, shared, and expressed, such as: solutions for union members in schools to engage in scientific research, creating high-tech products; methods and solutions to awaken and encourage the spirit and aspirations of contribution of union members in universities, etc.

The Youth Union has urgently developed and implemented the program “Education on revolutionary ideals, ethics, and cultural lifestyles for youth, teenagers, and children in cyberspace for the period 2022–2030” as per

Decision No. 311/QĐ-TTg on March 5, 2022. It organized a nationwide online conference to implement Decision No. 1895/QĐ-TTg from the Prime Minister on the Program “Enhancing education on revolutionary ideals, ethics, lifestyles, and awakening the spirit of dedication for youth, teenagers, and children during 2021–2030”. Youth unions in schools have also introduced the e-book “Steadfast Belief, Proud to Move Forward”, which collects articles and commentaries by various generations of union members and youth on the book “Some Theoretical and Practical Issues on Socialism and the Path to Socialism in Vietnam” by General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong.

Fostering patriotism and national pride

Through diverse forms of organization, universities have actively used cyberspace to spread and promote this education widely to union members. They have launched programs tied to significant national holidays such as Hung Kings’ Festival, War Invalids and Martyrs’ Day, Reunification Day, Dien Bien Phu Victory Day, the founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the founding of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union.

Many competitions organized by the Central Youth Union such as the “Proud of Vietnam” competition, “Peace Wishes” contest, and other communication poster contests for Reunification Day have drawn large participation, stirring patriotism, national pride, and a sense of responsibility among students to study, train, and contribute to the defense and construction of the country.

Studying and following Ho Chi Minh’s thought, ethics, and style

The Youth Union at all levels has earnestly implemented guidance on studying and following Ho Chi Minh’s thought, ethics, and style among union officials, union members, and youth for the 2022–2026 period. Based on the guidance, union organizations in schools have actively implemented study topics, registered for self-improvement activities, and held competitions and thematic events about President Ho Chi Minh. The “Youth Diary Following Uncle Ho’s Teachings” model has been adopted, and competitions introducing books about Ho Chi Minh, under the theme “Faith and Love Through Every Page of the Book”, have been organized. Da Nang University has launched the “Reading about Uncle Ho - Learning and Following Uncle Ho” model. Additionally, the Youth Union at all levels has thoroughly conducted conferences to reinforce the 13th Party Congress Resolution on “Studying and Following Ho Chi Minh’s Thought, Ethics, and Style on Self-reliance, Self-strengthening, and the Aspiration to Develop a Prosperous and Happy Nation”. The written reflections have demonstrated the youth’s viewpoints and responsibilities regarding the national aspirations for a prosperous and happy country.

Social volunteer movements

The “Volunteer Youth” movement: Union members and students nationwide have actively and proactively participated in volunteer activities, including building civilized urban areas (e.g., Model Residential Areas, Flowering Electric Poles, Youth Flower Gardens, etc.); environmental protection and responding to climate change (e.g., the Plastic Waste Reduction movement, the Clean Beach Campaign, and the “For a Green Vietnam” program); ensuring traffic safety (e.g., Safe School Gate traffic models, participating in first aid and quick response to traffic accidents, etc.); and ensuring social welfare (e.g., the Covid-19 prevention program, “Saturday Volunteer Day” initiatives, etc.).

The “Creative Youth” Movement: This movement has harnessed the creative potential and power of students. A large number of union members from universities participated in the “Youth Creating the Digital Face” contest in 2022. The Hanoi Youth Union organized workshops and seminars on innovation and digital transformation for students in the area. Efforts to encourage union members to propose creative ideas continue to create an environment that fosters the spirit of creativity among young people. There is a focus on activities that enhance the quality of the young workforce and encourage young talents. University students are also being actively encouraged to engage in the national digital transformation process. The “Empowering Youth Entrepreneurship” program has been implemented for various groups of youth across the country.

The “Youth on Guard to Protect the Homeland” Movement: Youth organizations actively raise awareness and enhance the sense of responsibility among union members to implement the Homeland Defense Strategy in the current situation. Hue University launched an online quiz contest on the topic “Understanding Vietnam’s Seas, Islands, and Thua Thien Hue Wetlands”. Additionally, university unions have carried out many activities, such as quizzes, scientific seminars, and discussions, aimed at protecting the Party’s ideological foundation and combating distorted views from hostile forces.

3. Solutions to promote the education of self-reliance and resilience among youth in the development of a prosperous and happy nation

To further awaken and promote the patriotic spirit, self-reliance, self-strengthening, and the dedication of Vietnamese youth in the coming period, several solutions should be implemented:

Firstly, strengthen the leadership of the Party in youth work to enhance the effectiveness of political-social organizations in protecting the legitimate

rights of young people, supporting them in their personal and professional development for a brighter future. Youth work should not only be the responsibility of the Party but of the entire political system and all social organizations.

There should be specific action plans from the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Vietnam Student Association, and other organizations at both the central and local levels. The Youth Union serves as a space for educating and training youth in terms of thought, ethics, ideology, and knowledge. Thus, union and association organizations, especially at the grassroots level, need to closely align with the real situation of young people and practical movements to attract active participation. Educational methods must be diverse, rich, and appropriate. Avoid superficial displays or slogans that lead to ineffective outcomes. Activities and movements should focus on youth, awakening and fostering self-reliance and self-strengthening in every young person. With a focus on the grassroots level, improving the quality of local union organizations and the responsibility of union officials in uniting, attracting, and guiding young people into the union, and identifying outstanding members for inclusion in the Party's ranks is essential.

Secondly, focus on promoting the role and function of political-social organizations. These units should ensure the implementation of educational programs on ethics, ideals, national traditions, cultural lifestyles, life skills, and legal awareness for young people. The content of the education should be diversified, sparking the nation's spirit of self-reliance and self-strengthening in the process of youth study, training, work, and daily life. Particularly, integrating the goals and solutions of the Youth Development Strategy into the Vietnam Education Development Strategy until 2030 is crucial.

Thirdly, fostering patriotism, self-reliance, and resilience must be closely integrated with emulation movements, education, and the development and protection of the homeland. Patriotism and the spirit of self-reliance and resilience should be concretely demonstrated in the actions of youth. This includes excelling in assigned tasks in individual roles, enhancing personal abilities, qualities, self-learning willpower, creativity, and striving for excellence in building and developing the nation for their own future and that of the country. It also entails firmly opposing erroneous ideologies of hostile forces and resisting individuals who compromise their personal values and the traditional values of the nation. Youth should uphold the rule of law, harbor love for their homeland, decisively combat corruption and wastefulness, and be ready to sacrifice for the nation.

Fourthly, it is vital to continue guiding and educating the youth to maximize their sense of responsibility. First and foremost, they must take responsibility for themselves. This includes fostering well-rounded development in morality, intellect, physique, and aesthetics. Students need to possess intelligence, health, ideals, faith, and ethical qualities to enrich themselves, their families, and society.

Their responsibility to their families involves ensuring familial happiness, preserving and promoting good cultural traditions, contributing to a stronger, happier, and more prosperous family, and laying a solid foundation for future generations.

Their responsibility to the nation encompasses safeguarding the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, maintaining sovereignty, national security, unity, and territorial integrity, and being prepared to undertake urgent and challenging tasks when the country calls. They must actively oppose schemes of hostile forces that threaten national interests and creatively propose ideas and initiatives for building and advancing a prosperous nation on par with global powers.

Their responsibility to humanity is equally pressing, given challenges such as climate change, the depletion of natural resources, pandemics, economic fluctuations, geopolitical tensions, and terrorism that occur daily. The younger generation faces these harsh realities, demanding that each youth conscientiously assume responsibility for humanity and share its burdens.

To fulfill their responsibilities to themselves, their families, the nation, and humanity, young people must first practice self-discipline, safeguard their health, and enhance both their physical and mental well-being. They must take proactive steps in learning, researching, and acquiring knowledge independently. Self-discipline is a personal effort that requires an understanding of its importance and a clear, concrete plan based on a strong sense of self-awareness.

It is essential for youth to equip themselves with knowledge, life skills, and health care skills, as well as a sense of responsibility in cultivating ethics, character, cultural behavior, and civil manners. They must also assume responsibility as citizens by combating social vices, unlawful behaviors, and moral corruption, as well as mitigating negative influences from cyberspace. Self-discipline and self-awareness are crucial; without them, external influences would merely impose obligatory compliance rather than internalized motivation. Therefore, self-awareness and self-discipline are foundational for fostering a sense of self-

reliance and resilience, turning it into an intrinsic need and voluntary action from within.

Clearly, the spirit of self-reliance and resilience among Vietnamese youth today is the result of a long-term process of education and self-training. This process necessitates close cooperation between educational entities and the youth themselves. Youth represent the future; to secure a bright future, each young person must continuously strive, build, and persevere with their own will and determination. Preserving and promoting the spirit of self-reliance and resilience among Vietnamese youth in today's era of globalization significantly contributes to shaping a generation that is patriotic, ideologically grounded, politically steadfast, ambitious, and determined to establish themselves and their careers. This generation must tirelessly dedicate their youth and intellect to the nation's development—a task of utmost urgency./.

(1) Hồ Chí Minh (2011), *Complete works*, National Political Publishing House, Volume 10, p. 310.

(2) Hồ Chí Minh (2011), *Complete works*, National Political Publishing House, Volume 5, p. 120.

(3) Prime Minister (2021), *Decision No. 1331/QĐ-TTg dated July 24, 2021, Issuing the Strategy for Youth Development in Vietnam for the 2021–2030 period*, Hanoi.

(4) Communist Party of Vietnam (2021), *Documents of the 13th Party National Congress*, National Political Publishing House, Volume 1, p. 326.